

MINUTES
AIR QUALITY TASK FORCE

Friday, December 9, 2005, 11:00 A.M.
Bi-State Regional Commission
1504 Third Avenue
Rock Island, Illinois

1. Introductions and Consideration of October 7, 2005 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Mook called the meeting to order and requested introductions of those in attendance. (A list of those who were signed in at the October 7, 2005 meeting was attached to the minutes.) Mr. Mook asked if there were any comments or corrections to the minutes. The Task Force accepted the minutes as written by consensus.
2. Report from Resource Agencies on Current Air Quality Issues. Ms. Christine Paulson from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IADNR) gave an overview via teleconference of recent events concerning the PM2.5 standard. Ms. Paulson stated that there was a meeting scheduled in Washington D.C. on December 20th for adjustments to standards and rulemaking. The proposed new rules would call for revisions for PM2.5 monitoring, networks and design, call for advanced notice rulemaking, and may eliminate the PM10 standard. Ms. Paulson further noted that when the new standards come out, there will be a 90-day comment period. These new rules may only apply to urban areas. There will be changes to air quality standards by October 1, 2006 as required by court order. There are several possible outcomes to the changes in the standard: the new levels of existing standards would remain; the new standard for 2006-2008 would be re-determined; or the PM2.5 standard could be cut in half. If the standard is cut in half, much of the eastern portion of Iowa would be re-classified as non-attainment. Ms. Paulson made it clear that any changes to the air quality standards were uncertain at this point and subject to change in the coming months.
3. Status Report on Local Activities. Ms. McCullough informed the Task Force that the public opinion survey for transit was received December 9, 2005. A draft copy was distributed at the meeting. She also directed the Task Force to the summary status report and activities completed since the last meeting. The results showed that most of the respondents felt that air quality was a minor problem in the Quad City Area. Mr. Mook stated that Bettendorf Transit had seen a 14% increase in its ridership. This was primarily due to community outreach efforts initiated by the city to those most likely to ride transit.
4. Other Business. There was no other business.
5. Scheduling of Next Meeting. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Friday, February 10, 2006 at 11:00 a.m.
6. Adjournment. Mr. Mook motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned by consensus at 11:30 a.m.