

AQAC MINUTES
March 1, 2016

Members/alternates present: Bert Chessin, Jan Hoem, Kathy Tonnessen, John Ottman, Dave Atkins, Beth Berlin, Ronni Flannery, Tom Roberts

Members/alternates absent: Garon Smith, Bill Flanery, Guy Hanson, Sue Spanke

Staff: Sarah Coefield

Public: None

1. **Bert Chessin called the meeting to order**
2. **Excused absences recognized** – Guy Hanson and Bill Flanery were excused
3. **Agenda approved.**
4. **February minutes were approved.**
5. **Public comment on non-agenda items**

None.

6. **Article presentation**

Bert Chessin presented an article from the February 22, 2016 issue of the New Scientist titled “Carbon emission cuts could save 300,000 US lives by 2030.” Bert said that if we cut carbon emissions, it’s going to have beneficial health impacts and could prevent nearly 300,000 deaths and save \$250 billion. Bert acknowledged many of the folks in the room know this already, but, he said, the last line in the article is really good: “People see someone die of a heart attack and don’t realize there is a connection with air pollution.” Bert said people don’t think of the impacts our environment has on our health.

Jan Hoem said she is flying to Seattle tomorrow to talk for three minutes to cover air quality and health to a group in Washington (the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission) looking at closing Colstrip 1 and 2.

Bert also brought an article about a mystery wind drought that cuts wind power generation.

There was some time before the first interview of the evening, so Ronni Flannery spoke with the group about the Clean Power Plan.

Ronni said last month she was going to do a pitch to see if the Council wanted to do something to support the governor in his efforts to implement the Clean Power Plan (CPP). However, that came to a screeching halt when the U.S. Supreme Court stayed the CPP on February 9th – a decision that was not based on the merits of the case.

Ronni said the next hearing is June 2nd and hopefully we’ll get a decision by early fall. However, we probably won’t hear a decision until sometime in 2017. Ronni said Governor Bullock has said climate change is an important issue (this, despite the fact that he has now suspended all CPP activities). She said there are more things to work on, but from what we understand from the governor’s office, they don’t have a plan right now.

Kathy Tonnessen asked if this means there’s no need for a letter from the Council at this time. Ronni said not right now, but there will be other opportunities for local groups to weigh in.

Beth Berlin asked if the court case related to the CPP process.

Ronni said a lot of the cases are more questioning EPA's authority, but the Supreme Court ruled in 2007 that EPA can regulate carbon dioxide. She said some states are going ahead with their CPP activities.

Dave Atkins said Governor Bullock dropped the advisory panel and CPP plans, but he still says climate change is an issue. Dave asked if the governor is working on other ways to address the issue.

Ronni said they've asked, but they've been told there aren't any plans at this moment.

John Ottman pointed out that the marketplace will determine where we're headed.

7. AQAC membership interviews

The group interviewed two candidates for vacancies on the Council. There was a voting member and an alternate position open. The interview questions focused on reasons for serving on the Council, strengths the candidates could add to the Council and visions for Missoula's air quality. Following the interviews, Beth Berlin made a motion to recommend the Air Pollution Control Board Chair appoint Martin Twer as a voting member on the Council and invite a candidate who missed the meeting to return to interview for the alternate position. Jan seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous voice vote. The group agreed to keep the alternate position(s) open until filled.

8. Staff report

Sarah Coefield gave the staff report. Outdoor burning opened today and there have been a little more than 1,000 permits sold so far.

Sarah said the EPA is looking over the Missoula County Second 10-Year CO Limited Maintenance Plan (LMP), and once we have their comments we will be able to move forward with adopting the LMP.

Sarah said Ben is working on industry stuff. She said they also keep finding more illegal woodstoves in the Air Stagnation Zone.

Sarah said she and Ben are also still working on the Seeley Lake quality improvement project that is targeted at reducing the number of high pollution days near the elementary school.

9. Public comment

None.

10. Select AQAC representative for next Air Board meeting update

Tom Roberts will give the AQAC update at the Board meeting.

11. Announcements, other business

None.

12. Adjourn