

Minutes

Bi-State Region Air Quality Task Force

Friday, April 17, 2009, 11:00 A.M

Bi-State Regional Commission

1504 Third Avenue

Rock Island, Illinois

1. Introductions and Consideration of February 13, 2009 Meeting Minutes. The Air Quality Task Force meeting was called to order by Mr. Mook. Introductions to those in attendance were requested. Task Force members were asked if there were any comments or corrections to the previous meeting's minutes. Hearing none, Mr. Nitzschke motioned to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Dueysen seconded the motion and it carried.
2. Update from Resource Agencies on Current Air Quality Issues. Mr. Jim McGraw, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IADNR), discussed current air quality status and related issues. Mr. McGraw reported on the fine particulate design values for the Iowa Quad Cities and Muscatine areas. As a review, IADNR submitted a data certification letter January 26, 2009 for the 2008 data. The fine particulate three-year daily average for 2006-09 in the Iowa Quad Cities was 34 ug/m^3 , down from 37 ug/m^3 (2005-07) and in Muscatine was 35 ug/m^3 , down from 36 ug/m^3 . Through April 13, 2009, there were 10 exceedences across the state, all related to fine particulates. There were no exceedences to date in 2009 in Scott County, but there were 3 exceedences in Muscatine County. The information is posted on www.iowacleanair.com as the 2009 Exceedence Report. He also noted program review and upcoming application availability for the RIDE funds that target reduction of motor diesel emissions. Comments on the program are being accepted through May 8th with applications being accepted through June 29th. The focus is on diesel engine retrofits or replacements. Both public and private entities are eligible.
3. Local Status Report on Air Quality Issues. A status report was enclosed in members' packets and information on Air Quality Awareness Week – April 27- May 1, 2009. Ms. McCullough reported on the status of the USEPA Community Action for a Renewed Environment – CARE and Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program – ICAAP grants. The CARE grant was submitted in mid-March, proposed to improve outdoor air quality through investigation of major and other sources of pollution that contribute to poorer air quality in the Quad City and Muscatine areas. It also proposed to develop and prioritize targeted strategies to reduce emissions or precursors that will result in healthier air. A summary of the application was distributed at the meeting. Announcement of award is expected in early fall 2009. Ms. McCullough distributed an outline of plans to host a Transportation Alternatives Summit this fall through the 2009 Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program grant. The summit is envisioned to be a 1 ½ day conference targeted at local government and businesses with topics on fleet and fuel management, alternative fuels and vehicles, public transit and mobility options for employers and employees, transportation and energy conservation, green logistics, and regional markets to reduce transportation costs. Project funds will be available in July, but work to set the date/time and begin speaker contacts will begin in June. There may be a possibility of partnering with Rock Island's Advanced Technology & Sustainability

Consortium to add a ½ day on alternative energy, economic incentives for sustainable development, among other topics. It was suggested there may be two audience tracks – for business and for government/ organizations. Volunteers for a small conference planning committee was solicited.

4. Other Business. There was a brief discussion on recent references to greenhouse gas emissions and potential to become a criteria pollutant. Cap and trade was also noted. Ms. Becky Passman, Iowa Quad Cities Transit Coordinator, spoke briefly on the upcoming Alternative Transportation Week, formerly known as Bike-To-Work Week. It is set for May 9-15, 2009 with a link to more information at www.qctransit.com. Daily activities are being planned that encourage walking, bicycling, and riding the bus.
5. Scheduling of Next Meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 12, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.
6. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned by consensus prior to noon.