

May 20th, 2013 AMATS Air Quality Advisory Committee Meeting

AMATS Air Quality Advisory Committee Members in Attendance:

Jedediah Smith	Public Transit Advisory Board
Lois Epstein	The Wilderness Society
Bruce Lee	Arctic Import/ I/M Representative
Tom Grman	Alaska DOT & PF, Operations
Neil Thalaker	Citizen Representative

Staff and Public in Attendance:

Craig Lyon	AMATS
Bart Rudolph	Alaska DOT & PF, Planning
Matt Stichick	MOA/DHHS
Steve Morris	MOA/DHHS
Anne Schlapia	MOA/DHHS
Chris Salerno	MOA/DHHS

The meeting began with roll call at 11:35am.

Approval of December 4th 2012 Minutes

Lois Epstein made a motion to approve the 12/04/12 minutes. **Bruce Lee** seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Election of Committee Chair, Vice Chair and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Representative

Jedediah Smith nominated **Jeremiah Dunham** to continue to serve as the committee chair and Lois volunteered herself to continue serving as vice chair and representative to the TAC. All nominations were seconded and the committee approved them unanimously.

Representation of AAQAC, Freight, Bike/Pedestrian committees to the TAC

Lois said her representation on the TAC has been valuable and she would like the Freight and Bike/Pedestrian committees to also have representation on the TAC. At the next (June) TAC meeting, Lois intends to make a motion that the TAC expand its membership to include a representative from each of the AAQAC, Freight, and Bike/Pedestrian AMATS committees. Other AAQAC members were supportive of this proposal. Jedediah asked Lois to include a Community Councils representative in her motion as well.

Anchorage Air Quality Program (AAQP) and Pollution Trends Update

Matt Stichick said that the AAQP 2013 budget was nearly half of what had been in 2012 (\$255K in 2013 vs. \$475K in 2012). In response, AAQP lost two staff; and with EPA's approval, AAQP closed the DHHS monitoring site (which had monitored PM10, PM2.5, and carbon monoxide). AAQP also discontinued operation of the Anchorage ozone monitor and a CO monitor in Eagle River.

Matt gave a presentation on Anchorage air pollution trends. This PowerPoint presentation is available from the AAQP webpage for AMATS-AQAC meetings:

<http://www.muni.org/Departments/health/Admin/environment/AirQ/Pages/AMATS.aspx>

Planned revision of Anchorage Air Quality Ordinance (AMC 15.30 and 15.35)

Matt explained that AAQP staff are working on an update and reorganization of the Anchorage air quality ordinances, AMC 15.30 and 15.35, which AAQP plans to combine into a single, revised Chapter 15.30. Two emissions standards in the revision are more stringent than current State of Alaska emissions standards, and are subject to an approval process as per Alaska Statute (AS) 46.14.400 (f). The more stringent local standards are: AMC 15.30.070 – A 20% visible emissions opacity limit for emissions from solid fuel heating devices; and AMC 15.30.140 – Regulation for installation and use of an outdoor wood boiler (OWB) within the Municipality of Anchorage. OWBs must be EPA Phase-2 certified, meet setback and stack-height requirements, and their emissions are limited to 20% opacity, except for the first 20 min after initial firing. Staff have prepared a justification for these more stringent, local emission standards that will be subjected to ADEC panel review, and then public review and public hearing per AS 46.14.010 – 46.14.015. AAQP requests that the AAQAC review the justification document following panel review. A handout summarizing the review process is available on the AAQAC meetings webpage.

Bruce Lee asked if the State of Alaska (SOA) has an opacity standard for wood-burning appliances. Matt said that SOA prohibits the emission of black smoke from such appliances. **Steve Morris** added that 18 AAC 50.075 also limits emissions to 50% opacity whenever ADEC has an air quality advisory in effect. Matt explained that ADEC plans to implement additional emissions standards for OWBs and other wood-burning appliances and will follow a similar review process for its own new emissions standards per AS 46.14.010 – 46.14.015.

Active Transportation Update

Craig Lyon asked **Anne Schlapia** to update the AAQAC on the status of non-motorized transportation, plans and events. Anne said that 1,737 cyclists were counted during the Bike to Work Day (05/17/2013) trail count last week. This count was down from approximately 3,815 in 2012, but given the snow and rain, the turnout was still good by historical standards. Bike helmet use at counting stations was nearly 92%. Anne said that Anchorage had just received “Silver” city recognition from the League of American Bicyclists. The basis for the award to cities is engineering, education, encouragement, enforcement and planning. Anne will provide an active commuting update to the AMATS Policy Committee on 05/23/13.

Jedediah made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:55pm. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.