

**ALLEGHENY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
BUILDING #7 – CONFERENCE ROOM
MEETING 03-19
June 10, 2019 - 5:30 PM**

Committee Members/(Alts) Present

Dan Bricmont, (Chair), Bricmont Law
Chip Babst, Babst, Calland (Vice Chair)
Jeanne Clark, ALCOSAN
Michael Corcoran, PPG
Coleen M Davis, US STEEL (Alt US Steel)
Steven Hvozdoch, Clean Water Action
Rachel Filippini, GASP
Robert Orchowski, Hillcrest Group (phone)
John Palmiere, Allegheny County Council

Others Present

Andy Baechle, Allegheny County Parks
Zac Barber, Penn Environment
Mark Donatelli, US Steel
Stephen Hepler, PA DEP
Liz Miller, CHP
Srinivasan Suresh, MD, UPMC Children's
Suky Wenzel, University of Pittsburg
Eric Willams, Allegheny County Parks
Matt Mehalik, Breathe Collaborative

Committee Members/ Not Present

Sara Marie Baldi, Salvation Army
Mark Jeffrey, US Steel
Richard Swartz

ACHD Members Present

Sandra Etzel
Jayme Graham
Allason Holt
Tom Lattner
Jim Kelly
Karen M Sagel
Brandon Turley

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Dan Bricmont called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

Action: A quorum was present. All in attendance made their introduction.

2. Chair's Remarks – Dan Bricmont – No comments were made at this time.

3. Approval of Minutes April meeting

Carol Wivell requested changes to the minutes in written form to clarify her statements from the previous meeting. Dan Bricmont suggested simply adding her request as written to the minutes as and addendum.

Action: Moved by Coleen M Davis 2nd by John Palmiere unanimous approval pending changes.

4. Subcommittee Reports:

A. Criteria Pollutant/Air Monitoring Subcommittee – Coleen Davis - met May 3, 2019. No NAAQs exceedances at the temporary monitors the County had put up. The annual network plan was in public comment at the time of our meeting, that has since closed. The South Allegheny High School (home of the Liberty monitor) wants a redesign of the site primary for school security reasons. The school does not want people not associated with the school going into the school anymore.

ACHD can use the roof if we can access it from the outside. Will take a bit of work for all the changes.

The PM2.5 SIP is in Public Comment until tomorrow, June 11th. There is a public hearing tomorrow at 6:00 pm. The county expects comments on the contingency plan, redacted permits, and the RACT.

Next meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday July 10, 2019 at 1:30.

- B. Pollution Prevention/Education Subcommittee** – Rachel Filippini reported the subcommittee met May 16, 2019. There was a presentation by the Allegheny County Parks, that will be discussed later. The Half-day workshop was discussed at length. The workshop is coming together nicely, some of the topics are a history and overview of the Health Department, Air pollution in terms of what is it and how it is monitored, regulations and what the municipalities can do, asbestos, open burning, and how communities can make complaints. Who the participants will be and what the location will be. Hopefully it will happen this fall. Dan Bricmont questions if the plan was to have one venue and Jayme Graham explained that the current plan was for just one that would be taped and put on the LGA website. If it is successful, then the sub-committee will look into maybe having more in the future in other areas.

The next will be, July 18, 2019 at 1:30 PM.

- C. Regulation Subcommittee** – Robert Orchowski – reported the subcommittee met on June 3rd. The RVP Gasoline Regulations was updated to the Regulations in progress status table. The Air Quality Fees will be added at next meeting. The RFP Program is still owed an explanation as to way this does not need to be addressed in the regulations. The subcommittee was directed to talk about a code of conduct for the Air Advisory Committee, the subject was discussed briefly, and they talked about the three elements of Code of Conduct, Professionalism, Conflict of Interest, and the Sun Shine Law considerations.

The next meeting will be July 23rd at 9:30 AM

5. Clean Air Fund –

- A. Request to support an Asthma Registry** – Allason Holt – Srinivasan Suresh, MD, UPMC Children's and Suky Wenzel, University of Pittsburgh, Liz Miller, CHP - The request is for \$300,000 to fund, as a partnership between ACHD, Children's, and the University of Pittsburgh, to create a voluntary registry of the children in the area who are affected by asthma. The expectation is to have a registry to be used to monitor the locations of these children, environmental influences affecting these children, and have a database to be able to contact the families of these children in the event of an environmental situation that would affect the children as well as connect the children with programs like the

Safe and Healthy Homes program and many others. Coleen Davis questions who would be responsible entering the names into the registry and for determining “environmental threats”, Liz Miller said they are able to extract the information from the Emergency Room visits at Children’s Hospital and from community outreach workers. Several committee members expressed concern about assumption of causality regarding the environmental factors, the speakers explained the information would come from census data, collected data such as zip codes and what the association with asthma would be. Jeanne asked who owns the data; the speakers said University of Pittsburgh and the families of the children maintain ownership and this information is protected by HIPPA so access is limited. Steve questioned the sustainability of financing this. The speakers feel that once the infrastructure is built the registry will be able to be maintained, it’s the actual creation and design that the money is required for. They may come back for additional support in the future but that is not needed at this time. Bob feels that the money would be better spent improving Air Quality. Jim Kelly said improving air quality is only one of seven things the Clean Air Fund is to be used for, this satisfies public education and health affects and surveys. As this pollution affects people’s health and their lives this gives a very clear window as to how that happened. The committee expressed concern where the information came from, what would be done with the information, and who would have access to the information.

Action: Moved by Steven Hvozdoich 2nd by Rachel Filippini – Dan, Steve, Mike, John, Rachel, Chip voted for, Bob voted opposed, and Coleen abstained. John Palmiere left at 6:10 pm prior to the vote.

- A. Request to support planting trees in the Allegheny County Parks – Allason Holt - Andy Baechle, Allegheny County Parks and Eric Willams, Allegheny County Parks – The request is for \$90,000 to purchase and maintain 360 landscaping trees. They will be large trees with at least a 2 inch diameter trunk, 8 – 15 feet high, all native to Western Pennsylvania, will be part of all the County purchasing requirements. The County landscape architects will plan and over see the project, the park rangers will plan and execute the project themselves and trees will be maintained by experienced rangers and laborers. The trees will be chosen specifically for location, soil type, ground moisture, and need for shade among other things. Due to invasive species and disease, the parks have lost a majority of their trees and they need to be replaced.

Action: Moved by Coleen 2nd by Steven and Rachel (simultaneously) – Chip abstained – unanimous.

6. **Allegheny County Parks Solar Plans** – Allason Holt - Andy Baechle, Allegheny County Parks and Eric Willams, Allegheny County Parks – The project is to put at least one solar powered shelter in each park and making “net zero’ buildings. The hope is to have solar powered shelters and street lights that people could use, and possible help encourage public interest in solar power.
7. **RVP Gasoline update – Jayme Graham** – The EPA is currently in the process of reviewing comments from the public comment period. The Buckeye Pipeline discovered a leak, so the Health Department requested a waiver because the supply would not be available. The EPA approved the waiver, then we approved the waiver, so they are not in noncompliance. There is a June 16th deadline for this waiver, the department is checking with Buckeye to see the status of the repairs. If they have not finished by the June 16th deadline the department will seek another waiver.
8. **Regulation – Proposed Air Quality Permit Fees – Tom Lattner** reviewed the changes to Article XXI that explained the changes to the installation and permitting fees. This is a structural change to the regulations. These changes update and reflect the changes the state has made to their regulations. Chip questioned if these changes are based just on what the DEP has changed or if there was research on “this is what we need to fund processing these requests”. Bob explained that the regulation states that for these services the county provides we are going to in act a fee as set by the Board of Health. Bob has challenged the County to evaluate the cost of processing these applications but fears that the Board of Health once this is launched the BOH will listen to the Air Quality Department that fees should be equivalent and that’s the way it will be. Jayme Graham explained that the department has done its own analysis of the fees and compared them against the State values. In the past several years the Department spent substantially more than we were bringing in. The Department needs to recover that because the workload has not dropped but continues, and, continues to increase as more companies require permits. The short answer to Chip’s question is yes, we need the funds. Chip questioned why the Air Advisory doesn’t approve the fee increases, Bob and Jayme both said because it is the way the regulations are written.

Action: Moved by Rachel 2nd by Bob with a comment that there is significant unease with not having data to explain the basis of some of these fees –Dan, Steve, Rachel and Bob for, Coleen, Jean, and Chip opposed. Michael Corcoran left at 7:07.

9. **Report of the Air Quality Program – Jayme Graham** Dr Hacker is leaving the department in July. An acting director will be assigned while the search for a new director is in progress. Air Quality does have a new secretary that started today. Emerson School, home of a temporary monitor, is closing at the end of the school year. The building will be closed and there are no plans to use the monitor elsewhere as of now. The Department is still working on the Churchill Asbestos lawsuit.

10. Other Business/Citizen Comments

Jean asked for copies of the revision the Clean Air Fund Application that revised the MBE/WBE status. Jayme said the draft was not quite finished, but the language was similar to what the county requires to make at least an effort. The finished version will be available for the committee next meeting for review.

Coleen asked for an update on the Stoltz Road/Pony Barn situation. Jayme said she had not had an opportunity to meet with the inspectors and has nothing to report on that. Coleen asked if a report could be ready for the next meeting.

Matt Mehalik – on the subject of setting of fees. The committee should keep in mind the department was reprimanded by the DEP for the backlog of the Title V permits and the lack of employees to complete this task and should put through the fee changes.

Also, the plans to move the South Allegheny PM 2.5 monitor, from one building to the other - Are there any plans for putting monitors in various areas to see if there was any special difference in the movement of the monitor. Jayme feels there won't be a drastic difference in the 50-foot movement.

11. Date of Next Meeting and Adjournment

The meeting concluded at 07:23 pm. Chip moved to adjourn, and Coleen seconded the motion. The next meeting is August 12, 2019 at 5:30 pm.

Draft Minutes transcribed by: Karen M Sagel

Draft Minutes approved by: Jayme Graham

*All power points and handouts available upon request.