

MINUTES

AIR QUALITY TASK FORCE MEETING

Friday, June 11, 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 April 9, 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) and Sherry Timmons, Iowa Department of Economic Development. 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. Statz and passed.
2. Update from Resource Agencies on Current Air Quality Status/Issues. Participating by teleconference was Mr. Matthew Johnson and Mr. Jim McGraw, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IADNR). Mr. Johnson noted that there was a good turnout (70+ stakeholders) at the PM 2.5 workshop held Wednesday, June 9, 2010. He stated that the next meeting would be June 23rd at 9 a.m. Mr. Johnson gave an update on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)'s finalized sulfur dioxide SO₂ standards. The USEPA is revoking the current 24-hour and annual SO₂ health standards and introducing a new one-hour standard with a 75 parts per billion (ppb) threshold. A three-year average using the 99th percentile threshold will be used to determine an area's levels. By June 2011, the state will submit to the USEPA areas that did not meet the standard. The EPA will finalize designations in the summer of 2012. The biggest change is that modeling will be a part of implementation. Currently, only Muscatine is at risk for exceeding the new level based on their 2007-2009 readings. It was noted that the Quad City monitor should not have an issue with the new SO₂ standard.

A PM 2.5 State Implementation Plan (SIP) call is proposed for Muscatine. This would give Muscatine some time (up to 18 months) to bring the PM 2.5 level down to the current standard. There will be a Federal Register notice with a public comment period as this occurs. There have been no discussions with local officials to date but Muscatine major source companies are aware of the situation.

3. Presentation on Transportation Conformity. Ms. Tracy, Federal Highway Administration-Illinois Division, presented a slideshow outlining transportation conformity. Ms. Tracy stated that transportation conformity is required for non-attainment areas under the Clean Air Act (CAA) Section 176 (c). Ms. Tracy noted that transportation conformity is the link between air quality planning and transportation planning. The conformity process ensures that emissions from planned highway and transit activities would not affect the State's ability

to achieve the clean air goal of meeting national ambient air quality standards, or NAAQS. Transportation conformity only addresses emissions from on-road mobile sources, such as cars, trucks and transit. The transportation activities that are subject to conformity are metropolitan transportation plans, metropolitan transportation improvement programs, and all nonexempt Federal projects that receive Federal Highway or Federal Transit Administration funding or approval. The US DOT, State DOT, MPO and USEPA are involved in the conformity process. For a newly designated nonattainment area, a conformity determination on the plan and TIP must be completed within 12 months of the effective date of the designation. Interagency consultation is a key component in the conformity process. It is intended to enable a collaborative process between agencies and organizations to decide and reach agreement on key elements of the conformity process and of the transportation and air quality planning processes. The interagency consultation process includes the US DOT (FHWA and FTA), the US EPA, state DOT, state air agency, MPO(s), and local transportation, transit and air agencies. Ms. Tracy noted that if the USEPA sets the new ozone standards at 65 parts per billion (ppb) or 60 ppb, the Quad Cities could be considered in non-attainment and that transportation conformity would apply.

4. “QC in Motion” Transportation Alternatives Week Summary. Ms. McCullough provided the Task Force members with a QC in Motion Final Report-2010 handout. This handout included the goals of QC in Motion, organizing partners, community partners, events held, total recorded participants for QC in Motion Week, media coverage and additional promotions. Ms. McCullough noted that 41 participants filled out the survey and that there were over 500 downloads on the QC in Motion Commuter Challenge material. Ms. Waterman stated that even though the number of surveys were down from last year, the number of hits on the QCtransit.com website were up. Ms. Waterman added that 94% of people who filled out the survey said they would do it again.
5. Local Status Report on Air Quality Issues. Ms. McCullough informed the Task Force members that she presented at the John Deere Earth Day Celebration. Mr. Nitzschke said the employee pledge cards that John Deere sent out were a success with responses in the hundreds. Ms. McCullough made reference to a congestion management process that Bi-State is currently working on to reduce congestion and thereby reducing air pollution. On June 9, 2010 Ms. McCullough attended a P.M. 2.5 workshop hosted by the Iowa DNR. At the workshop, Dr. Stanier discussed the issues associated with winter episodes and the affect they have on fine particulates in Iowa.
6. Other Business. Mr. Bigford from the City of Rock Island asked Ms. McCullough if it would be possible to incorporate her air quality presentation into their environmental education program of Interstate RC&D’s SMART Bus program.
7. Scheduling of Next Meeting. The next Task Force meeting was scheduled for August 13, 2010 at 11 a.m.
8. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.