

## MINUTES

### AIR QUALITY TASK FORCE MEETING

Friday, April 9, 2010, 11:00 A.M.  
Bi-State Regional Commission  
Rock Island County Office Building, Third Floor, Room 320  
1504 Third Avenue  
Rock Island, Illinois  
Chairman, Wally Mook  
Public Works Director, City of Bettendorf

- 1, Introductions and Consideration of the February 12, 2010 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Mook called the Air Quality Task Force meeting to order. Introductions of those in attendance were requested. Participating by conference call included Jim McGraw and Matthew Johnson, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IADNR); Rob Kaleel, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (ILEPA); and Betsy Tracy, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)-Illinois Division. Task Force members were asked if there were any comments or corrections to the previous meeting's minutes. Hearing none, there was a motion by Mr. Nitzschke to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jenkins and passed.
- 2, Presentation on City of Rock Island Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory Project. Mr. Ridder provided handouts on his presentation. The City participated in the 2007 U.S. Mayors Climate Change Agreement and Sierra Club's "Cool Cities" initiatives. Per the Kyoto protocol, local governments are asked to reduce greenhouse gas (GHS) levels to 7% below 1990 levels. The City also became a member of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Local Governments for Sustainability in 2008 and began an emission inventory to develop a city baseline of GHG emissions. The inventory was completed in 2010 using ICLEI software and an intern for data collection. The initial effort was to define what is to be measured. The City used carbon dioxide equivalents. These values are assessed at GHG's effects over a 100-year time period with methane having Global Warming Potential (GWP) of 21, nitrous oxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) of 310, and hydro fluorocarbons of 1,300 CO<sub>2</sub>e. Rock Island calculated that the average citizen in 2008 produced 16 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e. Mr. Ridder used a bar graph to illustrate how Rock Island compared to other places. The U.S. average per capita emissions was 24.5 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e. There were a number of data sources used to complete the inventory. Their inventory indicated that 32% of GHG come from residential sources followed by commercial sources at 31% and transportation at 28%. In their analysis, Rock Island's emissions increased by 4.25% since 1990 compared to national average increases from 8-9% in the same period. City-owned facilities have reduced emissions by nearly 20% compared to 1990 levels, which represented 2.2% of the total GHG levels for the community. As a follow-up to the inventory, the City plans to address the following strategies: energy efficiency, energy sources, alternative transportation options, and education. It has established an internal green team to further its GHG emission goal.

3. Update from Resource Agencies on Current Air Quality Status/Issues. Mr. Johnson and Mr. McGraw indicated that unofficial numbers for Muscatine area's fine particulate 2007-2009 design value is  $38 \text{ ug/m}^3$  (non-attainment levels must be  $35 \text{ ug/m}^3$  or less). IADNR is working with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) on one of two options for Muscatine area. The first would be for Muscatine to become part of a State Implementation Plan notice of deficiency, and the other would be a formal redesignation by January 1, 2011. This may just apply to the Muscatine area. They provided a brief update on USEPA's efforts to revise PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards under the five-year review timeframe at the end of 2011. The 24-hour standard may be examined for levels from  $25\text{-}35 \text{ ug/m}^3$ .  
Mr. Kaleel, ILEPA, reported his agency had submitted comments on the ozone standards review that indicated their support of health science, opposition to an expedited schedule, and comments that, depending on the levels selected, they were approaching background levels where national control measures rather than local would be necessary. He also noted the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) and Taylor Rule for GHGs.
4. Follow-up on USEPA Ozone Standards Review and Comment. Ms. McCullough had provided the letter of comment from the Bi-State Region electronically on March 19, 2010. It noted the area supports ozone standards that protect human health and area efforts to voluntarily reduce emissions by our region. Concerns were expressed on the timeline since recently implemented national controls have not been fully realized. Potential consequences of industry outflow from urban areas to rural, non-monitored areas were seen as counter to smart growth and sustainability strategies. Standards lowered to background levels were a concern and realistic technological ability to address emission reductions to the lowest threshold being suggested. It is expected that by August USEPA will release a final standard, and states will make recommendations for areas to be designated by January 2011.
5. Local Status Report on Air Quality Issues. Ms. McCullough directed Task Force members to a summary of activities. She noted efforts to work with local wellness groups to promote adult and environmental health through QC in Motion – Transportation Alternatives Week, May 15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>. A newspaper insert is expected to be published in papers on May 8<sup>th</sup> with a schedule of events and information on transportation alternatives, such as bicycling, walking, and taking transit. Ms. McCullough was invited to Deere & Company's headquarters for a presentation on the Bi-State Clean Air Partnership as part of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Earth Day. Deere employees are being asked to pledge personally to do a number of items to reduce emissions and improve the environment. The CEO, Sam Allen, signed the pledge.
6. Other Business. No other business was noted.
7. Scheduling of Next Meeting. The next Task Force meeting was scheduled for June 11, 2010.
8. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.