

**The Minutes of the
Air Improvement Resources Executive/Advisory Committee Meeting
Alamo Area Council of Governments
Wednesday, June 14, 2006, 9:30 a.m.
8700 Tesoro, Suite 100, San Antonio, Texas 78217**

Executive Committee Members

Chairman Jay Millikin, Comal Co. Commissioner
Councilman, Chip Haass, City of San Antonio
Mayor Raymond Ramirez, City of Floresville
Judge Donald Schraub, Guadalupe County
Mayor Patrick Heath, City of Boerne
Councilman Jim Tremblay, Bexar County Council
of Cities

Technical Committee Members

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

Guests

Terri Landan, Guadalupe County
Brian Pietruszewski, The Gardner Law Firm
Dub Smothers

Advisory Committee Members

Mike Riley, City of Seguin
Susan Ghertner, HEB
David Newman, City of San Antonio
Forrest Mims, Guadalupe County
Kevin Butt, Toyota
Bill Bushman, Air Force Center for
Environmental Excellence
Dan Titerle, SAWS

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 remarked that Councilman Hernandez was no longer seated and needed to be replaced. Mr. Notzon said he had received a call from Mayor Matthies from Seguin who said she would be appointing someone from the City Council to replace him.

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

III. Approval of Minutes Chairman Millikin asked for a motion to approve the April 26, 2006 minutes. Councilman Haass moved to accept the minutes. Mayor Heath seconded the motion. Chairman Millikin asked for discussion. There was none. Chairman Millikin asked for the vote to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

IV. Ozone and Particulate Matter Report

Mr. Bella referred the committee to the updated tables on the ozone and particulate matter handout. He pointed to the values reflecting very high exceedences during the month of June 2006. Chairman Millikin noted that it was only mid June and the highest 8-hour ozone reading for 2006 was already at 93 parts per billion. He asked Mr. Bella what the values were for the rest of the state. Using a TCEQ website chart, Mr. Bella reported that Dallas and Houston were showing 105 parts per billion and 103 parts per billion averaging values during the same time period.

Mr. Bella reported that the particulate matter update reflected the region in attainment for PM 10 and PM 2.5 national ambient air quality standards. Along with the particulate matter update, Mr. Bella provided a re-cap on the proposed revision to the NAAQS for particulate matter, which would lower the threshold for PM 2.5 from 65 ug/m³ to 35 ug/m³ for the 24-hour averaging

period. Mayor Heath asked if the standard was to be promulgated in November of 2006. Renee Green explained that even if the standard were promulgated, there are currently no federal regulatory monitor for particulate matter in San Antonio.

Forrest Mims requested staff e-mail to the AIR Executive/Advisory Committee the TCEQ urls that were being used by staff to report on meteorological data.

Councilman Haass began discussion on what could be done now to manage the region's air quality proactively. Mr. Notzon concurred with Councilman Haass that it was important that the Committee look at every possible way to keep the region in attainment. Mr. Notzon asked if growth and transport were factors, and why was San Antonio in attainment trouble and Austin wasn't. Mr. Bella offered information on some of the differences between the control strategies submitted in each of the EACs. Mayor Heath requested a side-by-side comparison of the two sets of strategies between Austin and San Antonio to determine whether something was being missed or perhaps have dismissed as not being effective in our area. Councilman Haass asked for feedback from staff on the technological advances being used by the quarries to lower their emissions to see if perhaps there were incentives cities could provide them. Chairman Millikin said discussion was ongoing with the cement companies and Comal County to address that question. Mr. Bella noted staff could address the technology question during the point source presentation later on the agenda. Chairman Millikin commented that although it would be hard to remain in attainment under likely scenarios, the committee had a responsibility to the public's health and they needed to spend more time to figure out what direction to take. He said the response from the public to follow the rules on Air Quality Health Alert Days was critical. Councilman Haass asked staff for an update on compliance on the use of the banners. Chairman Millikin commented that leadership was needed from the city and county to make certain the banners were being used. In conclusion Chairman Millikin asked Steve Smeltzer to give them a report on what meteorological events had occurred when the June exceedences occurred.

V. AIR Public Education Committee/Clean Cities Update

Brenda Williams referred the committee to the outreach report handout. She presented the following highlights:

- Since January 2006, the outreach to individuals was at 19,000.
- May 20, the Air Quality Health Fair was held at the Seguin Outdoor Learning Center
- May 31, an HEB press conference announcing the availability of E85 in five stations along I-35 corridor was held. Susan Ghertner gave a preview of plans to phase in additional stations thru 2007.
- June 1-30th, the Walk & Roll Corporate Challenge has been implemented. Twenty organizations have expressed interest in participating. A press event will be held in early July to announce the winners.

Isabel Martinez reported that on June 15, the AACOG Clean Cities Program was sponsoring a General Motors Fuel Economy Tour in the AACOG Board room from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

VI. Clean Air Plan Update

a. New Point Sources in Texas

Peter Bella referred the committee to the list of point sources collected from permit requests submitted to TCEQ for added capacity. He provided a simulation through modeling episodes to demonstrate the impact to the region's attainment status. Mr. Bella reported that dialogue was

on going with TXI working in the direction of net zero emissions. He said that another solution being sought is the coordination between the cement industries to schedule maintenance shutdowns during ozone peak periods. The following information was presented through Mr. Bella's power point presentation minus the graphs.

New Point Sources outside AACOG region

- Five new power plants and one chemical plant have applied for permits. These plants are projected to emit a total of 49 tons/day of NOx emissions
- In addition, TXU has announced that they plan to build 8 additional coal power plants with total net capacity of 6,400 MW (~ 50 tons/day of NOx)
- The proposed plants are just outside AACOG's region, but they can impact local air quality
- TXU also plans to invest up to \$2 billion in cleaner power plant technology and to expand their renewable power facilities to a total of 1,400 MW capacity
- TXU states it "will double its solid-fuel generation capacity and at the same time will reduce key emissions by 20 percent from where they are today" (TXU press release, April 20, 2006, "TXU Plans \$10 Billion Investment to Power the Future of Texas")

Specific Solutions: TXI Cement in Comal County

- AACOG and TCEQ Region 13 have opened dialogue with TXI on reduction of emissions
Net Zero Goal: Ideas which may help
 - Cleaner School Buses in Comal County
 - Hybrid / cleaner taxi rebate or grant assistance to offset incremental cost difference (~\$3,000) for new vehicle purchases
 - Truck Stop Electrification:
 - New Braunfels area truck stop w/ 27 spaces
 - Triple A Travel Center, S. Bexar Co. w/ ~120 spaces
 - Possible new location in Schertz, N of 3009
 - Lawn mower vouchers ? in partnership with local (NB) utility?
 - Maintenance Shutdown Schedule Coordination
 - AACOG, TXI & TCEQ Region 13 next meet on June 16, 2006 to discuss next steps
 - Possible local meeting of Texas industry-wide leadership

- b. **Action Item:** Consider and act upon request to approve 7th Semi-Annual Report: Early Action Compact

Renee Green reported to the community that the AIR TECH Committee had carefully reviewed the report and approved the document for their consideration. Donna Hessong informed the Committee of revisions to the document made by staff on inspections and enforcement. Mayor Heath made the motion for approval of the 7th semi-annual report. Councilman Haass seconded the motion. Chairman Millikin asked for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

- c. **Action Item:** Consider and act upon request to extend VOC Canister Sampling and Analysis Project Contract with Southwest Research Institute (SWRI)

Mr. Bella reported that last season's sampling process made by SWRI did not meet data requirements as per TCEQ and AACOG. The issues between them were settled for last summer and now it was being requested from the committee to allow staff to move forward with the contract for 2006 to complete effectively what was requested last summer. Mr. Bella explained that the technical requirements were written by TCEQ in the contract and that TCEQ, AACOG, and SWRI agreed that this is the path to proceed. The recommendation made by the AIR Technical Committee made the previous Monday was to: Recommend rehiring Southwest Research with the understanding of payment contingent on 100% compliance with the terms of the 2006 contract. Mayor Heath moved to approve the extension of the contract. Councilman Tremblay seconded the motion. Chairman Millikin asked for discussion. There being none he asked for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Update: Inspection & Enforcement of EAC SIP rules

i. For review: Letter to TCEQ Chairman White

Renee Green pointed out that an update of Inspection and enforcement had been presented during the EAC presentation earlier in the agenda.

VII. Other Issues

a. **Action Item:** Consideration and Approval of Comments: Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles

Renee Green explained that the AIR Technical Committee was unable to reach a consensus on this item and had deferred it to the next meeting.

b. For review from actions of April 26 agenda: Final comments to EPA on Proposed Exceptional Event Policy

Mr. Bella explained that this item was in their packets for their review.

VIII. Adjourn

Having no further business to conduct, Chairman Millikin adjourned the meeting.