

Minutes

Bi-State Region Air Quality Task Force

Friday, June 8, 2012, 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 April 13, 2012 Meeting Minutes. The Air Quality Task Force meeting was called to order by Mr. Boka. Conference call participants were: Betsy Tracy, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Jim McGraw and Matthew Johnson, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IADNR). Task Force members were asked if there were any comments or corrections to the previous meeting's minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved as written by consensus. A sign-in sheet is attached with the minutes.
2. Update from Resource Agencies on Current Air Quality Status/Issues. Mr. Johnson reported: By order of a consent decree, EPA is required to issue by June 14 a proposed rule regarding revisions of the particulate matter national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS). The same court order requires EPA finalize the PM NAAQS revisions rulemaking by December 14th. EPA has indicated to congress they intend to keep the PM10 standard as-is, so the proposal is expected to focus on PM2.5.
3. Presentation on Iowa Clean Cities Coalition – Stephanie Weisenbach. Ms. Weisenbach began by outlining the history and structure of the Iowa Clean Cities Coalition. It is one of over 100 coalitions in the country. Its purpose is to support local decisions to implement alternative fuels. Ms. Weisenbach went on to describe pros and cons of a number of alternative fuels including: hydrogen, propane, electric, natural gas, (E85) ethanol, and (B20) biodiesel.

Ms. Weisenbach presented several technical assistance tools available to find existing stations, vehicle density information, and a variety of other useful data. One main resource for such information is: www.fueleconomy.gov which includes a vehicle cost calculator and a green fleet footprint calculator.

Ms. Weisenbach reported that financial assistance has been offered in the past by US DOE and US EPA. She suggested that organizations have project information prepared to submit a quick response if such programs rekindle. The US EPA currently has the National Clean Diesel Program. Muscatine has expressed interest to the Iowa DNR to retrofit transit buses and potentially their sanitary fleet utilizing this program.

Following the presentation, Ms. Weisenbach was asked how viable infrastructure changes might be implemented to support alternative fuel usage. Ms. Weisenbach responded that it will certainly be a challenge, but the approach would likely be to identify and develop logical

corridors initially and expand the infrastructure beyond that in the future. It was also noted that legislative actions would need to be considered in order to determine how to best compensate for the diminished gas tax with regards to highway funding.

Mr. Boka asked if there would be a way to organize a community level project in order to leverage funding available for alternative fuel projects. (The program seems to be geared toward corporations with large fleets.) Ms. Weisenbach replied that they would definitely work with communities to accomplish something of that manor.

4. Local Status Report on Air Quality Issues. The local air quality status report was attached in the agenda packet and was briefly reviewed by the task force. Mr. Melton noted that the status report had been updated with the most recent design values for Iowa. The question was raised as to if there have been improvements to regional air quality. Mr. Johnson answered by stating that when looking at the larger pattern over the last few years, a general improvement in air quality conditions is apparent.
5. Other Business. No other business was discussed.
6. Scheduling of Next Meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, August 10, 2012 at 11:00 a.m.
7. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned by consensus.