

**ALLEGHENY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
BUILDING #7 – CONFERENCE ROOM
MEETING 3-18
February 12, 2018**

Committee Members/(Alts) Present

Dan Bricmont, (Chair), Bricmont Law
Chip Babst, Babst, Calland (Vice Chair)
Sara Marie Baldi, Salvation Army
Coleen Davis, USS, (ALT US Steel)
Rachel Filippini, GASP
Steven Hvozdoovich, Clean Water Action
Robert Orchowski, Hillcrest Group

Others Present

Rick Ankney, Penn Environmental
Zacary Barber, Penn Environmental
Gabriel Brewer, Penn Environment
Lee Ann Briggs. SBOC/EMAP
Stephen Caruso, Citizen
Mark Dixon, Citizen
Steve Hepler, DEP
Meera Krishna, Penn Environmental
John Krueger, DEP
Brian Joos, Concerned Citizen
Matt Mehalic AQC
Ned Mulcahy GASP
Elise Peterson-Trujillo, Penn Environmental
Ronald J Protz, Penn Environmental
Stephen Ricards, Penn Environmental
Moarina Santicola, Penn Environmental
Mirra Yu, Penn Environmental

Committee Members/ Not Present

Jeanne Clark, ALCOSAN
Michael Corcoran, PPG
Mark Jeffrey, US Steel
John Palmiere, Allegheny County Council
John Baillie – GASP (ALT)
Mick Winek – (ALT Chip Babst)

ACHD Members Present

Jeff Bailey
Sandra Etzel
Jayme Graham
Jim Kelly
Tom Lattner
Karen M Sagel
Shaun Vozar

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Dan Bricmont called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

Action: A quorum was present. All in attendance made their introduction. Mack Dixon will be filming the meeting for a documentary he is making.

2. Approval of Minutes October 16, 2017

Action: Moved by Steve Hvozdoovich 2nd by Coleen Davis

3. Election of 2018 officers – Dan Bricmont

Nomination of Dan Bricmont as Chair – Made by Coleen M Davis, 2nd by Bob Orchowski
Passed unanimously.

Nomination of Chip Babst as Vice Chair – Made by Bob Orchowski 2nd by Coleen M Davis
Passed Unanimously.

Karen Sagel passed out new brochures of 2018 Air Advisory Committee Members and meeting dates.

4. Subcommittee Reports:

A. Criteria Pollutant/Air Monitoring Subcommittee – Coleen Davis reported that the Subcommittee met on January 10, 2018. Discussed the H₂S at Liberty, several exceedances of DEP daily standards. The ACHD is committed to performing backwards modelling to identify possible sources. EPA approved the Annual Network Plan. PM_{2.5} modelling is completed except for Liberty and are looking at more refined modeling using AirMod as some local sources may be overestimated. 2017 was a heavy significant inversion year compared to next high which was 2010, there were 203 days deemed of significant inversion. Bob asked if there were any colorations to the inversions, Coleen replied it was not discussed. Sara Marie asked how we were still maintaining attainment for Ozone, it was explained that it was just monitor data and was subjective to validation.

Next meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday March 21, 2018 at 1:30.

B. Pollution Prevention/Education Subcommittee – Rachel Filippini reported the subcommittee met January 18, 2018. Talked about doing another mailing to municipalities because there are still funds left in that particular grant and might as well used them up to continue education. Send out enough information so that every council member in each borough has the information and can focus more on the health effects than the regulations. Talked extensively about other ideas for Pollution Prevention for 2018, but that is further down the agenda. Saw a draft of what the recommended no burn day will look like on the website. Briefly discussed dispersion accuracy and chose the Poster Contest subject “Healthy Environment, Healthy Body”

The next will be March 15, 2017, at 1:30 PM.

C. Regulation Subcommittee – Robert Orchowski reported the committee did not meet. They hope to meet before the next Advisory Meeting as there have been changes to Article XXI.

5. Ambient Air Quality Report for 2017 – Shaun Vozar

Shaun gave a quick update on the available information on 2017. The quality insurance for the filter data is not complete. Near final numbers through the 3rd quarter of 2017 give confidence these numbers will not change greatly. Through using a power point presentation, Shaun shared the expected attainment of Allegheny County for 2017. PM 10 showed no violations in 20 years, with no exceedances in 10 years. PM 2.5 has been in attainment for the past two years, however there have been a few “pop ups” but were attributed to the filters being used. Within the next year, it should be back under attainment level. Jim Kelly asked if the recent wild fires affected the readings but Shaun said there was no need to peruse “exceptional events” but might consider it if needed for attainment. Chip questioned what he meant by data was invalidated by the filters, Shaun explained because of technical problems with the filters they couldn’t prove attainment. They would have to go back five years, total the numbers, divide, and recalculate to get an average so the calculated value is actually a calculated highest level over 5 years. Chip questioned so its an estimated but not necessarily reflective of what actually took place. The EPA “missing data procedure” is the worst case scenario. Chip asked if this carries over and Shaun said unfortunately it does but its something we cannot change. The Annual Standard started off with several exceedances. Currently the numbers are improved but still need a little work, especially in Liberty. The missing data is effecting this information as well. Ozone had several standard changes. Started off pretty high in the 1997 - 99 standard value but we are currently meeting the current standard. There is concern for maintaining this standard as the South Fayette monitor is affected by air coming into the county. Bob questioned if the monitor was by any major transportation, Shaun said its in a remote location but at a higher elevation which may affect the readings. The development of the South Point area of Washington County is being evaluated to see if there is an effect on the monitor for Allegheny County. Carbon Monoxide, we are well under the standard for the past 20 years. Sulfur Dioxide has been an ongoing problem and needs to be brought down. We are waiting on the current SIP to be returned by the EPA. Nitrogen Oxide and Lead Design period are well below the standard as well.

6. Update on Building 1 renovation proposal (no vote) – Jim Kelly

Jim gave an update on the progress of the renovation. Because of this additional cost, the ACHD has asked the architect to hold off until the audit can be performed. None of this charge comes out of the Clean Air fund, it will come out of Title V unless we push back against the County. ACHD is also requesting to meet with the Third Party auditor. ACHD is not comfortable with paying for a third party and would like some added oversight to what the auditor is doing. Hopefully by the next meeting he will have a 90% cost evaluation to present. No Questions.

7. **Clean Air Fund – Jayme Graham**

a. Request for \$300,000 for Outreach and Emissions Reductions – Air Quality is having difficulty with how to match the regulations on how to spend Clean Air Funds with the County Purchasing Regulations contracts over \$10,000.00 and \$30,000. Air Quality would like to be preapproved to spend \$300,000 for various interest groups seeking finance for programs pertaining to Pollution Outreach and Emissions Reductions. Expectantly \$150,000 each. The procedure for the Air Advisory to still approve or deny all applications would not change. Because this still does have to go through an internal review, this amount may change to a lower amount. Jim Kelly questioned if a subcommittee should be created for approval or if a 3-member review board would suffice. Chip asked where the requests come from, Jayme explained that a 501c, school, or local government are permitted to request funds. If a unique idea is presented and it is demonstrated that the requester is the only one to provide this unique idea, then a sole source grant would be approved. However, if an idea like planting trees was presented it would be put out for options. Steve asked how much has been spent in previous years and why is this being capped at \$150,000 each. Jayme explained this is a trial run to see how this goes. If need be we can re-run the request in mid-year. Although there was about \$800,000.00 spent last year, some of that was given to three year projects so they wouldn't be seeking monies this year. Bob pointed out most the monies over the years were spent on studies perhaps there should be a comparison of how the monies have been spent and consider a "cap" amount. The clarification is that the request of up to \$300,000.00 dollars will be made from the Board of Health, all Clean Air Fund Requests will still be reviewed by the Air Advisory Committee, this will just provide a fast turnaround of funds to the requestors. Request to approve the recommendation to the Board of Health to go forward with the Clear Air Funding for Outreach and Emissions Reductions Request in an amount not to exceed \$300,000.00 as outlined. Bob with the proviso that the Air Advisory get the scoring table as drafted plus the waiting criteria before you move into the evaluations phase. Motioned by Chip and 2nd by Rachel approved unanimously.

b. Request for \$45,000 for Southwest PA Air Quality Partnership – One of the primary things they do is put out the Air Quality Index which is part of the DEPs partnership. We are an active member of this partnership. The Advisory committee has supported them in the past. This request is for support, unfortunately the State has had to cut back their support, ACHD is neither increasing nor decreasing the support but still requesting \$15,000.00 for three years support. Motion for approval request for Southwest PA Air Quality Partnership in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00 for three years. Coleen Motioned, Sara Marie 2nd approved unanimously.

C. Request 5 % for operating fund of 2017 – There was a significant error in the proposal previously sent to the committee. A significant addition error. What was sent out was a proposal for an additional \$380,000.00 using the 5% rule of the Clean Air Fund. The proposal sent out subtracted the \$177,000.00 already spent but is actually in addition to the \$177,000.00 so the total is actually \$558,000.00. This is to help towards balancing the books due to the confusion in 2016. Bob asked what would happen if this money is not granted. Jayme explained that because the Title V program is losing money currently, our

incomes have become less and our budget is tighter. This will help balance the budget. The State is in the process of increasing Title V Emission Fees and all Permit Fees within 1 ½ to 2 years. When that happens we will be more stable in our accounts but until then we are essentially losing funds. Because the Clean Air Fund is well funded even spending \$800,000.00 in a year, it is still a very stable income. The intent of the regulation was to help with operational costs. Bob questioned what would happen if the monies are not there. Jim Kelly explained that when the rule was developed up to 5% operating costs, the Committee wasn't seeing that, but now because the Air Quality is doing their due diligence, until the rule is changed or any guidance otherwise, everything is just approved from now on. Normally this would have just been part of the budget but now it's a dispersion issues because of the rule. Rachel asked if any of this was for staff salaries, Jayme explained the only thing that was staff salaries is legal support, our attorneys are in the Air Quality Program, they are assigned to us. Some of the cost is for stenographer contracts as well because they are needed for hearings. There are some contract numbers, half of that is for student interns that we hire. a discussion was had that it would be cumbersome to have to have a bi-monthly report of operating expenses reported at each meeting. The committee is satisfied with an end of the year report. Request for 5% Clean Air Fund motioned by Bob 2nd by Steve approved unanimously.

8. Report of the Air Program – Jayme Graham

The EPA grant will be funded the same as last year. Najeeb Basher, and enforcement engineer retired. Hopefully within a month the new website should be up and running.

9. Other Business/Citizen Comments

Zacary Barber - Penn Environmental – addressed building renovations being paid for by Clean Air Fund, while very important, feels the fund was not meant to fund such ventures but should be used to lessen the burden of those who breath the air and should be going towards programs that make Pittsburgh more cleaner, healthier, and vibrant not into paying for the important expenses of the Health Department.

Mark Dixon – Citizen - offered many ideas that he felt the money for the renovations could be spent to improve the air quality in Pittsburgh. He expressed that these were his own rough estimates of funds. He feels that even with all the suggestions he offered there would be, by his estimates, \$250,000.00 to supply an administrator to oversee that, but but he wasn't sure if that was legal in the budget, plus \$500,000.00 for a night time inspector, plus \$50,000.00 for FLUR training, although he doesn't know how much that that actually costs. He also offered several ideas that the County could use the money for. He shared a video from the BREATH camera showing emissions from the US Steel Clairton Coke Works and explained this is what angers him. He feels it is more important to deal with the air he is breathing than to put money into a building to house Air Quality. Bob, while he did respect the video presented, the video is not evidence of "pollution", you have to look at each stream individually because it could be vapor. To say that is definitely pollution is a misstatement. Bob also pointed out there is a member of the

Committee that can assure him that the County is doing a great job of regulating US Steel Clairton and to impugn their work in regards to US Steel Clairton is a disservice to the staff. Jim Kelly did explain that there have been night inspections, but the issues happen so infrequently that having someone staffed all the time would not be productive. Mark Dixon responded that when he has called in the past he was told there has never been a night time inspection and that you can see the steam coming off this video. He cant say as a fact it was pollution but he can say several people experienced a horrible smell that night. He does not mean to impugn the work of the people in this room what he does seek to change is the very really fact that we have received over 8000 Smell PGH complaints from the Smell PGH app since the middle of 2016 (his estimates) this is not an issue that is going great.

Brian Joos – Concerned Citizen – expressed his concern that his comments were left out of the last meeting minutes. (Karen Sagel apologized for her error and will correct the minutes from last meeting.) Brian again expressed his concern that the monies being allocated for the renovation of Building 1 would be better served for education, permitting, inspection and enforcement. We cannot defer funds from these crucial needs in Allegheny County.

Elise Peterson-Trujillo - Penn Environmental – Echoed the comments of Zac that the soot of the air makes it difficult to breath and the money for the renovation should be kept in the Clean Air Fund and use for projects to improve the air quality in Allegheny County.

10. Adjournment

The meeting concluded at 6:55 pm. Coleen M Davis moved to adjourn and Robert Orchowski seconded the motion. The next meeting is April 9, 2017 at 5:30 pm.

Draft Minutes transcribed by: Karen M Sagel

Draft Minutes approved by: Jayme Graham