

# Minutes

## Bi-State Region Air Quality Task Force

Friday, October 8, 2010, 11:00 A.M  
Bi-State Regional Commission  
Rock Island County Office Building  
Third Floor Room 320  
1504 Third Avenue  
Rock Island, Illinois

1. Introductions and Consideration of August 13, 2010 Meeting Minutes. The Air Quality Task Force meeting was called to order by Mr. Mook. Introductions of those in attendance were requested. Participating by conference call included Matthew Johnson, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IADNR) and Betsy Tracy, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Task Force members were asked if there were any comments or corrections to the previous meeting's minutes. Mr. Johnson stated that the Transport Rule was proposed on July 6<sup>th</sup>, not effective on such date. The task force approved the minutes with the noted correction.
2. Update from Resource Agencies on Current Air Quality Status/Issues. Mr. Johnson informed the Task Force that the fifth meeting for the PM<sub>2.5</sub> workshop was held yesterday and the sixth and final meeting will be held November 10<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Johnson noted that progress has been made with a number of recommendations in draft form and some in a final form. Results of the workshops will be reported to the Iowa legislature as part of the State Implementation Plan (SIP) development for PM<sub>2.5</sub>. Mr. Johnson recommended that the best way to find out more information would be the DNR website ([http://www.iowadnr.gov/air/prof/meet\\_wg/pm25/as\\_sub.html](http://www.iowadnr.gov/air/prof/meet_wg/pm25/as_sub.html)). Mr. Johnson commented that the new ozone standard is slated to come out in late October but said realistically it may be November or December because the final rule making has not yet been submitted.
3. Bi-State Clean Air Partnership Status and Discussion of Potential Emission Reduction Opportunities. Ms. McCullough stated that there are only a few months left of the Clean Air Partnership Grant. Ms. McCullough mentioned activities done with the grant including: Commuter Challenge Workshops, Summit with 40-50 in attendance, Clean Air Pledge, newsletters to local governments, and Alternative Transportation week. Ms. McCullough noted that the Clean Air Pledge has not been as successful as hoped, not many filled out the pledge and turned it in. Ms. McCullough said there would be another push in November to get more businesses to join. Arnold's Body Shop just joined the pledge. Ms. McCullough and Ms. Waterman participated in Healthy Families Day to promote the Commuter Challenge Workshops. They passed out flyers and talked to over 100 adults/children about transit. Ms. McCullough stated that the new ozone standard could prove challenging both economically and technologically. There are no more "easy" answers as air quality has improved over the years. Ms. McCullough asked the Task Force if there are any potential emission reduction areas that they would like more information on. Ms. McCullough stated that Bi-State looked into a ridesharing program but at \$40,000-\$50,000 for the package and an additional \$10,000 for ongoing maintenance is was not a viable option for the area. She noted that there was a rideshare program in the late 1980's but it had very few participants. Ms. McCullough also noted that Des Moines had a buy-back program on lawnmowers. Maybe something in this area of emission reduction could be done. Ms. Tracy stated that Peoria uses

JARC funding for carpools and it only cost \$15,000-\$16,000. Mr. Ridder stated that Illinois State has a car share program for students. It is run by a private company and students purchase time to use a car. This program has been receiving rave reviews. Ms. Passman noted that Augustana College has a program that gives free bicycles to students who do not bring a car to campus. Mr. Dougherty says there has been an issue with abusing the bikes. He noted that the program has merit but it has been abused. He stated that kids need to feel that the bicycles are their own property and to take care of them. Mr. Dougherty indicated there may be possible funding through Healthy Homes Program for an educational program.

4. Local Status Report on Air Quality Issues. Ms. McCullough referenced the Status Report on Bi-State Regional Commission Activities and the Commuter Challenge handout. Ms. McCullough noted that on the IADNR website for emission exceedances, the information is only through June. Ms. McCullough inquired to Mr. Johnson if she would be able to receive monthly updates. Mr. Johnson stated that monthly reports may not be possible due to limited staffing. Ms. McCullough went on to ask if DNR had looked at the threshold limits for fine particulates. Mr. Johnson replied that he did not know but would check. Ms. McCullough stated that the region saw exceedances from November 2009 - March 2010. Ms. Waterman informed the Task Force that CBS/WHBF did a short segment on the Commuter Challenge. The word about the challenge has also spread through radio and newspaper ads, as well as advertisements on MetroLINK buses. Ms. Waterman informed the Task Force that the first Commuter Challenge was held two days ago. The meetings inform the public on how to utilize public transit, bicycles and walking as a form of transportation. Ms. McCullough informed the Task Force that the Transportation Policy Committee provided a resolution of support for two Iowa Clean Air Attainment applications focused on traffic synchronization along Locust Street and 53<sup>rd</sup> Street in Davenport and interconnecting to Bettendorf's signal system. Ms. McCullough also stated that it is hopeful the I-74 and Bi-State regional ITS architecture update will be conducted concurrently. Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) are helpful for reducing traffic congestion and air emissions.
5. Other Business. Mr. Johnson stated that about 50% of recommendations from the DNR PM<sub>2.5</sub> workshop have been finalized.
6. Scheduling of Next Meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 10, 2010 at 11:00 a.m.
7. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 11:40 a.m.