

West Silver Valley Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting  
February 19, 2015

The West Silver Valley Citizen Advisory Committee met on Thursday February 19 at Pinehurst City Hall. In attendance were 18 local residents. The meeting started off with an information update regarding data used for determination of the annual averages. Action items included getting the burn advisory shown in the paper along with the AQI. The change was accomplished and the additional information was well received by the members.

1. Introductions/Air Quality Update

Bob Launhardt, Rona Liller, Cathleen Sanborn, Andy Helkey, Teral Ellis, Maureen Gilbert, Rodney Cochrane, Carol Young, Lance Boylan, Kjell Truesdell, Commissioner Jay Huber, Kara Truesdell, Carla Ross; DEQ Staff; Mark Boyle, Denna Grangaard, Ralph Paul

- Air Quality Update – Mark Boyle updated the group on the progress of the 2014 data submittal to EPA. 2014 data will not change the non-attainment designation (the 3-year design value would be 12.4 for '12-'14). An end of year Quality Assurance audit identified laboratory critical criteria was not documented therefore only FEM (POC3) data is suitable for compliance comparison in 2014. A “deferral” to designate until after 2015 is not likely to occur. Data from 2015 would have to be 9.6µg/m<sup>3</sup> to make any attainment designation change. Since this annual average is well below any historical average there is little if any chance the designation would change. The take home message was to continue working on solutions to the area’s air quality problems.

2. Committee Business

- Group facilitator – It was decided by the group that the group did not want a group member acting as a facilitator. It was felt that DEQ staff could fill the need of a facilitator.
- Communication – The group indicated that the email was working. Several people wanted to be added to the afternoon AQI/AQA email list and any further group e-mails.

3. Action Items

- AQI burn message – The group indicated that the updated message in the Shoshone NP showing the burning/woodstove advisory was well done and conveyed the information that the group wanted. One member pointed out that the yellow lettering did not show up well and asked to have a dark border on the lettering. The minor adjustments will be completed by DEQ.
- Mark Aamodt, SCFPD #2 will be invited to the next meeting to discuss the fire district’s permitting system.
- Kjell Truesdell’s presentation will be posted on the WSV website when available. (The web page can now be subscribed to for update notices)
- Informational brochures will be emailed to the group for review
- A copy of Kootenai County FPD ordinance will be emailed to the group for informational purposes.

4. Topic Discussion

- Outdoor open burning – IDL

- **Slash/prescribed** – Kjell Truesdell, IDL, gave a presentation on forest management practices. This was well received by the group and generated a lot of questions and conversation among the group. Topics of discussion included:
  - Slash cleanup for hazard reduction
  - Slash clean up requirements for Idaho are stricter than neighboring states
  - Slash Regulation enforcement is applicable to private land as well
  - Curing slash before burning, testing before and during burning
  - Many private burners burn near the end day and end of of the annual permitting season
  - Discussed the availability and use of the MT/ID Air Shed Group
  - Constituents of LEAP certification
  - Industry most often conducts their own burning
  - Burning of slash is the most economical. IDL is charged with providing the greatest benefit possible from endowment lands
  - IDL participates in the MT/ID Airshed Group which is used as a statewide smoke management tool for “member” burners
- The group indicated that education for small private land burners would be beneficial – whether they need a permit or not. Potential educational topics mentioned throughout the meeting included: burn material moisture, curing, air quality awareness and air shed information, smolder rates, slash pile construction, permitting, disposal resources,
- The group discussed existing permitting through IDL: when a permit is needed, who needs a permit, how long the permit lasts. There was discussion and recognition that permitting applies during a portion of the year.
- There was question about how much particulates are generated from wood stoves versus open burning. This is an emission “inventory” question which was addressed previously. The short answer is both woodstoves and open burning affect the airshed in Pinehurst. There was a question about if enforcing smoke at residential areas would be effective or if no wood stoves would be effective. Since the group is focusing on open burning at this time discussions about effectiveness of woodstove emission reduction efforts will be addressed later this year. The group was encouraged to keep these items in mind however. There was a question if a stove change out program could be available again. DEQ responded that they will continue to look for funding opportunities for woodstove replacement efforts.. A discussion about chipping slash versus burning revealed that chipping could break even on some properties but this was limited by access.
- A comment that how slash piles are built also affect smoke generation/management such as when bladed piles are burned.
- Some members of the group mentioned permitting requirements may need to be explored. An example that Kootenai County using the IDL permitting system year round was mentioned.
- The group did not make specific decisions about the discussion items, or suggest language for the SIP.
- It was decided to have Chief Mark Aamodt, SCFD2, talk to the group at the next meeting about permitting that the fire district does.
- **Outreach and education**

- **Brochures** – Light it Right/Know before you Burn – Time ran short and the group was asked to review the information and begin thinking about information the group would like to get out to the public and how it should be labeled (group logo?). This will be continued at the next meeting.

5. **Comments**

None.

6. **Next meeting - March 19th 6 - 7 PM**

The group suggested that they would like to meet at Panhandle Health District Office, 114 W. Riverside Ave. Kellogg. Next month we will have more room to work at the table and have access to internet, etc.

Adjourn