

**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, December 15, 2004, 9:00 a.m.**

Executive Committee Members

Chairman Jay Millikin, Comal County Commissioner
Mayor Patrick Heath, City of Boerne
Mayor Pete Fleischhacker, Greater Bexar CCC
Walter Ague for Mayor Ed Garza, City of San Antonio
Judge Donald Schraub, Guadalupe County
Councilman Ernest Hernandez, City of Seguin
Mayor Adam Cork, City of New Braunfels

Technical Committee Members

Renee Green, Bexar County, Chair

Guests

Bryan Kirk, Seguin Gazette-Enterprise
Bill Bushman, Brooks Air Force Base
Debra Engler, SAWS

Advisory Committee Members

Rebecca Gray, American Lung Association
David Casteel, TXDOT
Pete Donahoe, Holt Co.
Stanley A. Dabney II, Alamo Cement Company
Rod Smith, New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce
Mike Riley, City of Seguin

AACOG Staff

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

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. Approval of Minutes Chairman Millikin asked the Committee for consideration of the November 3rd, 2004 minutes. Judge Schraub made the motion to approve the minutes. Mayor Cork seconded the motion. The motion carried.

III. Citizens to be Heard There were no citizens signed up to speak.

Before going to the next item on the agenda, Chairman Millikin informed the committee of a study from the Journal of the American Medical Association dated November 17th. The study was done out of Yale University and completed by five PhDs. Chairman Millikin read from the conclusion of the study contained in the executive summary "The results of this study indicate a statistically significant association between short term changes in ozone and mortality. On average for ninety five large US urban communities (San Antonio, Austin, Dallas, and Houston included) which include forty percent of the total US population, the findings indicate that this widespread pollutant adversely affects public health." Chairman Millikin reiterated the importance of the study and the affirmation it brought to the committee and the work it had accomplished.

Councilman Hernandez asked for a copy of the study's executive summary. Chairman Millikin agreed to make it available.

IV. Particulate Matter Report Peter Bella referred the committee to the particulate matter report handout. He gave a quick orientation explaining the two separate standards for particulate matter. He referenced the tables for PM10 National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Particulate Matter of 10 microns or less and PM2.5 National Ambient Air

Quality Standard for Fine Particulate Matter of 2.5 microns or less and their monthly averages. Mr. Bella summarized the report by saying that the indicated values remained well below the federal standards for particulate matter.

V. Public Education Committee Report

Peter Bella reported that Alison Young program manager for the Public Education Program was attending the Energy Leadership Conference. He asked the committee if they had any questions on the hand out that had been given to them as a reference. Mr. Bella asked that they note the Clean Air Partners Plan effort mentioned in the hand out. They would be receiving more information on that program during the meeting. He also brought to their attention the Alamo Forest Partnership Program initiated by the City of San Antonio's Public Works Department to plant trees and develop a tool kit with education materials about the air, water, and resource conservation benefits of trees. AACOG was working with the City on the Forest Partnership Program.

Mike Riley asked what the tree program involved. Mr. Bella asked Liza Myers with the City of San Antonio to answer Mr. Riley's question.

Ms. Myers explained that they coordinate with the planning department planting trees in designated areas in San Antonio who have a full master plan that includes trees and aesthetics. They plant the trees and the individuals/residents asking for the trees sign a pledge to take care of the trees for at least two years. Therefore the maintenance of the tree does not go to the City of San Antonio. They provide the trees, workshops on the planting and maintenance of the tree. 397 trees were planted last year in coordination with neighborhoods and Keep San Antonio Beautiful. They are also going out to the schools to educate children on trees and their upkeep.

David Casteel with the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) mentioned that TXDOT received funding from the Green Ribbon Program. He said the program was intended for the reforestation of open areas within right of ways. He informed the committee that TXDOT in cooperation with the city and the counties will be kicking off the reforestation program in March of this year. He invited AACOG to participate in the effort as well. He said he would provide details to Mr. Notzon.

Mr. Millikin skipped the order of the agenda to accommodate Renee Green who had to leave the meeting early.

VI. Business of the AIR Executive/Advisory Committee

b. Action Item: Review, discussion of and possible support for Texas Clean Air Working Group Legislative Items

Ms. Green asked the committee to look at the handout entitled Texas Clean Air Working Group Legislative Items. She explained that there were two resolutions in their packets one written by the members of the Clean Air Working Group who were comprised of membership from non-attainment and near non-attainment areas in Texas and the other a resolution which had been modified to fit the needs of the AACOG area. She pointed out each individual modification made in the Resolution of Legislative Priorities for the 79th Texas Legislature she was asking the Committee to endorse. She asked for their

approval and said the Air Technical Committee reviewed and approved the resolution as submitted during their previous meeting.

Mayor Heath motioned for a modification on item number four in the resolution to read: "Direct the Appropriate State Agencies to optimize the potential for emission reduction through residential and commercial and industrial energy efficiency programs for which State Implementation Plan credits can be attained".

Mayor Cork seconded the motion. The motion passed with the recommended amendment.

e. Action Item: Bill Bushman nomination to the AIR Advisory Committee as representative of the United States Air Force

Renee Green introduced the nomination of Bill Bushman to the Air Advisory Committee. She remarked that Judge Wolf supported the nomination. Mr. Bushman introduced himself to the committee. He informed the committee of his credentials, how he looked forward to working with the committee and that he was representing the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence (AFCEE) not the United States Air Force as described on the agenda.

Mayor Cork made the motion to accept Mr. Bushman to the Air Advisory Committee. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Chairman Millikin resumed the order of the agenda and asked Mr. Bella to report on the Clean Air Plan Workshop of November 9, 2004.

V.a Clean Air Plan Workshop of November 9, 2004 Mr. Bella reported that there was one citizen who attended the meeting. The AIR Executive Committee elected officials present were Commissioner Jay Millikin, Mayor Raymond Ramirez of Floresville, and Seguin City Councilman Ernest Hernandez. In addition, Cyndi Levesque of CPS, Mary Ann Elekes of the SA/BC Metropolitan Planning Organization, AACOG Executive Director Al J. Notzon III, AACOG Deputy Director Dean Danos, and AACOG staff Steve Smeltzer, Alison Young, & Peter Bella attended. Mr. Bella said the meeting fulfilled the requirements under the Early Action Compact.

VI.a Action Item: Consideration and possible approval of 2005 Meeting Schedule

Chairman Millikin asked the committee to consider approval of the 2005 Meeting Schedule for the Air Improvement Resources Executive/Advisory Committees. Mayor Cork motioned to accept the 2005 Meeting Schedule. Mayor Heath seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI.a.i Review of further requirements under the Early Action Compact Peter Bella pointed to the handouts containing upcoming deliverables and their due dates for 2005 as required under the Early Action Compact.

Mayor Heath referred to the deliverables found in the meetings schedule and asked Mr. Bella to speak on the decision due to be made October 31, 2005 specifically; the Decision on Further Episode EI Development. Mr. Bella explained that on April 30th, 2005 a Conceptual Model Update was due and it was specified in the Early Action Compact that

within six months there will be a decision on whether or not there will be a further photochemical model episode emission inventory development based on the candidate episodes in the Conceptual Model.

VI.a.ii Future Monitoring Steve Smeltzer pointed to the handout containing a VOC monitoring proposal for the San Antonio area. He said the proposal provided more technical detail on the monitoring in the region and how they would like to proceed with the VOC sampling. Mr. Bella added that it would most likely be towards the end of the next summer before they actually begin the VOC monitoring. In the meantime they had time to continue working the concept through with TCEQ. Mr. Bella reminded the committee that the VOC or Volatile organic compounds are one of the family of gases that go into the atmosphere and make ozone. Therefore, it was in the region's interest to be able to verify the emissions inventory and this was a project that would help them do that.

Chairman Millikin referring back to the EAC, asked Mr. Bella to explain to the committee what the status was on the TCEQ and EPA evaluation of the Early Action Compact's control strategies which had been submitted by the region. Mr. Bella reported that he had recently received confirmation from the EPA's Region Six that they had received the state's revisions for the region. He said that on November 17th the state approved the revisions to the State Implementation Plan. That approval by TCEQ and the commissioners allowed them to ship the results off to the EPA early with the EPA's deadline to receive the state package being December 31st. Mr. Bella said that he had received notification Dec. 14th that the EPA was in receipt of the package. In a quick summary, Mr. Bella said the two control strategies requested by the committee 1) stage I vapor recovery and 2) degreasing equipment under chapter 115 state rules were now state rules and were officially part of the state implementation plan for the state of Texas. Mr. Bella said the EPA will expedite consideration of that Air Quality Planning Package proposed by the state, finishing their decision by September. He continued that while our proposed rules are now state rules in the SIP, the SIP will need to be reviewed and approved by the Federal Government (EPA) before it becomes federally enforceable under the Clean Air Act.

Mr. Notzon, referring back to the VOC monitoring, remarked that he thought they were trying to get the VOC monitoring before the Ozone season. His concern was that if they had 2007 to reach attainment that this coming ozone season begins to be one of the most critical and will a part of the attainment determination. He thought they should receive all the help they could particularly during the ozone season. He asked if there was a problem with funding or timing. He was concerned that this would not occur until after the ozone season. He felt that he'd rather have some data instead of all data.

Mr. Bella replied that the monitoring was a lower level effort. He explained that the monitoring was specifically to help the modelers understand whether their approximations in the emissions inventory are accurate. He explained that the monitoring should occur during the peak of the ozone season because that is when there were ozone episodes and photochemical modeling episodes and that it is not a 24 hour monitoring that track VOC formations as much as it is an effort to be sure that when we make estimations in our emissions inventory modeling that we are accurate. If the data is gathered on days that become episode days, then we can check that the estimations are accurate in the photochemical modeling inventory.

Mr. Notzon expressed concern that as they moved into the ozone season that everything had been done to position the region to try and stay in attainment. He pointed out that staying in attainment had been the goal since day one.

Mr. Bella reminded them that they would also be other increased monitoring activities included TexAQS II Aircraft flyovers with monitoring equipment on the aircraft which can track transport coming into San Antonio and transport coming out during the 2005 and 2006 summer.

VI.c Presentation: Toyota's Environmental Philosophy, Kevin Aldridge, Project Manager with Toyota Motor Manufacturing in North America presented a power point information piece entitled; It's Not Easy Being Green; Challenge and Success in Environmental Performance. The presentation introduced the many model ways the Toyota Company was dedicated to the environment through recycling, reducing landfill waste through composting, developing green spaces, education, and disposal efforts.

Chairman Millikin praised the efforts being made by Toyota and thanked Mr. Aldridge for the presentation.

VI.d Report: California Clean Vehicles Mr. Bella said he was taking a first look at an on going investigating on the Federal Clean Vehicles Standards and they are being compared with the California Clean Vehicles Standards. Mr. Bella said there are actually three California Clean Vehicle Standards, California's allowed to move ahead of Clean Air Requirements and be pro active in making those, actions, rules, and measures to affect their Clean Air Act Requirements. Low Emission Vehicles (LEV) I standards, Low Emission Vehicles II standards and the very recent Greenhouse Gas Rule are in place in California. Mr. Bella reported that they were currently investigating with the state the differences in achievability in connecting the standards. Steve Smeltzer said they were looking at the California LEV II standard. The LEV I standards are already required within the region. The initial results show that there is not much difference between the LEV II standard and the federal Tier II standards. They were going to possibly provide further reductions but they were still being investigated.

VII.b Action Item: Consideration and possible approval of the 4th Semi-Annual EAC Report Mayor Heath pointed to a paragraph where there were some letters or words out of place. Mr. Bella explained that there was still a review that needed to be made on the document.

Mayor Cork commented that one thing that would help the committee in the future to approve documents was to reference each document with the name, date and a stamped number on the bottom of the page. Mr. Bella concurred.

Mayor Heath moved for approval of the document. Mayor Cork seconded. The motion passed.

VIII. AIR TECH Committee Updates

a. **Action Item: Consideration and possible approval of CAMS 23 Data Subcommittee report** This item was by-passed on the agenda.

Mr. Notzon reported that Tom Hornseth had been elected as Vice Chair to the AIR Technical Committee to replace Ana Sandoval.

IX. AACOG Staff Updates

Mr. Bella gave a report on the progress being made on the Clean Air Partners Program. He said staff was in the process of finalizing efforts. Thus far, they had completed the identification of 200 program participants. They had identified and ranked lists of possible stake holders who would be required to be voluntary participants. The stake holders would be ranked according to the number of employees, larger fleets, and higher pollutants. They had set a 10 percent goal of emissions reductions by the year 2008.

Mr. Riley asked if they had considered the banking industry. He pointed to the waiting time on drive through banking as a huge idling problem. Mr. Bella said they would look into it and thanked him for his suggestion.

Mayor Fleischhacker remarked that idling in city streets was also a huge problem. He asked if TXDOT and the City of San Antonio had been addressed on the problem of traffic control procedures. Mr. Bella responded that they would be addressed through TERMS.

X. Adjourn

Having no further business to discuss Chairman Millikin adjourned the meeting.