

**The Minutes of the
Air Improvement Resources Executive/Advisory Committees Meeting
Alamo Area Council of Governments
Wednesday, June 13, 2007, 9:00 a.m.
Alamo Area Council of Governments
8700 Tesoro, Suite 100, San Antonio, Texas 78217**

Executive Committee Members

Chairman Jay Millikin, Comal Co. Commissioner
Judge Marvin Quinney, Wilson County
Mayor Bruce Boyer, City of New Braunfels
Councilman Jim Tremblay, BCCC

Advisory Committee Members

Kevin Butt, Toyota
Bill Bushman, AFCEE
Stanley Dabney, Cemex Cement Company
Pete Donahoe, Holt Company
Forrest Mims, Guadalupe County

Technical Committee Members

Renee Green, Bexar County, Chair
Nick Page

AACOG Staff

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

Guests

Debra Engler, SAWS

I. Roll Call Chairman Millikin called the meeting to order. He asked that the roll be called. Dean Danos called the roll and declared the lack of a quorum. Chairman Millikin proceeded with the meeting avoiding action items on the agenda until a quorum was attained. (Later, a quorum was met with the arrival of Judge Quinney)

II. Citizens to be Heard There were none.

III. Approval of Minutes Chairman Millikin asked the floor for approval of the Minutes for March 7, and April 25, 2007. Councilman Tremblay made the motion for approval of the minutes. Judge Quinney seconded the motion. Chairman Millikin called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Ozone and Particulate Matter Report

a. AACOG's Ozone and Meteorological Monitoring Operations

Mr. Bella reported that 67 ppb was the fourth highest average recorded for 2007 thus far. He attributed the low average to the cool rainy temperatures in June and July. He explained the Clean Air Gauge icon representing 82 parts per billion as the threshold resulting in non-attainment for the area. On particulate matter he reported that federal reference numbers indicated that the area remained below the federal standards.

V. AIR Public Education/Outreach Update

Brenda Williams gave an update on outreach events. She referred the committee to a public outreach education report hand out they could follow throughout her presentation. She reported the following.

- The City of San Antonio passed an ordinance that encourages the use of hybrid electric vehicles as taxis and the passing of an agenda item to replace fifteen of their diesel powered refuse trucks with CNG models. Liza Meyer

with the San Antonio reported that the city was building the first CNG station and was looking for fleet partners to use the station. She said COSA was lowering the NOx by 40 percent by using CNG energy.

- AACOG signed a contract for an automated carpool matching service called GreenRide. It is a web based, real time car pool matching service that provides immediate results. She reported that AACOG was partnering with other agencies including those in Austin to share the cost of the software.
- At the April AIRCO meeting staff was asked to develop a second clean air gauge that provides more details and could be used internally by member governments and other organizations. Staff created a second version of the Clean Air gauge based on suggestions from this committee.
- The Walk and Roll Corporate Challenge began on June 1st with a number of organizations participating included local governments and a long list of businesses such as USAA, Valero, the San Antonio Express News. Almost at the mid-point of the challenge, pledges had been received of nearly 300,000 alternative commuting miles. As of yesterday, people had logged over 145,000 alternative commuting miles.
- The end of the Walk and Roll Corporate Challenge on June 30th marks the beginning of the Walk and Roll public challenge. That event begins July 1st this year and ends in October extending the event to four months instead of one month the previous year.
- The Fresh Air Friday event that was originally scheduled for our ozone season kick off event has been re-scheduled for Friday July 6th at Milam Park from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Instead of being our ozone season kick off it will serve as the opportunity to recognize the winners of the Walk and Roll Challenge and to launch our GreenRide automated carpool matching system that should be up and running by July 2nd.
- The Alamo Area Clean Cities Advancing the Choice Event will be held on July 26 at the Convention Center.

Commissioner Millikin asked Mr. Bella to report on the Chamber of Commerce meeting on May 18th entitled “the Business of Air”. Mr. Bella reported that the meeting was very successful in its outreach efforts with the business community. The meeting was well attended with about 120 persons in attendance. He said Marty Wender was the Master of Ceremonies, Judge Wolff made keynote comments, Mr. Bella was one of the speakers and George Beatty from the Greater Houston Chamber of Commerce made comments. His comments were especially welcomed because the goal was to have someone from business and industry that had been through air quality requirements. The response from those in attendance was one of great interest and comments made on a survey they completed gave staff direction for future presentations. Mr. Bella said they were looking for a follow up meeting.

VI. Business of the AIR Executive Committee

a. Clean Air Award of Recognition: Capitol Cement

Mrs. Arriaga and Chairman Millikin presented an award of recognition to Capitol Cement. Tom Spaits, with Capitol Cement received the award for voluntary installation of non-catalytic reduction technology on its dry clean process during the ozone season. This and other actions resulted in reductions of 4 tons per day of NOx during the ozone season. This was lauded as an outstanding achievement by local industry acting on voluntary basis. The award reads “To Capitol Cement in appreciation of outstanding

service for protecting air quality in the AACOG region” presented by the Air Improvement Resources Committee of AACOG today June the 13, 2007”.

- b. **Action Item:** Consideration of and possible Approval of the 9th Early Action Compact Semi-Annual Report, due June 31, 2007.EPA Updates

With the arrival of Judge Quinney, a quorum was declared and consideration of the minutes and this item commenced. Mr. Bella referred the committee to the Semi-Annual Report. He reminded them that in accordance with the Early Action Compact agreement AACOG was required to report every six months to EPA and TCEQ on how the milestones in the EAC were met. Mr. Bella reported on each of the milestones met throughout the report. In summary he said the requirements were being met in the ninth semi-annual report. Chairman Millikin asked for a motion from the floor. Mayor Boyer made the motion to approve the report. Councilman Tremblay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- c. Energy Efficiency Projects: LoanSTAR revolving loan program and technical assistance for local governments; presented by Theresa Sifuentes, Program Manager, SECO. **(This item was postponed.)**

VII. Clean Air Plan Update

- a. Update: Federal Non-attainment Scenarios for the San Antonio region

Mr. Bella gave a presentation on non-attainment rules in the event San Antonio went into non-attainment. He explained the various permitting scenarios and the affect of rule changes under non-attainment. After discussion on the presentation Kevin Butt with Toyota asked for a copy of the presentation to inform his corporate staff.

Mrs. Green commented that BACT and LAIR designation offsets were the two of the biggest deterrents to business relocation locally. Mr. Bella said that during George Beatty’s presentation at the Chamber he commented that the reason Toyota didn’t come to Houston was because of it’s non attainment status. Mr. Bella also commented that efforts by Capitol Cement made their voluntary commitments all the more outstanding in light of the non-attainment consequences.

- b. Review: Work of the 80th Legislative Session

Mr. Bella reported briefly that Senate Bill 12 to extend TERP was successful and that House Bill 3229 was not successful.

VIII. Other Issues

Emissions from Mexican domiciled Heavy-Duty Vehicle; EPA Final Grant Report; presented by Dr. Josias Zietsman, Texas Transportation Institute

Mr. Bella reminded the committee that the research was a result of writing a grant to EPA Region 6 to gauge emissions on heavy-duty diesel Mexican domicile trucks. The grant enabled him to bring in Dr. Joe Zietzman and Dr. Story to do the research. Dr. Zietzman proceeded to present a synopsis on the process used as a basis for the study.

- The project goal was to quantify emissions produced by Mexican truck operations with PEMEX diesel and alternative fuels.
- The alternative fuels they used were Ultra low sulfur diesel and bio-diesel. The bio diesel was a 20% bio diesel blended with the ultra low sulfur diesel and a soy based bio diesel.
- Questions asked were: 1. What is the likelihood of trucks actually crossing? 2. What were the profiles or make up of the trucks if they would cross in terms of models, age, make, etc.? and 3. What were the driving patterns, long haul breaks, the short hauls, idling, emissions, and fuels.

- They concluded that most of the trucking companies were really not all that interested in taking their business into the United States. Some said they might consider it but not to the extent one might have originally thought. There was a business as usual attitude. They didn't want to change. There is a lot of political pressure for the border trade not to open up the border because of the supply trade on the border. They are concerned about law enforcement and loss of drivers who are low paid and can easily be snatched up in the United States for higher pay and better conditions. Border delays are of concern. The trucks that would cross are typically expensive long haul trucks need to be well maintained and they don't want them stuck in three to four hour delays at the border trying to cross. Operating equipment costs, lots of paper work, and the language barriers are also considerations.
- Looked at ten trucks total, five of them short haul trucks and five long haul trucks. They tested all those trucks with three different fuel types. Ultra low sulfur diesel, b-20 a bio-diesel blend, and Pemex, the Mexican fuel. The trucks were subjected to different cycles, idling, low and high idling, a dray cycle replicated crossing the border and long haul cycle.
- They collected a variety of equipment to measure particulate matter and NOx.
- Used GPS equipment to measure drive cycles. They were able to run the cycles in cooperation with DPS and TxDot using their locations. They selected different model years for both the dray and long haul trucks; different engine types, different horsepowers and tried to keep the widest possible distribution. They used the same driver for all the test runs.
- Results on pollutants: Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel was the base fuel and everything was relative to that fuel. Low Idle 600 rpm B-20 and Pemex showed there was no effect on NOx. But both B-20 and Pemex actually showed reductions for hydrocarbons and CO. CO2 stayed the same and PM shows a slight reduction for bio-diesel and Pemex. Similar indications for high idling. What was interesting in the data was that Pemex caused some reductions in both hydrocarbons and CO. in comparison to ULSD.
- The report was presented to EPA and the report was well accepted.

Mrs. Green asked if there was an opportunity to use the study to obtain funding to continue the study. Mr. Danos replied that staff was looking into it.

IX. Adjournment.

With no business to conduct, Chairman Millikin adjourned the meeting.