

Minutes
Air Quality Task Force

Friday, February 9, 2007, 11:00 A.M
Bi-State Regional Commission
1504 Third Avenue
Rock Island, Illinois

1. Introductions and Consideration of October 13, 2006 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Mook called the meeting to order at 11am and requested introductions of those in attendance. (A list of those who were signed in at the October 13, 2006 meeting was attached to the minutes.) Mr. Mook asked if there were any comments or corrections to the minutes. Mr. Fred Dean made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Jim Nitzschke seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by the Task Force as written.

2. Update from Resource Agencies on Current Air Quality Issues. No report.

3. Blue Skyways Collaborative. Mr. Alan Banwart, of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7 – Kansas City provided a presentation on the Blue Skyways Collaborative. The mission of the Blue Skyways Collaborative is to improve the quality of life in America’s Heartland by reducing air pollution through collaboration and innovations in fuel and energy use. Started in February 2006, this collaborative effort focuses on a ten state area and the fifty one million people that reside in that area. Blue Skyways brings together partnerships, resources, marketing, and project implementation. A community or organization may sign up with the collaborative by applying online at: www.blueskyways.org. Communities should have a project that they are working on, or would like to work on, when signing up. The EPA foresees a diesel emission reduction program in the future with an opportunity for available dollars.

4. Status Report on Local Activities. Ms. McCullough directed the Task Force to the status report in the agenda packet. She announced that the Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program (ICAAP) grant, submitted in October of 2006 requesting \$40,000, had IDOT staff recommendation for approval. Use of the grant monies will focus on public outreach and marketing of transit. Additional information concerning utilization and timelines will be provided at subsequent task force meetings. Ms. McCullough also provided a reminder that Steven King has changed positions and is no longer with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Katie Hobbs and/or Matt Pruitt will be taking Linda Martin’s place on the Quad City Air Quality Task Force. There was some interest from the Quad City Development Group. Ms. McCullough then asked Task Force for feedback on a possible presentation concerning tele-commuting.

5. Other Business. A multidisciplinary group looking into open trash burning in Iowa met in October of 2006 for the first time to focus on ways to prevent open trash burning therefore, to improve air quality. Clinton is the largest city in Eastern Iowa that still allows open burning. The group has decided to focus on education as a first initiative and leave the banning of burning waste to local control through ordinances or other waste options.

Mr. Mayberry had inquired about local hazardous chemical spills. Information on Iowa’s emergency response website was provided in agenda packets. Ms. McCullough also shared electronic correspondence from Mr. Jim McGraw, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, which highlighted potential voluntary emission reduction activities that would reduce fine particulates.

6. Scheduling of Next Meeting. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 13, 2007 at 11:00 a.m.

7. Adjournment. Mr. Mook called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned by consensus at 11:55 a.m.