
MINUTES –November 9, 2022
Regular Virtual Meeting

AQCB MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Lauren Meiklejohn (CITY), Chair
Ms. Maxine Paul (CITY), Vice Chair
Ms. Judy Calman (COUNTY)
Dr. Elis Eberlein (CITY)
Dr. Johnnye Lewis (COUNTY)
Ms. Kitty Richards (COUNTY)

AQCB LIAISONS PRESENT

Mr. Joseph Cruz Jr. (City of Albuquerque
Environmental Planning Commission Liaison)

AQCB LIAISONS ABSENT

Ms. Connie Chavez (Bernalillo County Planning
Commission Liaison)

STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Chris Albrecht, Associate Director
Mr. Albert Chang, Deputy Director
Ms. Maria Gallegos, Community Liaison
Ms. Yvette Garcia, Executive Assistant

STAFF PRESENT (CONTINUED)

Mr. Ken Miller, Acting AQCB Liaison
Mr. Dwayne Salisbury, Env Health
Manager
Ms. Carina Munoz-Dyer, Env Health
Manager
Mr. Damon Reyes, Env Health Manager
Ms. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, AQCB
Atty.
Ms. Kelsea Sona, Asst. City Attorney

MEMBERS of the PUBLIC PRESENT

Mr. Russell Brito
Ms. Elaine Cimino
Mr. Richard Moore
Ms. Marla Painter
Ms. Rosemary Romero
Mr. Lauro Silva
NM Environmental Law Center
Hanks

Due to COVID-19 this meeting was held via Zoom video conference.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Meiklejohn called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.
Member Calman joined late at approximately 5:33pm.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approval of the agenda

b. Approval of the October 12, 2022 meeting minutes

Vice Chair Paul moved to approve the items on the consent agenda. Member Richards seconded.
The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

3. AIR PROGRAM REPORT

Chair Meiklejohn requested an update from EHD regarding ongoing environmental justice and cumulative impacts work. Deputy Director Chang stated that Director Martinez was not present at the meeting and deferred to him regarding updates and more detailed comments. Member Richards requested that Director Martinez present at the board meeting in December. Chair Meiklejohn agreed and requested Deputy Director Chang share any information in the interim.

Member Lewis asked how decisions were made regarding the daily air quality report sent through the email list. She stated that conflicting information was given regarding the ability to burn when the air quality is labeled as unhealthy for sensitive populations due to particulate matter. Deputy Director Chang explained that dust can create spikes in coarse particulate matter and burn restrictions are typically issued when meteorological conditions favor trapping smoke and fine particulate when there is an inversion. He explained the alert that morning was due to windblown dust and not impacted in the same way that smoke is. Member Lewis stated that she would like this matter to be added to upcoming discussions regarding World Health Organization issues. Deputy Director Chang stated that he can put board members in contact with EHD experts for further discussion. Member Richards requested that EHD give a report at the next meeting. Chair Meiklejohn recommended an email to board members regarding the conclusions of a small meeting with EHD experts so that everyone can be updated in the interim in case of possible questions. Member Lewis suggested that it might be best to defer this topic as one of the items in a broader discussion around communication.

Member Richards asked Deputy Director Chang about a possible permit renewal for GCC. Deputy Director Chang stated that the Title 5 operating permit was due for renewal and is currently under assessment by the Air Quality Program (AQP). Member Richards asked how permits are issued and how AQP assesses the emissions of a facility for renewal. She stated that it would be beneficial for the board to know how the permit renewal process is conducted. Member Richards requested more information from EHD regarding identifying emissions, especially from larger sources, how they are modeled, and what the process is for EHD. Deputy Director Chang responded that when permit applications are received, EHD evaluates each emission unit identifying what its emissions would be. For every permit renewal, emissions are reviewed at the unit level. Member Richards interjected with a request for a high-level review of the emissions during a permit renewal citing that it is dependent on the age of the equipment. Member Richards asked Deputy Director Chang to speak in the December report regarding onsite monitoring and would like information during the interim. Deputy Director Chang stated that EHD permitting staff looks at each piece of equipment and determines the most defensible way from a scientific and engineering perspective to calculate conservatively what the levels would be. Vice Chair Paul directed Member Richards to the EHD website to view resources online and suggested another round of board education regarding air quality permits possibly at a future meeting.

Chair Meiklejohn stated that she wanted to learn more about the collaboration with the Health Equity Council and the testing of the Air Quality Egg.

4. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

No members of the public gave comment during the first comment opportunity.

5. REPORTS/DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

a. Presentation of Cumulative Impacts Committee Recommended Elements for Consideration in a Cumulative Impacts Regulation (Rosemary Romero, Richard Moore)

Ms. Romero reported that the committee constructed a list of critical elements that the committee believed should be included in any cumulative impacts regulation. Ms. Romero shared a list dated November 3, 2022 with various elements for the Board to consider. Mr. Moore emphasized to the Board the importance of the cumulative impacts committee. Ms. Romero and Mr. Moore then stood for questions from the Board. The Board acknowledged the work of the committee. Vice Chair Paul asked for more information on the committees's intentions to organize learnings from other areas. Mr. Moore emphasized a positive working relationship with EHD. Chair Meiklejohn requested the committee reorganize the list from most important to least important elements. Member Lewis stressed the importance of collecting health data. Ms. Romero stated the importance of data sharing from various groups.

b. Report on Meeting with Community Members Regarding the WHO Air Quality Guidelines (Chair)

Chair Meiklejohn reported on the discussion regarding the World Health Organization's 2021 Air Quality Guidelines. She stated that a public campaign about air quality and its impact on public health was being considered. She also stated that the Board is anticipating two presentations from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on environmental justice and national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) next month. She mentioned that the EPA would be accepting public comment regarding its reconsideration of the PM 2.5 NAAQS, however, no exact date was provided. Member Lewis discussed an improvement in communication to raise public awareness and community initiatives. She suggested that further discussions involve EHD, Ms. Cimino, and other community members. Deputy Director Chang confirmed the EPA was working on its PM 2.5 NAAQS proposal and we might expect it in early 2023.

c. Report on Plans to Initiate Hybrid Meetings (Chair)

Chair Meiklejohn reported that she and Mr. Miller met earlier in the week to check out the hearing room at the Plaza el Sol. The meeting space is ideal and comfortable. She indicated that the first hybrid meeting could be held in December at Plaza del Sol as long as nothing changes regarding the public health order.

d. Discussion of Possible Future Agenda Items (Board)

Chair Meiklejohn suggested that a follow up be done with EHD's meteorologist regarding Member Lewis's concern with the daily air quality update.

Chair Meiklejohn stated the EPA would be giving two presentations.

Chair Meiklejohn suggested a follow up on Member Richards questions regarding actual monitoring and permit renewal review.

Ms. Sedillo Lopez reminded the Board about the presentation regarding environmental justice from Director Martinez. Member Richards requested to hear more information regarding EHD's work with environmental justice and cumulative impacts.

Mr. Miller reminded the Board that the two board resolutions regarding meeting dates and notice for next year will need to be discussed at the December meeting. Chair Meiklejohn suggested that the specifics be changed to include the Plaza del Sol as the Board's regular meeting location.

6. Second Public Comment Opportunity

No members of the public gave comment during the second comment opportunity.

7. Other Business

Chair Meiklejohn announced Ms. Elizabeth Reitzel's resignation from the Board.

Chair Meiklejohn inquired about the Title 6 redline document from EHD. Ms. Sona stated that this could be discussed in a closed meeting or through the Board's counsel. Vice Chair Paul requested a five minute closed meeting after the meeting to discuss the matter. There was a discussion regarding the next Board meeting in December being a closed meeting.

8. Adjournment

Chair Meiklejohn adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING: December 14, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

SUBMITTED:

READ AND APPROVED:

Mr. Angel Martinez Jr.
Director
Environmental Health Department

Ms. Lauren Meiklejohn
Chair
Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Air Quality
Control Board