

**The Minutes of the
Air Improvement Resources Executive/Advisory Committee Meeting
Alamo Area Council of Governments
8700 Tesoro Drive, Suite 100, San Antonio, Texas
Wednesday, April 27, 2005, 9:00 a.m.**

Executive Committee Members

Chairman Jay Millikin, Comal Co. Commissioner
Vice Chairman Nelson Wolff, Judge Bexar Co.
Mayor Patrick Heath, City of Boerne
Mayor Pete Fleischhacker, Greater Bexar CCC
Judge Donald Schraub, Guadalupe County
Councilman Ernest Hernandez, City of Seguin
Mayor Adam Cork, City of New Braunfels
Judge Marvin Quinney, Wilson County

Advisory Committee Members

Kevin Butt, Toyota
Forrest Mims, Guadalupe Co.
Bill Bushman, AFCEE
Rod Smith, New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce
Mike Riley, City of Seguin
Pete Donahoe, Holt Co.
Commissioner Tommy Adkisson

Technical Committee Members

Renee Green, Bexar County, Chair
Liza Meyer, COSA

Guests

Terri Landan, Guadalupe Co. Citizen
Bryan Kirk, Seguin Gazette-Enterprise
Deborah Walden, Martin Marietta
Deadra Sprott, MPO
Christine Bergren, TCEQ
Gerald Lamping, NEISD
Nolan Anderson, NEISD
Earl Stewart, NEISD
Debra Engler, SAWS
Robert Johnson, USAA
Bill O'Connell, Wilson County News
Speedy Gonzales, NEISD
Douglas Peck, VIA

AACOG Staff

Al Notzon, Executive Director
Dean Danos, Deputy Director
Peter Bella, Director Natural Resources
Steve Smeltzer, Environmental Manager
Brenda Williams, Program Manager
Alison Young, Commute Solutions Coordinator
Isabel Chacon, Clean Cities Specialist
Berti Vaughan, Administrative Assistant

I. Roll Call Commissioner Millikin called the meeting to order. He asked that the roll be called. Dean Danos called the roll and declared a quorum.

II. Citizens to be Heard Forrest Mims signed up to speak later in the agenda. (During Agenda Item #6c)

III. Approval of Minutes Chairman Millikin asked the Committee for consideration of the February 23, 2005 minutes. Chairman Millikin pointed out two minor corrections; an added r to Forrest Mims' name on page one and delete an o in Chairman Huston's name on page two. Mayor Heath suggested a correction on page four on the top line; the last two words which read "the states" should be "San Antonio" instead. Mayor Heath moved approval of the minutes as corrected. Mayor Fleischhacker seconded the motion. The motion carried. The minutes were approved as corrected.

IV. AIR Public Education Committee Report Alison Young presented a chronological report on all the outreach events from February 24 through April 27. She reported that the Air Quality Health Fair attendance was up by half at San Pedro Park and gave the committee an update on the media campaign for Air Quality and Commute Solutions. Ms. Young reported that efforts were underway to implement the Air Quality Health Fair in Seguin and New Braunfels in 2006. Tommy Adkisson suggested that the

Air Quality Health Fair be scheduled in partnership with the City Public Service LiveGreen Fest event in the future.

(Chairman Millikin moved out of sequence on the agenda skipping the ozone report item#5)

VI. Report from the AIR Technical Committee

a. Action Item: Consideration and possible approval of the Conceptual Model Update Donna Hessong gave a power point presentation on the characteristics of the conceptual model and an update on the data that is incorporated into the model on a yearly basis. She explained the aspects of the model; as a tool that typifies meteorological data associated with high ozone, identifies periods of high ozone that can be considered for possible photochemical modeling candidates, analyses for the candidates for modeling desirability and presents a final list of candidates and their desirability. Ms. Hessong said that atypical events needed to be avoided. She provided graphs of typical episode candidates. She reported that under the EAC another modeling episode was not required at this time. It had been recommended by TCEQ to wait for the TXAQSII data, for consideration, before selecting a new episode. It was agreed by all the other near non-attainment area regions to wait for the TXAQSII data as well. Ms. Hessong said a newer episode containing TXAQSII data would be more useful and beneficial especially if another SIP becomes required in 2009. Mayor Heath asked for an explanation on TXAQSII. Steve Smeltzer explained that, through TXAQSII, data would be collected in East Texas during 2005 and 2006 using radar profilers, monitors, meteorological sites. This data would give a better understanding of ozone formation and transport that could be used for a comprehensive base case data set.

Chairman Millikin asked for a motion to approve the Conceptual Model Update. Mayor Cork made the motion for approval of the model. Councilman Ernest Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. a. Ozone and Particulate Matter Report AACOG Ozone and Meteorological Monitoring Network Peter Bella presented information on the region's Ozone and synopsized the readings through a series of tables using a handout and a power point presentation. He reviewed the 8-hour average ozone National ambient air quality standard. He described it as the average of the annual fourth highest daily 8-hour maximum over a three year period not to be at or above 85 parts per billion for ozone concentrations. He explained that the next table, containing the historic values of 4th highest 8-hour average ozone reading for TCEQ monitors in San Antonio, from 2000-2004 was a historic accounting of values at or above 85 parts per billion from 2003 through 2005. He said the table showed the region very close to being in non-attainment although protected through the EAC. Mr. Bella said the year 2005 data would determine violation. He explained that 2005 through 2007 began a new three-year average which would be judged by the EPA as to whether the region was in attainment or non-attainment. He explained the system used to monitor both sizes of the particulate matter and concluded that the monitors' averages remained well under the PM federal standards or half of the federal standard.

Chairman Millikin asked the committee to take the agenda out of sequence to item VI.c to accommodate Judge Wolff's schedule.

VI.c. Action Item: Consideration and approval of Transport Letter: Future air quality planning efforts under Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR)

Mr. Bella reported that during their April 11, 2005 meeting, the Air Improvement Resources Technical Committee unanimously approved a motion to send a letter to the AIR Executive/Advisory Committee for their consideration and possible approval on the issue of transport. Mr. Bella asked them to refer to the draft letter. The letter asked EPA to respond to several questions pertaining to air pollution transported from other regions, States and countries. Ms. Greene reminded the committee the letter was drafted by Mr. Mims with input from Peter at their request as a result of some transport issues discussed during the last meeting.

Citizen to be Heard on item VIc: Forrest Mims gave a brief presentation relating to smoke transport. The presentation consisted of satellite images of a Mexican Smoke Event, of burning in Brazil, and burning in Louisiana and Arkansas producing smoke drifting over to Texas. He pointed to sulfate smog and concentrations coming from the Eastern part of the United States affecting San Antonio's ozone exceedences. He reported ambient ozone measurements of particulate matter from giant fires from Siberia crossing the Pacific to Hawaii and stated that there is a very strong correlation between smog and ozone when the conditions are right. He stated that the ozone levels predicted for April 30th could possibly be affected by smoke from Mexico.

Chairman Millikin thanked Mr. Mims for his presentation

Mayor Heath motioned for approval of the draft letter. Mayor Cork seconded the motion. Mayor Heath asked if staff would provide a report inclusive of transport in the Energy Bill recently passed out of the US House of Representatives. Renee Green said she would present the Energy Act bill to the AIR Technical committee and report back to him during the next AIR EXEC meeting. Chairman Millikin asked for a vote on the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman Millikin asked if they wanted to go back to VI. b. Mr. Bella responded to wait until later on the agenda.

VII. Business of the AIR Executive Committee:

a. Membership in the Air Improvement Resources Committees:

i. Action Item: Consider request for AIR Advisory Committee nomination: Deborah Walden of Martin Marietta Materials, Inc.

Mayor Cork motioned to accept Deborah Walden as a AIR Advisory Committee member. Ernest Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed

ii. Action Item: Consider request for AIR Advisory Committee nomination: Billy Gibbs of Alamo Cement Company

Mayor Cork motioned to accept Billy Gibbs as a AIR Advisory Committee member. Ernest Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed.

iii. AIR Technical Committee Assignment:

Melanie Ritsema, MPH., R.N. representing the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District-- A vote was not necessary as per the bylaws.

VII. b. Review of the CAL LEV II Letter Mr. Bella reported that the letter authorized by the AIR Executive Chair and Vice Chair in support of the CAL LEV II was sent to Chairman White at TCEQ as well as the Houston Galveston and Ft. Worth/Dallas air quality planners for their review as a possible control measure. Mr. Bella referred the committee to a handout which noted that according to the US Census Bureau for State Motor Vehicle Registrations in 1999, the eight states that have adopted CAL LEV II

represented 27.6% of the vehicles registered in the United States. Adding 1999 registrations in Washington and Oregon would bring the percentage up to 30.50%. Adding the 1999 registrations in Texas would bring the percentages up to 36.35.

VI. b. Review of the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR)

Mr. Bella gave the committee a synopsis on the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) through the use of a handout and a visual presentation. Mr. Bella said that back in 1997 when the ozone and particulate matter national ambient air quality standards were first passed, it triggered section 110 of the Clean Air Act regarding transport. This section required that the areas that significantly contributed ozone or particulate matter to down wind states were required to write SIPs addressing transport. Those SIPs were not filed in March of 2004. This caused an organization called Earth Justice to file a letter of intent to sue the EPA because those SIPs had not been submitted. As a result of that action, the Clean Air Interstate Rule was one of the rules established. Mr. Bella explained that this finding starts a two-year clock for EPA to issue a federal implementation plan if the SIPs are not filed by 2006. Mr. Bella said that the reason Texas was included as one of the states is due to an EPA finding that Texas significantly contributes fine particulate matter to Illinois.

He explained that CAIR was a very important rule and was passed by the EPA on March 10, 2005. The EPA rule was designed to:

- Cap emissions of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) in eastern US
- Largest Reductions in 28 eastern states and the District of Columbia: Reduce SO₂ emissions by over 70% from 2003 levels and Reduce NO_x emissions by over 60% from 2003 levels.
- \$85-100 billion: health benefits per year by 2015 and
- \$2 billion in visibility benefits per year by 2015

Mr. Bella said that power plants are the anticipated source of the SO₂ and NO_x reductions in CAIR and that through capping emissions through an interstate cap and trade program EPA estimated that by 2015, CAIR would help, Texas sources reduce nitrogen oxides emission by 52,000 tons, or 25%, West Virginia sources reduce nitrogen oxides emissions by 159,000 tons or 78%, and Tennessee sources reduce nitrogen oxides emissions by 107,000 tons or 80%. Mr. Bella said that according to the EPA, "Texas sources significantly contribute to fine particle pollution in Illinois and that Texas' ground-level ozone air quality will improve because of reductions of NO_x in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana & Mississippi."

Renee Green pointed to potential problems with cap and trade practices. She said that states like Louisiana which need to make reductions at their facility to benefit our region may be able to trade or buy emissions reductions from other states that have no impact on us. Mr. Bella said that her concerns were valid and those issues would have to be monitored. Mr. Bella pointed to a set of tables provided by the EPA showing the net benefits where the investments were small compared to the large benefit returns. Mr. Bella said that twenty-eight states had to turn in SIPs for this requirement by September 2006.

Mike Riley asked if there was anyway they could take a position on the buying and selling of the credits. Renee remarked that emission allotments are bought, sold and traded as a commodity in Houston. A lot of people couldn't do business in the Houston area without the ability to do that. She pointed out that the concern is that you need to be able to retire emissions in the same area that you are purchasing them. She knew

that the state and EPA Region 6 are focused on that based on comments made at TCAWG at the state level. Mrs. Green remarked that “the good news is that emissions reductions in Louisiana drastically impact the Dallas/Ft. Worth Area. To have an ally from that particular large area working with us to make sure Louisiana does what they are supposed to do and doesn’t go out and find some emissions in Florida is really what is going to help push this the right way.”

Mayor Heath recommended that the AIR Technical Committee provide a brief position paper for their consideration. Chairman Millikin agreed.

VIII. AACOG Staff Updates

a. Update: Clean Air Partners Program

Brenda Williams reported on the Alamo Clean Air Partners Program and gave them an update on the marketing campaign. She said information had been distributed on the program at a number of events regionally. Including a business summit at the convention center, and several chamber of commerce meetings. She said the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce was assisting in the distribution of the brochures to the Chamber members and had also printed an article about the Alamo Clean Air Partnership in their latest newsletter. Mrs. Williams said that the next step was the distribution of the toolkit to businesses and agencies in our region. The toolkit encouraged businesses and agencies to become partners through its software that identifies emissions and ways to reduce those air pollution emissions. She offered toolkits to those attending the meeting. Mrs. Williams explained that another tool she is using is a letter of invitation to join the partnership signed by Commissioner Millikin and Judge Wolff. The initial mail-out was created by looking at three criteria; the number of employees, the largest fleets, and largest point sources. Thus far they have sent 110 letters with intent to mail another 200 within the next couple of weeks. She said they were very close to signing their first partners. Councilman Ernest Hernandez asked if they had stickers that identified partners at their businesses. Ms. Williams said it was an excellent idea and that she would look into it.

Brenda Williams introduced Isabel Chacon as the new Clean Cities Coordinator. Ms. Chacon reported that traditionally the Clean Cities Program promoted the use of alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles and that the Program had recently expanded their focus. In addition to promoting the reduction of petroleum consumption during everyday use, the Clean Cities Program was promoting the use of fuel blends, being smart with our fuel economy, and idle reduction technology.

Ms. Chacon said that the state energy project application was released in February with the deadline of submission two weeks ago. She reported that about forty applications were submitted to the state. Twenty-one applications of which are going to be submitted from the state to the Department of Energy. Five of those applications were submitted from within the region. In Bexar County, the Railroad Commission submitted an application to coordinate efforts with the Northside Independent School District to get a propane bus demonstration with a new eight liter engine. Two applications were submitted from Comal County; one from Comal ISD and another from New Braunfels ISD who are seeking compressed natural gas infrastructure. Ms. Chacon said that AACOG submitted an application for Clean Cities Coalition Support and Schwann Foods submitted an application to get 89 propane delivery trucks for use within the Texas region. Ms. Chacon said that at the behest of Clean Cities she would be making a presentation on VIA’s use of propane use at the Clean Cities National Conference.

IX. Other Issues

Mayor Fleischhacker asked Mr. Bella if there was any evidence that bio-diesel was better for the air than fossil fuels. Mr. Bella said on the one hand it reduced the use of petroleum on the other hand most bio-diesels currently break even or may actually increase NOx in the heavy duty diesels that they are burned in. Ms. Green said it was important to distinguish between an alternative fuel which is a non-petroleum hydro-carbon product verses fuels that are used for air quality benefit because there are some air quality benefits that are derived from hydro-carbon base fuels that are more beneficial than some that you get from alternative fuels. Steve Steven said that bio-diesel does increase NOx but it does lower particulate matter and VOCs. Mayor Cork pointed out that there was also a difference in emissions from the production end from the fuel itself. So, if you are talking about the point of consumption or the point of production it makes a difference.

X. Adjourn

Mayor Fleischhacker motioned for adjournment. Mayor Heath seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.