

Southwest Clean Air Agency

Board of Directors Minutes

January 2, 2025

The regular meeting of the Southwest Clean Air Agency Board of Directors was held in the Southwest Clean Air Agency office, Vancouver, Washington on January 2, 2025.

Those present were: Dr. Alan Melnick, Chair, Clark County  
Lee Tischer, Director, Wahkiakum County  
Robert Stowe, Director, Town of Cathlamet  
Andy Oien, Director, City of Centralia  
Ruth Kendall, Director, City of Longview  
Danielle Jokela, Director, Member at Large

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

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

Guests: None

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 November 7, 2024 minutes. Mr. Stowe moved and Mr. Oien seconded that the minutes for the November 7, 2024 Board meeting be approved. Motion passed.

Consent Agenda

Dr. Melnick asked for approval of the Consent Agenda including voucher numbers 227 through 260 in the amount of \$55,574.56 which have been approved for payment by the Executive Director, voucher number 226 in the amount of \$12,393.94, October and November 2024 Financial Statements, October 2024 Salaries and Benefits in the amount of \$192,641.03,

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November 2024 Salaries and Benefits in the amount of \$185,603.34. Mr. Tisher moved and Mr. Oien 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. Melnick opened discussion on the election of Chair and Vice Chair for calendar year 2025. Mr. Papish said the Chair position is currently held by Dr. Alan Melnick and the Vice Chair position is held by Ben Shumaker. He explained that the Chair position assumes only a small amount of additional work in communicating with the agency and coming to meetings regularly. Dr. Melnick asked for volunteers or nominations for the Chair and Vice Chair.

Mr. Stowe nominated Dr. Melnick for Chair and Mr. Shumaker for Vice Chair of the SWCAA Board of Directors. Ms. Kendall seconded the nomination.

Dr. Melnick asked if there were any further nominations for the Chair or Vice Chair positions. There were none. Dr. Melnick closed the nomination and asked for a vote. The vote was unanimous. Dr. Melnick was named Chair of the SWCAA Board of Directors and Mr. Shumaker was named Vice Chair of the SWCAA Board of Directors.

Dr. Melnick expressed his gratitude for the approval of the nomination and thanked the Board members.

Executive Session

None

Executive Director's Report

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

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**EPA Combustion Turbines NO<sub>x</sub> NSPS Proposal (December 13, 2024)** The EPA has proposed new performance standards for stationary gas and combustion turbines, aiming to reduce NO<sub>x</sub> emissions. The proposal includes selective catalytic reduction as the best method for emissions reduction and sets limits based on turbine size and use. The rule is expected to cut NO<sub>x</sub> emissions by 198 tons in 2027 and 2,659 tons by 2032. For more information: [Federal Register Notice](#)

**EPA Review of Secondary NAAQS for NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, and PM (December 10, 2024)** The EPA has completed its review of the secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), sulfur oxides (SO<sub>x</sub>), and particulate matter (PM), as required by a court order. Unlike primary NAAQS, which focus on health, secondary NAAQS aim to protect public welfare, including ecological impacts on plants and aquatic ecosystems. Based on the review, the EPA is finalizing a new standard for sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), reducing the secondary standard from 500 parts per billion (ppb) over three hours to 10 ppb as an annual average over three years. The proposed range for this revision was 10 to 15 ppb. Additionally, the existing secondary standards for NO<sub>x</sub> and PM are being retained with no changes. The EPA is also updating data handling requirements for the SO<sub>2</sub> standard. This rule will take effect 30 days after its publication in the Federal Register. For more information: [Final Rule on Secondary NAAQS](#)

**EPA Bans Trichloroethylene (TCE) and Perchloroethylene (PCE) Uses (December 9, 2024)** The EPA has finalized rules banning all uses of trichloroethylene (TCE) and many uses of perchloroethylene (PCE), with protections for remaining workplace uses. PCE is commonly found in brake cleaners, adhesives, dry cleaning, and industrial settings. The new rules phase out PCE in dry cleaning over 10 years, with a ban starting in six months for new dry-cleaning machines. TCE, used in various consumer and commercial products, will be banned gradually. The rule also establishes a Workplace Chemical Protection Program for critical sectors. A public webinar on the PCE rule will be held on January 15, 2025, at 12:30 p.m. (ET). For more information: [EPA Announcement](#)

**State and Industry Briefs Challenging Methane Rule Filed in D.C. Circuit (November 26, 2024)** A group of states and industry associations has filed briefs in the U.S. Court of Appeals (Texas v. EPA, Case No. 24-1054) challenging the EPA's "Methane Rule" for the oil and natural gas sector. The petitioners argue that the EPA overstepped its authority in setting "presumptive" performance standards for states, instead of allowing them to create their own standards. The states also argue that the two-year deadline for compliance is too short and the rule's social cost metric for methane emissions is flawed. Industry groups, led by Continental Resources, Inc., also claim the rule violates the Clean Air Act and the Supreme Court's 2022 decision in *West Virginia v. EPA*, which restricted the EPA's authority to regulate greenhouse gases. Both the states and industry groups had previously sought to block the rule's implementation, but their requests were denied by the D.C. Circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court. For more information: [D.C. Circuit Brief](#)

**Auto Alliance Urges Incoming Trump Administration to Support "Reasonable and Achievable" Vehicle Emission Regulations (November 22, 2024)** The Auto Alliance sent a letter to President-Elect Trump, urging the administration to support reasonable vehicle emission  
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regulations. The group advocates for emission standards that align with market realities and allow consumers to purchase vehicles that meet their needs. They also called for stability in auto-related emissions standards. For more information: [Auto Alliance Letter](#)

Board Policy Discussion Issues

None.

Issues for Next Meeting

A. Public Hearing.

1. As Necessary.

B. New Business/Unfinished Business.

1. Proposed SWCAA 400 Rule Revisions.

C. Meeting Date and Location.

1. February 6, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. Southwest Clean Air Agency, 5105 NE 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Suite 102, Vancouver, Washington.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on February 6, 2025 at 3:00 p.m., Southwest Clean Air Agency, Vancouver, Washington.


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Board Meeting Attendance:

JURISDICTION	J 2025	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	0	+	A	+	+	+	C	+	+	A	A	C
Lewis County	0	+	+	0	0	+	C	0	+	+	0	C
Skamania County	0	+	+	+	+	+	C	+	+	+	+	C
Wahkiakum County	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	+	+	+	+	C
Cathlamet	+	0	A	+	+	+	C	+	+	+	+	C
Centralia	+	0	0	+	A	+	C	+	+	+	+	C
Longview	+	+	+	+	+	+	C	0	+	+	+	C
Stevenson	0	+	+	+	+	+	C	+	+	+	0	C
Vancouver	0	+	+	+	+	+	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 3:31 p.m.

DocuSigned by:  
  
 Chair

DocuSigned by:  
  
 Executive Director

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