

**AQAC MINUTES**  
**February 2, 2016**

**Members/alternates present:** Bert Chessin, Jan Hoem, Kathy Tonnessen, John Ottman, Guy Hanson, Sue Spanke

**Members/alternates absent:** Garon Smith, Tom Roberts, Dave Atkins, Beth Berlin, Bill Flanery, Ronni Flannery

**Staff:** Sarah Coefield

**Public:** None

- 1. Bert Chessin called the meeting to order**
- 2. Excused absences recognized** – Tom Roberts, Dave Atkins, Beth Berlin, Bill Flanery, and Ronni Flannery were excused.
- 3. Agenda approved.**
- 4. January 5 and 13 minutes were approved with typo corrections.**
- 5. Public comment on non-agenda items**  
None.
- 6. Article presentation**  
None.
- 7. Discussion of Montana’s development of a Clean Power Plan state strategy and options for weighing in.**  
Ronni Flannery was schedule to present this agenda item, but was unable to attend the meeting. The group decided to discuss items they would like to see included in a letter about the Clean Power Plan (CPP).

Kathy Tonnessen said we’ve all been following the news. She said the list of names on the state advisory panel is mostly made up of people from industry. She asked if it’s worthwhile to have the Council discuss the CPP and the state’s plan and have the Air Board send a letter to the panel or the governor. She said it would be nice if the panel would consider public health.

Jan Hoem said the thinks the panel is very geared toward industry.

John Ottman asked who on the panel would represent public health. He said that’s who we would want to get in touch with.

Jan said that jobs keep coming up in CPP discussions. She said that, according to Steve Running, 0.35% of 1% of Montana jobs are coal jobs. She said the coal contribution to the tax base is 1%; it’s not that big of a deal for the state.

Kathy said it’s a big deal for the communities that depend on coal for jobs.

Jan said Running also said we should start transitioning people now to help them move away from reliance on the coal sector.

John pointed out that you can play with the statistics when you’re talking about jobs.

Sue Spanke said that, however you feel about jobs, we're the air committee, so we should talk about air.

Kathy said the question is if a letter of this kind would be welcomed, and if so, welcomed by whom? She asked again, is it worth our time?

Jan said that since the minority group on the panel is people who would support the environment and public health, she would think any support we could give them would strengthen them.

The group spent some time discussing procedure and where the letter would go.

Jan said it might be good to send concrete evidence of health concerns, such as the document put together by Whatcom County doctors.

Kathy said she looked at the information Ronni sent the group, and there are a bunch of quotes from doctors in Missoula. Also, she said, when it comes to the science, you sit back and say, well, everybody knows that, but maybe they don't.

Bert Chessin said it's useful to send things in an organized way to help them understand the issue.

Guy Hanson said most people don't understand things until they've heard it three times.

Sue said she's wondering if transportation of coal will be in the plan or if it will focus on burning coal in Colstrip.

Kathy said it will depend on the state emission inventory.

Guy said transportation is a significant source of carbon pollution.

John said the largest piece of the carbon pie is also the most obvious: Colstrip 3 and 4.

Jan said the diesel impacts of transporting the coal are tangential, but diesel can be as bad for you as coal dust, so she think we can leave diesel concerns from transporting coal in the letter. She said she would think the letter would benefit from keeping it open and having some bullet points with targeted information.

Kathy said it would be nice to know the outlines of the state CPP plan before sending a letter. She said the advisory panel formed really recently, and that kind of information is pretty far out.

John said it would be nice if we had somebody on the panel we could get informed and have them keep us up to date. He said we could have them come here and talk to us.

Jan said she could talk to Kathy Galen. She also said she knows two pulmonologists in Missoula and she could get statements from them.

John said he keeps reading how the demand for coal is off. He said the state might meet the carbon reduction targets just by the loss of demand.

Guy said the price of natural gas is so low, it's had a big impact on coal demand, nationally.

Bert said, and internationally.

Sue said we could also talk about how bad it is to export the coal abroad.

Bert closed the conversation by saying in the time before the next Council meeting, folks should pull information and think about things we want to include in a letter.

Kathy said to also put Ronni in charge of the letter.

#### **8. Review membership applications**

The group did not receive any new applications in the past month. They decided to interview all the candidates at the March meeting and keep advertising vacancies as needed.

#### **9. Staff Report**

Sarah Coefield gave the staff update. Sarah said she is working on creating a database for all of the woodstoves in the Air Stagnation Zone that can stay in the house upon time of sale. She said the files are currently all in paper form, and a database will make it easier to quickly determine if a woodstove needs to be removed.

Sarah said DEQ has looked over the CO LMP and provided some relatively minor comments. She said she'll be looking over those comments and then forwarding the document to EPA for review.

Sarah said Ben continues working on industry stuff.

Sarah said there will eventually be another rule package to work on that will focus on closing loopholes, cleaning up reference errors and clarifying language.

#### **10. Public comment**

None.

#### **11. Select AQAC representative for next Air Board meeting update**

Bert Chessin will give the AQAC update at the Board meeting.

#### **12. Announcements, other business**

None.

#### **13. Adjourn**