

Air Quality Public Advisory Committee

Suite 300, 777 North Capitol Street, N.E. Washington, DC 20002-4239 (202) 962-3360 Fax: (202) 962-3203
<http://www.mwacog.org/environment/committee/>

The Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC) is an advisory body to the
Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC).

DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 11, 2008
Room 3
5:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.

Members Present:

Jill Engel-Cox, Joint Center for Earth Systems Technology
Rodney Livingston, District Interracial Coalition for Environmental Equity
Julie Crenshaw Van Fleet, Episcopal Stewardship of Creation – Virginia
Larry Zaragoza, Northern Virginia
Bill Butler, Mirant
Lee Schoenecker, APA
Ann Brown, Washington Academy of Sciences
Jessica Daniels, District of Columbia
Sally Kane, Palisades Community Association

COG Staff:

Joan Rolfs, COG DEP

1. Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm and said that there would be an abbreviated agenda since the DC public meeting on the PM_{2.5} SIP was at 6 pm. Rodney began by saying that he planned to challenge authorities because no one in the District, including District employees, knows about the PM_{2.5} SIP public hearing scheduled for later in the day.

2. Approval of Minutes (December, January)

Again, Rodney requested that a video or audio version of meetings be posted on the COG website because minutes are not sufficient. He thinks that people are too lazy to go the web to review staff reports. Minutes do not reflect the “flavor” of the meetings. For example, Rodney made a number of contributions during the January meeting that were not recorded in the minutes. He discussed cars; the waste of time and money; health care in DC; a Wall Street Journal report on energy. The length of time of specific discussions during meetings is not recorded; proper context for comments is not provided; there are “7 million changes” made to the minutes that are not reflected in the final version.

According to Joan, staff policy states that minutes should summarize the content of a meeting. It is not possible, nor is it expected, to quote everything that everyone says verbatim.

Rodney is also not content with the name or composition of the “Nominating Committee.” He said the same people have been on the committee for 10 years or more and wants it to change.

Julie made additional corrections to the December and January meeting minutes. The wording of the motion was still not as clear as it should have been. The motion should state, “At MWAQC, Jill should ask Chair Floreen about her request to DOH **for a report** on the Benning Road Plant.” MWAQC is supposed to receive a report, and it is important that the report stays within MWAQC.

Rodney said that approval of the minutes does not accurately reflect such changes. His claims that “public outreach is a failure” were not reflected in the December or January minutes. Larry suggested that it is fair to make specific recommendations or edits to the minutes. Rodney disagreed because meetings are “a court of public opinion.” He requested that an audio recording of the February meeting be posted online. The length of time per agenda item should be recorded.

The December minutes were approved with changes made to section 5.
The January minutes were approved with changes made to sections 5 and 6.

3. Confirming approval of AQPAC membership of Sally Kane

The organization that Sally will be representing is the Palisades Community Association in Northwest DC. They approved her nomination, so now she is an official member of AQPAC (pending final MWAQC approval). Jill will present her application at the next MWAQC meeting. She is primarily concerned about air quality impacts on public health.

4. Adjourn at 5:30 pm to attend the District of Columbia public hearing on the PM_{2.5} SIP

Joan borrowed a car from COG and offered to drive people to the DC hearing, which began at 6 pm.

5. Next meeting; Attendance at MWAQC

The committee agreed to have the next AQPAC meeting on March 17. Jill will not be able to attend, so she will ask Deron to run the meeting.

The next MWAQC meeting will be on March 7, not the 6th (as posted on the agenda). Jill will present AQPAC’s comment letter about the PM_{2.5} SIP at the meeting.

Rodney predicted the lack of outreach about the SIP hearing in DC would not be discussed at the MWAQC meeting. He questioned presenting the AQPAC comment letter after the hearings. Joan mentioned that last year, AQPAC’s letter was read at the SIP hearing in DC for the first time; the plan is to do this again, so the content of the letter will be included in the planning process.

Julie asked that Jill follow up with Mr. Snyder, the new chair of MWAQC, about the report that Chair Floreen requested on the Benning Road Plant.

Julie will attend the next TAC meeting on February 21.