

**The Minutes of the
Air Improvement Resources Executive/Advisory Committee Meeting
Alamo Area Council of Governments
8626 Tesoro Drive, Suite 100, San Antonio, Texas
Wednesday, February 27, 2002, 9:00**

Executive Members Present

Mayor Patrick Heath, Chair, City of Boerne
Commissioner Jay Millikin, Vice-Chair Comal Co.
Walter Ague for Councilwoman Bonnie Conner
Gene Uptain, Greater Bexar CCC
Judge Marvin Quinney, Wilson Co.
Judge James Sagebiel, Guadalupe Co.

Advisory Members Present

Julie Klumpyan, Valero
Dan Feliz for Mark Brown, Zachary Co.
Chris Treutler, USAA
Bill England, Neighborhood Asso.
Ken Bercaw, New Braunfels C of C
David Splitek, Lackland ISD
Bill Barker, VIA
David Splitek, Lackland ISD
Dean Word, Word Construction Co.
Pete Donahoe, Holt Co.
John Kelley, TxDOT
Raegan Wagner, HEB

Guests Present

Renee Green, Bexar Co.
Jeanne Geiger, MPO
David Bernal, MPO
Kate Williams, TNRCC
Susan Stuver, COSA
David Martinez, VIA
Ismael Garza, COSA
Roy Baird, Car Pro
Ken Zigrang, TxDOT
Stacy Jonas, Official Insp. Station

Staff Present

Al Notzon, AACOG Exec. Dir.
Dean Danos, Deputy Dir.
Peter Bella
Steven Smeltzer
Chris Langston
John Quebe
Dorothy Birch
Berti Vaughan

I. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by Dean Danos. Subsequently, Mayor Heath called the meeting to order.

II. Citizens to be Heard

Mayor Heath asked if there were any citizens to be heard on any item of consequence or concern germane to the meeting. There were none.

III. Minutes

Mayor Heath asked the committee to review the minutes. Commissioner Millikin moved to approve the minutes. Walter Ague seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

IV. Air Public Education Report

A. Air Quality Media Meetings

Dorothy Birch reported that several Air Quality Media Meetings had been set for March. These included the three major television networks: KMOL, KENS, and KSAT. She thanked

the executive committee members for their response to scheduling meetings and reported that she was currently scheduling meetings with the Express News and radio stations. She was also providing informational materials to all media entities that explained how to better display Air Quality Health Alerts and the Air Quality Index throughout the ozone season.

B. Ozone Season Kickoff Event Update

Ms. Birch reported that the Ozone Season Kick-Off Event was scheduled for Saturday, April 6, 2002 from 8 in the morning through 3:00 in the afternoon. The location selected for the event is the CPS South Side Service Center located at 509 Southwest Military Dr. She pointed out the activities being planned for the event had been expanded. The activities included remote sensing events, free OBDII checks, free gas cap checks, a variety of booths, hybrid cars, VIA propane bus, classroom on wheels, Mow Down Smog equipment turn in, an essay contest in cooperation with Tech Net on air Quality and Car Care, and free bike safety lessons.

C. Remote Sensing Events Update

Ms. Birch gave an update on the remote sensing events. She informed the committee that she was in receipt of \$13,000 in donations; \$5000 from AACOG, \$5000 from USAA, and \$3000 from HEB. She explained that the amount of money in hand was enough to fund the SMART sign for the remote sensing event scheduled for Saturday April 6th through Thursday April 11th at \$7000, leaving \$5000 for radio advertisements. She was continuing to look for sponsorship donations to increase radio advertisements for the event.

D. Upcoming Events

Ms. Birch reported that she had recently participated in the Leon Valley Earth Wise Living Day. She had met with teachers who were interested in having Air Quality Presentations in their classrooms. She also met with Isidro Reyna with the John Marshall High School Student Council who is member of the environment and energy committee. The young people are very interested in working with the Public Education Committee on a variety of activities and environmental work. Ms. Birch mentioned Councilman Castro's Northwest Community Festival scheduled on March 18th where she would be providing free air quality information, and free homeowner energy workbooks. Ms. Birch reported that on March 25th, the Drive Clean Across Texas Statewide Air Quality Campaign Launch will take place. She and Isabel Chacon would be attending. Lastly, Ms. Birch pointed to two new publications recently printed. "Air Pollution and Your Neighborhood" in both Spanish and English and also the "Plant a Tree Clean our Air" brochure.

Walter Ague asked Ms. Birch if she was ready to look for other locations for the remote sensing events. Ms. Birch answered yes. She indicated that the equipment was secured for five days and she was looking for other sites to schedule.

V. Particulate Matter Report

Mr. Bella reported on the particulate matter readings for the region as being well below the Clean Air Act standards. Using a handout he explained that the data he was using to report particulate matter readings on a monthly basis to the committee came from a different kind of monitor source and would not be used in non-attainment determinations. He was using it with approval from TNRCC because the readings were very similar to the Federal Reference Monitors whose monitors were used to declare attainment or non-attainment. He explained that the problem in obtaining data from Federal Reference Monitors was that it took months for the data to clear Quality Assurance / Quality Control procedures. Therefore he would continue to use the available data until the Federal Reference Monitor Data became available.

VI. Clean Air Policy

A. 8-hour Ozone NAAQS Implementation Policy

Steven Smeltzer reported that during the February 13, 2002 meeting of the Technical Working Group for Mobile Source Emission in Austin, it was announced that the EPA anticipated the adoption of a new implementation policy for the 8-hour ozone NAAQS in 2003. This was in response to the statutory requirement that EPA submit recommended designations and guidance regarding how to determine boundaries for non-attainment areas under the 8-hour ozone standard. Under the new policy, non-attainment declarations made under the 8-hour standard, if made in 2003, would use the three years of ozone data from 2000-2002, with a suggested attainment year of 2010. Mr. Smeltzer said that the EPA Region 6 office reported that the implementation policy redevelopment was underway with working group and public meetings being held on March 5th in Alexandria Virginia and March 7th in Atlanta. Mr. Smeltzer mentioned that Austin representatives were attending the meeting. Kate Williams with TNRCC said that everyone in Texas was sending a representative to the meeting in Virginia.

B. Clean Air/03Flex Plan Report

AIR Committee Chairman Patrick Heath reported that he and Vice-Chairman Jay Millikin met with the Chairman of the TNRCC, Robert J. Huston, earlier in the month at the Comal County Courthouse. Chairman Huston provided them with information that led them to believe imminent the approval of the EPA of a proposal from the TNRCC that has the potential of becoming associated with the revised implementation of the Clean Air Rules. Mayor Heath suggested that the protocol being suggested by TNRCC and likely to be approved by the EPA, would in a sense bless what the committee has done over the past three years and give it added impetus. There was strong reason to believe that both the Environmental Protection Agency and the TNRCC within a week or so may soon be issuing fresh guidance on early implementation plans relating to air quality attainment policies under the 8-hour average ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Because of this new information, Mayor Heath suggested the need for staff representation at the March meeting in Washington.

Renee Green reported that on Wednesday afternoon, Chairman Huston and Gregg Cooke with EPA's regional office met with Judge Wolff to discuss an Early Attainment Agreement. Chairman Huston and Mr. Cooke presented what they viewed as the protocol for this type of agreement to Judge Wolff and discussed various issues. They viewed the agreement as something that could be approved by EPA. Ms. Green remarked that Judge Wolff was very happy with the discussion on the agreement. In addition, comments made during the meeting indicated that San Antonio and Austin were the only areas in a position to be worked into this type of agreement.

Mayor Heath suggested a schedule that would re-address the language of the agreement during March and April and then address the various local governments for approval by the end of the summer. Mayor Heath reminded everyone that the agreement would not replace any of the work that has already been done on the Clean Air Plan and the Memorandum of Agreement. Mayor Heath asked Mr. Notzon if there were resources to send staff and a member of the committee to the meeting in Washington. Mr. Notzon indicated that there were funds available and that he felt it was important that staff and committee were represented at the EPA meeting. There was some discussion on committee member availability. It was decided that arrangements would be made after the meeting.

VII. Intelligent Transportation System Enhancement Grant Application

Ismael Garza with the City of San Antonio requested that the Air Improvement Resources Committee review and act upon a resolution of support for a grant application to the Federal Highway Administration for deployment and integration of intelligent transportation systems enhancements in the IH 37 corridor between San Antonio and Corpus Christi. The grant would provide a transportation management center for communication links to South Texas on interstate 37 for emergency planning. Walter Ague motioned for approval of the resolution. Bill Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed. Mayor Heath requested that staff submit a report to the committee at a later meeting on a possible similar linkage through the Austin Corridor.

VII. Technical Reports

AACOG Ozone Monitoring Project

Mr. Smeltzer reported on the Ozone Monitoring RFP process that was posted requesting "installation, maintenance and data quality assurance for air quality monitors in the San Antonio MSA."

Staff and technical committee members received and reviewed two proposals submitted to establish four new ozone monitoring sites in the SA MSA and maintain a fifth site located at Trinity University. The staff and technical committee members recommended that the bid be awarded to OpTech International Technologies Corporation based on their expertise, delivery, their sophisticated monitoring equipment, their commitment to daily, weekly and monthly checks, their flexibility on installation, and financial considerations. Mr. Uptain motioned to accept the bid. Commissioner Millikin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IX. Other Issues

A. Letter From TNRCC on Adding Sulfur Dioxide Monitor

Peter provided the letter submitted by Chairman Huston looking into the possibility of adding a sulfur dioxide monitor for the committee's review.

B. President Bush's Clear Skies Proposal

Peter presented the document for the committee's perusal.

C. Texas Near Non-Attainment Areas Meeting Report & Release of MOBILE6

Steve reported on the release of EPA's MOBILE6 software that is used to model and predict the air quality impacts of transportation activities and controls.

D. Off-Road Sub-Committee Report

Chris Langston reported on the progress of the off-road committee's planning efforts on the second Heavy Equipment Air Pollution Control Workshop.

E. Clean Cities Report

John Quebe reported on three grant application abstracts submitted to the State Energy Conservation Office from San Antonio area companies requesting funding for alternative refueling sites.

X. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.