

Southwest Clean Air Agency

Board of Directors Minutes

November 7, 2024

The regular meeting of the Southwest Clean Air Agency Board of Directors was held in the Southwest Clean Air Agency office, Vancouver, Washington on November 7, 2024.

Those present were: Dr. Alan Melnick, Chair, Clark County
Lee Tischer, Director, Wahkiakum County
Dennis Webber, Director, Cowlitz County
Richard Mahar, Director, Skamania County
Robert Stowe, Director, Town of Cathlamet
Andy Oien, Director, City of Centralia
Ruth Kendall, Director, City of Longview

Excused: Ben Shumaker, Vice-Chair, City of Stevenson
Sean Swope, Director, Lewis County
Kim Harless, Director, City of Vancouver
Vacant, Director, Member at Large

Also Present: Staff: Uri Papish, Executive Director
Traci Arnold, Office Administrator

Guests: Nina Thrun, Resident
Sally Keely, Resident
Danielle Jokela, Resident
Robert (Bob) Hamlin, Resident

Call to Order

Dr. Melnick called the meeting to order. A quorum was confirmed to exist.

Board of Directors Minutes

Dr. Melnick asked for consideration of the October 3, 2024 minutes. Mr. Tischer moved and Ms. Kendall seconded that the minutes for the October 3, 2024 Board meeting be approved. Motion passed.

Consent Agenda

Dr. Melnick asked for approval of the Consent Agenda including voucher numbers 142 through 183 in the amount of \$41,639.85 which have been approved for payment by the Executive

November 7, 2024

Director, September 2024 Financial Statements, September 2024 Salaries and Benefits in the amount of \$180,100.06. Mr. Webber moved and Ms. Kendall seconded that the Consent Agenda be approved. Motion passed.

Changes to Agenda

None

Info Items & Public Comment

None

Public Hearing

None

Unfinished Business/New Business

Dr. Menick opened discussion on the interview process for the Member-At-Large position and recognized Mr. Papish. Mr. Papish said the SWCAA Board of Directors, established by the Washington Clean Air Act, consists of eleven members, including County representatives, City Council representatives from the most populous cities, and a Member-At-Large. The Member-At-Large position has been vacant for a few months and SWCAA has posted an announcement for applications. The Board will conduct short interviews with multiple applicants. Each applicant will be asked the following questions: (1) what interests you about being on the SWCAA Board, (2) what the biggest issue for the air quality in southwest Washington is, and (3) what do you see as SWCAA's role in addressing these issues. Each applicant will have 10 minutes to respond and ask questions.

Nina Thrun joined the meeting at 3:10 for 10 minutes
Sally Jane Keely joined the meeting at 3:20 for 10 minutes
Danielle Jokela joined the meeting at 3:30 for 10 minutes
Robert (Bob) Hamlin joined the meeting at 3:40 for 10 minutes

The Board thanked each applicant for applying for the position.

Executive Session

Dr. Melnick asked for the Board to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the applications for the Member-At-Large position in accordance with RCW 42.30.10(1)(g). Any appointment or other decision will be made during the open public meeting following the Executive Session. He requested Mr. Papish remain during the Executive Session which he estimated would begin at 3:46 and last for 10 minutes.

Dr. Melnick reconvened the general meeting at 3:56.

November 7, 2024

Ms. Kendall moved to approve the appointment of Danielle Jokela to the Member-At-Large position to be effective January 1, 2025. Mr. Tisher seconded the motion. Mr. Webber and Mr. Mahar voted against. Mr. Oien, Ms. Kendall, Mr. Tisher and Dr. Melnick voted in favor. Mr. Stowe abstained from the vote. Motion passed.

Mr. Webber moved to appoint Robert (Bob) Hamlin as an alternate to the Member-At-Large position as allowed by the by-laws and to serve as the member should Ms. Jokela resign the position before the end of the term. Ms. Kendall seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business/New Business (continued)

Dr. Melnick opened discussion on the adoption of SWCAA's Consolidated Fee Schedule and recognized Mr. Papish. Mr. Papish said SWCAA is proposing for the Board to increase SWCAA's fees by 4.1 percent and proposes to increase the per capita fee by two cents (from 62 to 64 cents). The two-cent per capita fee increase is equal to 3.2 percent. The proposed changes to the Consolidated Fee Schedule are found in Attachment A.

The Board has recommended revising fees on an annual basis to keep up with inflation. The purpose of incremental fee increases is to avoid having to do larger (catch-up) fee increases every several years. Revenue from the increases is used to ensure basic services provided by the agency continue to meet the expectations of both the regulated community and the public. SWCAA's Board has been adopting annual CPI fee increases to SWCAA's fees since 2019.

On September 23, 2024, SWCAA posted its current proposal to increase the fees. SWCAA posted the public notice on SWCAA's website and sent out public notification mailings to over 1,700 affected businesses and local governments. In addition, SWCAA held a public hearing on the evening of October 22nd. SWCAA held a public hearing with no one attending and received no written comments during the public comment period. Attachment B is the Public Hearing Officer Report.

Mr. Webber moved to adopt SWCAA Resolution 2024-02 which adopts the proposed changes to SWCAA's Consolidated Fee Schedule. Ms. Kendall seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Dr. Melnick opened discussion on the cancelation of December Board of Director's Meeting and recognized Mr. Papish. Mr. Papish explained the Washington Clean Air Act requires that the Board of Directors meet at least 10 times per year. The November Board meeting is the 10th meeting held this year.

Ms. Kendall made a motion to cancel the December Board of Directors meeting. Mr. Mahar seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

November 7, 2024

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Papish summarized the information provided in the Executive Director's Report and offered to answer any questions.

EPA Announces Latest Round of Funding Under Clean School Bus Rebate Program (September 26, 2024) EPA announced the latest round of funding under the competitive Clean School Bus Rebate Program. This fourth round of funding, for the 2024 program, includes up to \$965 million to be distributed nationwide. Funding under this program will cover up to \$325,000 per bus for up to 50 buses per application, as well as workforce training costs and infrastructure costs for those requesting electric school buses. Selectees may also be eligible for Inflation Reduction Act tax credits applicable to their bus and infrastructure purchases. Complete information is available in the Program Guide. Applications will be accepted via EPA's online portal until 4 PM Eastern on January 9, 2025. For further information: <https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/clean-school-bus-program-rebates>

EPA Issues Final Rule for HFC Recovery and Emission Reduction (September 23, 2024) EPA has finalized a new rule addressing hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), a potent class of greenhouse gases (GHGs) used as alternatives to ozone depleting chemicals. The new EPA action is the third component of steps required by the American Innovation and Manufacturing (AIM) Act of 2021, which directed EPA to phase down the production and consumption of HFCs by 85 percent from historic baseline levels by 2036. The new final rule establishes an Emissions Reduction and Reclamation (ER&R) program, required under Subsection (H) of the AIM Act. The ER&R program will help minimize leaks of HFCs from new refrigeration and air conditioner equipment, while also maximizing the reuse of HFCs that have already been produced and entered use. In addition to reuse and leak repair for certain appliances, the final ER&R program includes requirements for automatic leak detection systems, a new reclaimed HFC refrigerant content standard, maintenance regulations; stronger rules for installation and maintenance of fire suppression equipment, used cylinder recovery rules, and requirements for recordkeeping, reporting and labeling. EPA is also finalizing alternative recycling standards for ignitable used refrigerants, including some HFCs and their substitutes, under the authority of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. EPA estimates that its HFC actions under the AIM Act will reduce 120 million MMT CO₂e. For further information: <https://www.epa.gov/climate-hfcs-reduction/regulatory-actions-managing-hfc-use-and-reuse>

SWCAA Awarded Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grant (October 30, 2024) SWCAA has been awarded up to \$40,000 in grant money to install four Level 2 electric vehicle charging stations at SWCAA's new office location. The grant is through the Washington State Volkswagen Federal Settlement Grant Program. SWCAA aims to enhance community charging infrastructure, promote workplace charging, and expand our electric vehicle fleet once these vehicle charging stations are installed.

November 7, 2024

Board Policy Discussion Issues

None.

Issues for Next Meeting

A. Public Hearing.

1. As Necessary.

B. New Business/Unfinished Business.

1. Appointment of Board Officers.
2. Proposed SWCAA 400 Rule Revisions.

C. Meeting Date and Location.

1. January 2, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. Southwest Clean Air Agency, 5105 NE 82nd Ave., Suite 102, Vancouver, Washington.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on January 2, 2025 at 3:00 p.m., Southwest Clean Air Agency, Vancouver, Washington.

November 7, 2024

Board Meeting Attendance:


JURISDICTION	J 2024	F 2024	M 2024	A 2024	M 2024	J 2024	J 2024	A 2024	S 2024	O 2024	N 2024	D 2024
Clark County	+	+	+	+	+	0	C	+	+	+	+	C
Cowlitz County	+	+	A	+	+	+	C	+	+	A	A	C
Lewis County	0	+	+	0	0	+	C	0	+	+	0	C
Skamania County	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	+	+	+	+	C
Wahkiakum County	A	+	+	+	+	+	C	+	+	+	+	C
Cathlamet	+	0	A	+	+	+	C	+	+	+	+	C
Centralia	+	0	0	+	A	+	C	+	+	+	+	C
Longview	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	0	+	+	+	C
Stevenson	A	+	+	+	+	+	C	+	+	+	0	C
Vancouver	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	0	+	0	0	C
Member-At-Large	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	0	0	0	0	C

+ = regular member present; 0 = unrepresented; A = alternate present; C = cancelled meeting

Dr. Melnick adjourned the meeting without objection at 4:19 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

 DFB652FC3A604AF...
 Chair

DocuSigned by:

 7A3556CB273B487...
 Executive Director

November 7, 2024