

**The Minutes of the
Air Improvement Resources Executive/Advisory Committee Meeting
Alamo Area Council of Governments
Wednesday, March 1, 2006, 9:00 a.m.
8700 Tesoro, Suite 100, San Antonio, Texas 782217**

Executive Committee Members

Chairman Jay Millikin, Comal Co. Commissioner
Councilman, Chip Haass, City of San Antonio
Mayor Raymond Ramirez, City of Floresville
Mayor Bruce Boyer, City of New Braunfels
Judge Donald Schraub, Guadalupe County

Technical Committee Members

Renee Green, Bexar County, Chair
Nicolas Page, MPO
Lisa Meyers, City of San Antonio

Guests

Terri Landan, Guadalupe County
Rick Hite, TCEQ Region 13

Advisory Committee Members

Mike Riley, City of Seguin
Susan Ghertner, HEB
David Newman, City of San Antonio
Forrest Mims, Guadalupe County

AACOG Staff

Al Notzon, Executive Director
Dean Danos, Deputy Director
Peter Bella, Director, Natural Resources
Steve Smeltzer, Environmental Manager
Brenda Williams, Program Manager
Berti Vaughan, Administrative Assistant

I. Roll Call Chairman Millikin called the meeting to order. He asked that the roll be called. Dean Danos called the roll and declared a quorum. Chairman Millikin suggested that the Advisory members be contacted to determine whether they wanted to continue serving on the committee.

II. Citizens to be Heard There were none signed up to speak.

III. Approval of Minutes Chairman Millikin pointed to some minor edits needed on the August and December minutes. On the August minutes he pointed to Roman numeral 6. On the second sentence the word "House" required capitalization. On the following sentence he asked that "actual" be changed to lower case. Within the December minutes on item number V.b he said to correct Bell to Bella. Chairman Millikin asked for a motion to approve the minutes from August 24, 2005 and December 14, 2005 as amended. Mayor Ramirez motioned for approval of the minutes with the corrections. Judge Schraub seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IV. Ozone and Particulate Matter Report

a. Update: Proposed revision to the NAAQS for Particulate Matter

Mr. Bella presented a monthly report showing the two standards; 24-hour and one-hour average for PM 10 and PM 2.5. He reported that the area remained well beneath the national standards values for PM 10 and PM 2.5.

Mr. Bella gave an update on the particulate matter rule proposal through a power point presentation. He also referred them to the synopsis and explained that the AIR Technical Committee had reviewed the proposed rules and provided their analysis.

Mr. Bella reported that the proposed particulate matter rule changes would lower the threshold for the PM 2.5 from $65 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ down to $35 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for the 24-hour averaging period with no change in the annual $15.0 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Mr. Bella said the changes proposed in the PM 10 standard were a little more complicated. He explained that EPA proposed to throw out the existing standard which captures all of the

particles that are 10 micrometers or smaller and weighs them. The proposed rule would change the definition of the coarse standard so that it covers only particles between 10 and 2.5 micrometers in diameter. This separates the particles which are 2.5 microns and smaller (measured in the PM 2.5 standard) from the particles which are between 10 and 2.5 microns in diameter (measured in the proposed PM 10-2.5 standard). The proposed PM 10-2.5 standard would only have a 24-hour average period with a threshold of 70 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Mr. Bella reported that the TCEQ had answered questions posed by the AIR Tech Committee on the rule change. Mr. Bella pointed specifically to questions 1.) Has TCEQ begun an analysis of the proposed revisions to the Particulate Matter NAAQS? And 2.) Which areas of Texas will most likely be affected by promulgation of the proposed rules? In response to the questions, TCEQ reported that they had begun developing comments on EPA's proposal and expect the process of developing comments to last two to three months. April 17 is the deadline for any written comments on this rule. According to TCEQ, the EPA has done an analysis of available regulatory PM data for 2002-2004. That analysis concludes that San Antonio's PM 2.5 annual design value is no higher than 11 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ compared to the 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ threshold and 24 hour design value no higher than 23 compared to a threshold of 35 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. In their analysis to date, if EPA adopts the levels currently proposed for PM 2.5, Texas will not have any non-attainment areas for PM 2.5 based on 2002-2004 data. Mr. Bella noted that at the moment it didn't seem evident that we would be challenged by the new standards directly, however a caveat exists since the monitors now operating are not regulatory monitors. TCEQ would likely need to establish regulatory monitors in this region for the purposes of this rule.

The question was asked why the TEOM's data currently being collected was not valid. Rick Hite with TCEQ was introduced by Mr. Bella and was asked to respond to the question. Mr. Hite explained that the current TEOM's instruments are not a federal reference method. He said the instruments required for regulatory monitors used a filter-based method. Mr. Hite explained that the way TCEQ accessed the need to set up regulatory monitors had to do with population and if they measured values of concern. He pointed out that because the current standard in the region is so low the TEOM instruments are effective for our community and the state has been able to reflect that to the EPA. However, when they change the standard we may have to revisit that.

Chairman Millikin announced that Cemex and TXI cement quarries had applied for permits through TCEQ to expand new kiln operations with the potential release of a large amount of NOx which had not been included in the EAC modeling and which could affect the region's attainment status. Mr. Bella reported that staff was looking into the effect of the NOx being emitted by the TXI quarry and would be reporting the results to the AIR Tech and AIR Exec Committees.

V. AIR Public Education Committee/Clean Cities Report

Brenda Williams provided the committee with a handout reporting 2005 outreach efforts on the Clean Cities Program, Commute Solutions, and Clean Air Partners Program. She asked that they read the report at their convenience.

a. Clean Cities Re-designation Ceremony of February 14, 2006

Mrs. Williams reported that the Clean Cities Program re-designation ceremony organized by Isabel Chacon, Clean Cities Coordinator had resulted in commitment from 36 local stakeholders who signed a memorandum of understanding indicating their continued support to alternative fuels, hybrid electric vehicles, further reductions in technologies and other similar measures promoted by the Clean Cities program. The event was held at the International Center downtown and was attended by State Representative Leticia Van de Putte, Judge

Nelson Wolff, Councilman Chip Haass, and Department of Energy Regional Manager, Ernie Oakes.

b. Update: Public Outreach efforts

i. Greening Your Business Seminar Series

Provided a Greening Your Business Seminar at the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce. The seminar launched a series of four workshops to be conducted on specific strategies for companies to reduce cost and air emissions. The first of those will be conducted in April. Mr. Notzon remarked that having Councilman Chip Haass and Judge Wolff present at the seminar along side Chamber members was well received.

Other outreach highlights:

- AACOG staff met with the Metropolitan Health District's Director, Dr. Guerra and his staff, and TCEQ Region 13 staff to discuss ways the agencies can to work together on issues such as air monitoring, air shed modeling, engaging the medical community in air quality related health issues, and in inspection and enforcement of air quality rules.
- Staff is working with other government agencies in preparation for the 2006 ozone season. Bexar County is hosting the first press conference on Thursday, March 9 with Commissioner Adkisson making the announcements. On March 24 the City of San Antonio is hosting a press conference to announce improvements to the air quality health alert notification system using a service by SCAN USA. The new service would give people more options for receiving health alert notifications.
- AACOG is planning two ozone kick-off events. The first would be held on Saturday April 8 at Eisenhower Park in San Antonio in collaboration with the CPS Energy LiveGreenFest. The second kick off event will be held on Saturday, May 20 at the Seguin Outdoor Learning Center.
- Staff will be conducting a corporate Walk and Roll Challenge in June. This event will encourage competition among companies and government agencies to encourage employee participation. The winners will be based on the percentage of employees that participate. Mrs. Williams explained that the October Walk and Roll Challenge campaign will continue as an invitation to the public to reduce the amount of time they spent in single occupant vehicles by carpooling, vanpooling, using mass transit, biking, and walking as it was presented last year.

Mr. Mims asked what Mrs. Williams was doing to inform the public about transport ozone. Mrs. Williams replied that she had put together a press release containing the various issues. The document will be going to the AIR Technical Committee for their review and then would be presented to the AIR Executive Committee for final approval.

Chairman Millikin commented that if they were to have an effective notification system, they needed to get the attention of people on the street through the Air Quality Health Alert Banners. Thus far, there were not enough banners being purchased for use in schools, government agencies, and other facilities.

Councilman Haass asked if there was sufficient staff for marketing the information to the public. Mr. Danos responded that there was and asked Mrs. Williams to look into contacting Senior Facilities and Schools to see if they were interested. Mr. Notzon said it might take fund raising. Councilman Haass said if they could get a commitment from government agencies, Senior Centers/Facilities and School systems to use the banners he would pay for them. Rene Green recommended that the schools to represent air quality for the 2007 ozone season create a mascot.

VI. Clean Air Plan Update

a. Update: Enforcement of Early Action Compact SIP strategy implementation

i. Outreach: Stage I Vapor Recovery and Degreasing Equipment Rules

Developments within the local region: Peter Bella reported that AACOG staff was currently working with TCEQ Region 13 and the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District to organize a group which can serve as an inspection and enforcement agent for local Clean Air rules, notably the Degreasing Equipment and Stage I Vapor Recovery rules. A lot of good ideas came out of the meeting to look at ways to get the inspection and enforcement started.

ii. Status: Inspection and Enforcement Actions

Support from TCEQ: Mr. Bella reported that during the AIR Technical Committee meeting of February 13, the committee voted to request that he write a letter to TCEQ requesting support by the state for inspection and enforcement of the state rules in the SIP. The letter is an Action Item for the March 13th agenda of the AIR Technical Committee, to be considered for review by the AIR Executive/Advisory Committee during the April 26, meeting.

b. Action Item: Consideration and possible approval of draft letter on transport

Chairman Millikin said that he had some difficulty with the proposed letter. Chairman Millikin was of the opinion that the letter might give the persons up the chain of command the impression that the committee was placing the responsibility for the clean air effort in the San Antonio MSA "on somebody else other than ourselves." He said he understood Mr. Mims and Mr. Riley and everybody else's point that over a long period of time transport does play a part in the air quality issue in the San Antonio MSA. However it was only a part of the issue and did not eliminate the MSA's responsibility of being a part of the issue as well. He said he was leaving it up to the committee whether they should pursue the draft letter or let the MPO release it. Mr. Notzon made the point that they needed to be operating on two levels; "One to continue doing the things we are doing to try to keep the region in attainment but the reality of transport is another issue where despite our best efforts something could happen and that is the question we need to get to the congressional delegation as they are reviewing the Clean Air Act." He recommended that the content of the letter could begin with what the committee was doing to address the air quality issue and add transport as another issue that needed to be addressed. He mentioned that the letter needed to come from the committee. Mike Riley concurred and said that transport does exist and that the issue should be addressed at the congressional level. After further discussion addressing the issue of air transport in the content of the letter, Chairman Millikin advised that the letter needed to be clarified and tightened and be no longer than one page. Mayor Boyer asked what action they were being asked to consider. Chairman Millikin said they were being asked to consider; 1) Should we pursue the letter in the first place and the consensus seems to be yes we ought to do that and 2) what is the context of the letter or what it is we want to focus on. Given the concerns expressed during the meeting, Mayor Boyer made the motion to authorize the chairman to work with staff on the content of the letter. Councilman Haass seconded the motion. Judge Schraub recommended that the revisions be concise in the letter. Chairman Millikin agreed. Chairman Millikin said there was a motion on the floor and asked for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Haass asked Chairman Millikin if it wasn't more effective to set up meetings in Washington to speak to the Legislative Representatives as opposed to depending on letters. He offered as a member of the City's lobbying committee to speak to the Legislative Representatives on behalf of the committee and invited Chairman Millikin to join him.

VII. Business of the AIR Executive/Advisory Committee

a. **Action Item:** Consideration of nomination of San Antonio City Councilman Kevin Wolff to the AIR Advisory Committee

Mayor Boyer moved to approve Councilman Kevin Wolff to the AIR Advisory Committee. Judge Schraub seconded the motion. Chairman Millikin asked for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. **Action Item:** Consideration of nomination of David Newman, Environmental Services Manager of the City of San Antonio, to the AIR Advisory Committee

Councilman Haass moved to approve the nomination of David Newman to the AIR Advisory Committee. Chairman Millikin seconded the motion. Chairman Millikin asked for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

- c. Welcome: AIR Executive Committee member: Hon. Jim Tremblay, Mayor Pro-Tem, City of Windcrest for the Greater Bexar County Council of Cities.

Although not present, Chairman Millikin welcomed Councilman Tremblay to the AIR Executive Committee.

VIII. AACOG Staff Updates

- a. **Action Item:** Confirm Subcommittee Bid Choice: AACOG Ozone and Meteorological Monitoring Network Maintenance and Operation Contract

Mr. Bella reported that after reviewing the bid packages the sub-committee recommended that Air Quality Solution Inc. as the low qualified bid be awarded the contract. Mayor Boyer asked the question as to why the second bid was so much higher. Mr. Bella explained that the higher bidder did not follow the tasks that were originally described in the invitation bid package. They added a lot more bells and whistles to the tasks in the invitation bid package and then gave a bid price accordingly. Mr. Mims added that the high bidder had a better proposal because they proposed to take all the instruments into their lab and provide some extra services however it was at a much higher price. Mrs. Green said an issue had arisen during the past year's AQSI contract concerning the performance of the monitor at the Seguin Learning Center. After discussion and review the sub-committee built in sufficient contract language into the new contract that will prevent that from reoccurring. They didn't feel that the performance issue was sufficient to warrant doubling the cost and hiring another consultant. Mayor Boyer made the motion to accept the recommendation from the sub-committee for AQSI to receive the contract.

- b. Update: TCEQ's proposed "Air Permits by Rule Study-Phase II"

Peter Bella reported that the Air Technical Committee reviewed the rule and they recommended that no comments would be necessary.

IX. Other Issues/Announcements

- a. FutureGen in Texas

Mr. Notzon reported that Frio County had submitted a grant proposal package for a coal gasification plant and was on the short list for consideration by the Federal Government.

- b. National Association of Regional Councils' 40th Annual Conference and Exhibition, Westin Riverwalk Hotel, San Antonio, June 17 to 20, 2006

Mr. Notzon informed them that the NARC conference would be held at the Westin Riverwalk on Father's day weekend.

Councilman Haass asked for some finality on the banners and asked Peter Bella if he could get an update during the April AIR Executive meeting on who wanted the banners. He asked David Newman and Renee Green to inventory their facilities to see how many banners they can use as well so they could be purchased. Chairman Millikin thanked Councilman Haass for his offer.

X. Adjourn

With no further business to conduct the meeting was adjourned.