

REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, March 26, 2009
H-GAC Conference Room A
3555 Timmons Lane, 2nd Floor
Houston, Texas 77027

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Charles Airiohuodion (Alternate), Bob Allen (Alternate), Jed Anderson, Dana Blume, Patrick Buzbee, Elena Craft, Catarina Cron, Dan Hoyt, Badruddin Karachiwala, Dale Kornegay (Alternate), Matthew Kuryla, Mike Lindsey (Alternate), Snehal Patel, Karl Pepple, Cynthia Redwine, Matthew Tejada, Beth Whitehead, Paulette Wolfson, and Julie Woodard

STAFF PRESENT:

Lola Brown (TCEQ), Guy Donaldson (EPA), Ben Finley (H-GAC), Graciela Lubertino (H-GAC), Crystal Spencer (H-GAC), Mary Schuwerk (H-GAC), Dana Sullivan (TCEQ), and Shelley Whitworth (H-GAC)

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Craig Beskid, Elvia R. Cardinal, Dee Ann Haney, Robert Lanham, Larry Mann, Mark McClelland, Ronald Schultz, Kimberly Slaughter, Adam Smith, Jeff Suggs, G. Michael White, and Mary Ellen Whitworth

CALL TO ORDER:

Matthew Tejada called the meeting to order and all members were welcomed for attending.

APPROVE MEETING SUMMARY

February 26, 2009 meeting summary was approved.

AGENCY REPORTS:

TCEQ UPDATE – *Lola Brown*

Ms. Lola Brown began her update stating that the 1997 8-hour ozone attainment demonstration and reasonable further progress SIP revisions are scheduled to be considered for proposal at a September 23, 2009 commissioners' agenda. The public hearing will be held late October or early November for 2009. TCEQ has received the Final Short List Control Strategies Catalog from H-GAC and the Mobile Source Programs staff and modeling staff are in the process of reviewing the report. Modeling activities have continued to focus on updating the 2005 baseline and 2018 future modeling emissions. The updates included revised emissions for airports recently provided by the Houston Airport Systems Study Group. The 2006 baseline modeling emissions are being developed in the component of the collaborative analysis. The next Southeast Texas Photochemical Modeling Technical meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2009; the TCEQ is planning to present the modeling results using the revised modeling emissions including the use of a 2006 baseline. On March 10, 2009, TCEQ and EPA air modeling staff held a conference call to discuss a number of SIP modeling issues including the use of a 2006 vs. 2005 baseline issue. Air modeling staff from both agencies agreed to work on the various issues including additional analysis of the 2008 ozone measurements. In addition, air modeling staff from both agencies agreed to finish addressing EPA's comments on the draft modeling protocol. A new stakeholder group has been created to seek stakeholder input on the issues related to flares. Two identical stakeholder meetings will be held on March 30, 2009 at 2:00p.m. at H-GAC, and April 02, 2009 at 2:00p.m. at TCEQ in Austin. The purpose of these meetings is to provide information about the goals of the Flares Task Force and to seek stakeholder input on issues related to flare performance, monitoring, alternatives to flaring routine/non-emergency emissions. Additional information is available on the Flare Task Force Stakeholder Group web page and Ms. Lindley Anderson of the Air Quality Division is the contact. A new Supplemental Leak Detection Stakeholder Group has been created to seek stakeholder input on issues related to the implementation of House Bill 1526, 80th Legislature, 2007. Two identical stakeholder meetings will be held on March 30, 2009 at 9:30a.m. at H-GAC, and April 02, 2009 at 9:30a.m. at TCEQ in Austin. The purpose of these meetings is to provide information about the rule development process and to solicit stakeholder input on specific nature of the incentives offered for the

use of supplemental technology and the establishment of reasonable time frames to repair leaks. Additional information is available on Supplemental Leak Protection Stakeholder web page, and Mr. Ronnie Kramer of the Field Operations Support Division is the contact. A Section 185 Fees stakeholder group meeting was held March 4, 2009, and a meeting summary has been posted on the stakeholder group web page. On March 10, 2009, Governor Perry submitted the state's recommendation concerning designations under the 2008 8-hour ozone standard to the EPA Region 6. The Houston area recommendation included the current eight counties to be nonattainment. Additional information is available on the TCEQ's web site. On October 15, 2008, EPA substantially strengthened the NAAQS for lead, States are required to make recommendation for areas to be designated attainment, nonattainment, or unclassified by October 2009. TCEQ staff is currently in the process of developing draft recommendations which is tentatively scheduled for consideration on August 12, 2009. TCEQ staff is anticipating holding a public informational meeting in May 2009 (possibly via webcast to regional offices). Neither questions nor comments followed this agency report.

EPA UPDATE – *Guy Donaldson*

Mr. Guy Donaldson began his update with stating that President Obama nominated Gina McCarthy for Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation. Ms. McCarthy is currently the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). She came to the Connecticut DEP from Massachusetts, where she worked on environmental issues at the state and local level for 25 years in a variety of high-ranking positions. Just prior to joining the Connecticut DEP, she served as the Deputy Secretary of Operations for the Massachusetts Office of Commonwealth Development. In 1990, Governor Dukakis appointed Ms. McCarthy as Chair of the Council to oversee the review of a proposed hazardous waste incinerator in the Boston area. A proposal for a mandatory greenhouse gas reporting rule was signed March 10. Publication in the FR will start the official comment period. Information, including a Question and Answer document, can be found through our website at www.epa.gov/climatechange. The FY 2008 Appropriations Bill called for EPA to develop this rule. Neither questions nor comments followed this agency report.

PRESENTATION:

CLEAN AIR INITIATIVES – *Shelley Whitworth*

(Please refer to handout.) Ms. Shelley Whitworth delivered her presentation "Clean Air Initiatives". Ms. Whitworth spoke on topics such as: 1.) Important SIP Reminders 2.) TCM Commitments 3.) Recommend Six Transportation Control Measure Projects from TIP 4.) Voluntary Mobile Emission Reduction program (VMEP) 5.) Recommended on Road VMEPs 6.) Pursue Recommended Non-Road VMEPs 7.) Recommended Weight of Evidence VMEPs 8.) Actions for Local Governments 9.) SIP Control Strategies 10.) Funding Sources & Programs 11.) Commute Solutions Program 12.) Vanpooling 13.) NuRide 14.) Telework 15.) Best Workplace for Commuters 16.) Current Pilot Projects 17.) Upcoming Pilot Projects 18.) Local Initiatives and TERP 19.) TERP Projects 20.) Clean Vehicles & Clean School Bus 21.) MOVES Research Projects. This presentation included charts.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

MULTI POLLUTANT PLAN UPDATE – *Matthew Tejada*

Mr. Matthew Tejada will request to have an official five minutes before the H-GAC Board regarding what RAQPC is planning to work, including the Multi Pollutant Plan.

i. FUNDING SOURCES UPDATE – *Jed Anderson*

An email was sent out in terms of creating an excel spreadsheet that will list different grant programs and other funding opportunities; each member is responsible for adding 10-15 funding sources on the list to be compiled and discussed. The preliminary spreadsheet should be ready for the next RAQPC meeting.

ii. REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PROGRAMS UPDATE – *Karl Pepple*

An email was sent out to all members asking to send regional air quality ordinances or programs. An excel spreadsheet is in the process.

iii. PUBLIC OUTREACH UPDATE – *Cynthia Redwine and Paulette Wolfson*

(Please refer to handout.) More volunteers were encouraged to participate. This group is responsible for gathering all of the different educational and outreach resources that are available in our region. The business contact for the HCAD program was requested. The request for someone to be responsible for updating the spreadsheet was announced. Outreach suggestions or ideas including brochures and online publishing, and how to make the spreadsheet more user-friendly were welcomed. H-GAC was asked to review the spreadsheet for accuracy, additions, revisions, and reconfiguration.

SENATE BILL 16 UPDATE – *Mary Schuwerk*

The committee took the principles that RAQPC approved at the last meeting to form a document to submit to the Legislative Committee to the Board of Directors. The last Board of Directors meeting ran out of time to discuss Senate Bill 16 because a lot of information regarding stimulus and HUD funds had to be resolved. Mr. Steve Howard said that he feels that the Board of Directors would feel positively towards most of the recommendations that RAQPC is in support of; next month Mr. Steve Howard will present it before the Legislative Committee. The Legislative Committee meets monthly before the Board of Directors meeting. The final Senate Bill 16 letter consisted of everything that RAQPC approved and put into a list. The final letter was sent to Mr. Matthew Tajada and Mr. Karl Pepple for review. The Senate Bill 16 letter was reviewed and revised at the RAQPC meeting.

BY-PRODUCT SYNERGY RESOLUTION UPDATE – *Shelley Whitworth*

H-GAC presented a report on climate change to the Board of Directors and they thought that the actions were a good idea and planning. The Board of Directors agreed to move forward with the recommendations from the report; Mr. Jack Steele and Mr. Steve Howard were supportive. Based on these findings, it is believed that the Board will vote in favor of the By-Product Synergy Project. Accordingly, it was suggested to host a workshop through the United States Business Council for the local governments before going forward with the recommendations to the Board. A meeting consisting of the United States Business Council and H-GAC will be in April 2009. It was suggested that RAQPC will help with the expected workshop, and that should take place in late spring or early summer. The workshop will invite a cross section of private and public entities.

COUNTY GRANTS STATUS UPDATE – *Catarina Cron*

Harris County has proposed some projects to use their Local Initiatives money. For the moment, the county is proposing mostly fleet replacements. Also, the county is looking at intelligent transit transportation system. Brief questions followed this update.

PORT OF HOUSTON UPDATE – *Dana Blume*

The Port of Houston, Environ Defense, EPA, and H-GAC are looking into partnering with Wal-Mart. The Port of Houston will fund around fifty thousand dollars worth of Smart Way Program DOC retrofit devices for the On-Road Truck Pileup Project for drayage trucks. The Port of Houston has a captive fleet between their container facility and the Wal-Mart distribution facility in Baytown which will be used as the Pilot Project. Also, the Port of Houston will try to get additional funding to buy more clean equipment. Neither questions nor comments followed this agency report.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENTS UPDATE – *Shelley Whitworth*

H-GAC has requested cities and counties that are part of the eight county non-attainment region to sign MOAs in order to enforce the VMEPs committed into the SIP. One of the MOAs will be with the City of Sugarland, for which they are working on a number of programs like expanding their light duty fleets by buying hybrid vehicles, and increasing their participation on the Commute Solutions Program. Also, the City of Sugarland has participated in some access management studies and joined with their neighbors such as, Missouri City and Stafford, to form a Traffic Management District to reduce emissions. Brief questions followed this update.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- No Public Comments announced.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- No Announcements.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The next RAQPC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 30, 2009 at 2:00 P.M.

ADJOURN:

- If you have an item you wish to be added to the agenda for a future meeting, please e-mail Ben Finley at Ben.Finley@h-gac.com.