

Minutes

Air Quality Task Force

Friday, April 13, 2007, 11:00 A.M
Bi-State Regional Commission
1504 Third Avenue
Rock Island, Illinois

1. Introductions and Consideration of February 9, 2007 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Mook called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and requested introductions of those in attendance. (A list of those who were signed in at the February 9, 2007 meeting was attached to the minutes.) Mr. Mook asked if there were any comments or corrections to the minutes. Fred Dean made a motion to approve the minutes. Pam Mahieu seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by the Task Force as written.
2. Update from Resource Agencies on Current Air Quality Issues. Mr. Mathew Johnson from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources provided a report via phone. Mr. Johnson stated that Ethanol plants that produce 100 – 250 tons per year are no longer considered chemical plants. Also, in response to a question on ozone monitoring, Mr. Johnson stated that the current range recommended in the scientific community is 0.6 to 0.7, with nothing above 0.7. However, he expects to see a reduction in that range which would take effect next year if finalized through the court. Updates to the recommended range can be found at www.iowacleanair.com.
3. Joint Purchasing Program: “Green” Products. Ms. Patty Pearson, a Senior Planner with Bi-State Regional Commission, provided an overview of the local joint purchasing program and the growing interest in purchasing “green” products. Federal agencies are now mandated to use green products and in Illinois there is a green schools act which, if adopted, will mandate that all elementary and secondary schools in Illinois use green cleaning products by January 1, 2008. If passed, Illinois will be the second state in the nation, behind New York, to adopt a green schools initiative. Motivators for this initiative include: 20% of the U.S. population spends their days in elementary and secondary schools; half of the nation’s schools have problems linked to indoor air quality; and indoor air pollutants can be 2 – 5 times higher, and occasionally 100 times higher, than outdoor levels. Ms. Pearson then reviewed the criteria that has been established in order for a product to be considered “green”.
4. Status Report on Local Activities. Ms. McCullough stated that on May 1st there will be a press release to alert people to the start of the ozone monitoring season. In June, work will begin on the ICAAP program for transit coordinating and marketing. On Monday, April 16th, Davenport Mayor, Edwin Winborn, plans to announce the City’s intent to sign the U.S. Mayor’s Climate Protection Agreement and Davenport’s Green City Initiative. A sheet of upcoming Earth Week events was handed out as well as a report on Bi-State Regional Commission activities.

5. Other Business. Mr. Fred Dean proposed a future discussion concerning the broadening of issues that the Air Quality Task Force would monitor. The AQTF mission statement will be reviewed at a subsequent meeting. Virgil Mayberry asked where information could be found for fleet managers who are looking to purchase new fleet vehicles.
6. Scheduling of Next Meeting. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, June 8, 2007 at 11:00 a.m.
7. Adjournment. Mr. Mook called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned by consensus at 12:00 noon.