

Minutes

Valley AIRNow Air Quality Outreach Program, Winchester-Frederick County
May 3, 2006
Northern Shenandoah Valley Air Quality Improvement Task Force

9:30-10:30 AM
Chamber of Commerce
2 N. Cameron Street, Winchester, VA 22601

Attendees

Valley AIRNow: Tiffany Tumer, CJ Brodrick, Tiffany Newbold, Todd Hedinger
Task Force Members: Patrick Barker, Steve Kerr, Ken Jones, Jeff Rezin, Jim Giryatys, Bob Claytor
DEQ: Tom Ballou, Daniel Salkovitz
VDOT: Laurie Henley
Lung Association: Donna Reynolds

1. Update from Last Task Force Meeting

Following introductions, Tiffany directed our attention to DEQ update.

2. State Air Quality Update

Dan Salkovitz noted ozone season is underway now. The only change for forecasting procedures relates to uniformity of reporting. A few locations (e.g., Richmond) have traditionally only received alerts if they were approaching a Code Red day. Beginning this year, Code Orange is the standard for all localities.

Dan also noted that VDOT will activate interstate alert signs in event of a Code Orange forecast. (Again, that policy used to be for Code Red days only.) Steve Kerr noted that signs are located north of Winchester on I-81, and two sets are located south of Winchester on I-81 (near Woodstock). Altogether, 6 pairs of signs are located along a 60 mile stretch of interstate.

Finally, Dan noted that the design value was very low in 2005, and that so far we're on track for Winchester to have a good 2006 season.

Jeff wondered when in 2007 the Northern Shenandoah's status will be announced. Dan said it depends on the EPA—the most recent three years' of data put us below the 85 ppb standard, so we're off to a good start.

3. Review of Past Events

Dan Salkovitz was interviewed on WINC.

Presentations:

- CJ at Air Pollution Workshop in Charlottesville
- CJ at Environment Virginia in Lexington
- Chelsea at Rotary
- Chelsea at Petroleum Manufacturer's Association
- CJ at Northern Shenandoah Manufacturer's Association

Todd wrote a Forum piece for the Winchester Star. Patrick agreed to supply a copy for the records. Tiffany will write another piece, to be published week of May 15.

Bookmarks with air quality (AQ) and Valley AIRNow information were printed, and are to be distributed this coming Friday and Saturday in conjunction with a walk and a 10k race (Apple Blossom celebration). Bob announced he would represent us in race.

Valley AIRNow contributed their regular piece to the Chamber newsletter.

A sample of our AIRCorps poster was distributed. We currently have 22 members.

The teacher workshop is slated for June 26-30. A sample brochure was distributed. The workshop represents an important milestone in making some headway into the schools. Dan wondered if Angela Neilan helped with planning. Indeed, yes, along with Kris Jarvis and Ann Regn, as well as one of the two science specialists in the Department of Education.

Tiffany noted the hotline and email are up and running. Patrick wondered if any hotline calls are made. CJ noted there were 4-5 last year, and many emails from the website.

Tiffany is seeking a copy of Front Page software so she can begin updating website. It has been updated recently, with Chelsea's help.

The air quality action day (AQAD) network has had a test run; not all responses are back yet. An invitation was sent to all AQAD members for the May 19 AIRCorps recognition event (below).

Finally, Lord Fairfax Community College (LFCC) post-season survey results are being analyzed currently. Results will be offered next meeting.

4. Task Force Input

- a. We're expanding AIRCorps from business only to business, media, and health, and set membership at three levels:
 - Affiliate—member of AQAD Network only;
 - Contributor—Affiliate membership plus provide material support for Valley AIRNow;
 - Partner—Contributor membership plus year-round participation).
- Need Task Force input for area health and health-related concerns (e.g., sports teams)
- Steve mentioned the Lord Fairfax Health District. Patrick will provide contact information.
- Tiffany has already modified the media and AIRCorps packets.
- b. Clean Commute Day/AIRCorps Recognition Event
 - To take place Friday, May 19, 12:00-1:00, at the NetTech Center. Steve noted that 25 Federal workers already use the site.
 - NetTech Center is providing free service for the day.
 - Bob will help us locate and arrange for refreshments.
 - Best ways to publicize? Chamber of Commerce Newsletter, Forum piece, other newsletters (e.g., Valley Runner's newsletter). Steve will

send contact information for Wheelman's Group (Mike Perry is contact person).

- Regarding the Forum piece, Bob advises to focus on "winning team" approach. Say what the problem was, team solution, yielding stellar results. Now we want YOU to be part of our winning team. We have a positive story to tell—Jeff noted, it includes the positive results gotten by programs run by the DEQ and EPA as well—so we want people to know where we've been, where we're going, and we want them to be part of it.

c. LFCC's Future with Valley AIRNow

Because they are a commuter campus with a highly transitory student population, and because their faculty is not research oriented, LFCC had difficulty completing the phone surveys last season, and thus would like not to be asked to do so again this season. Therefore, ValleyAIRNow would like Task Force ideas as to how best to deploy LFCC's talents. Ideas floated included:

- Have LFCC's student conduct some different kind of surveying (e.g., spot surveying at gas stations). We still need pre- and post-surveying for accountability purposes; without LFCC's help, how shall we complete it?
- Permanent air quality monitoring station (perhaps using GLOBE equipment, perhaps as part of SHENAIR's expansion of monitoring program—e.g., adding a particle monitor).
- Steve noted LFCC has a new science center coming on board; CJ responded we've been talking with LFCC about that location for a monitor station. Also, there is a feasibility study underway to determine if LFCC is a best location for air quality monitoring (many factors, including security, to consider).

d. Resources: Best Used Towards a Temporary, or Permanent Footprint?

The Task Force was asked to help us make best decisions with program philosophy and resulting use of resources. Offered two ideas for discussion: GLOBE equipment for local schools, and initiate an anti-idling program along the I-81 corridor.

- Use of Valley AIRNow funds to purchase equipment for schools. Teachers will get training in GLOBE equipment, but will be more likely to use that training if they're outfitted with equipment. A number of questions were raised:
 - Patrick: What are DEQ's feelings about GLOBE? And will EPA like it relative to EAC?
 - Dan: It's an educational tool—not for monitoring.
 - Tom: It relates, but we'd prefer GLOBE to be in supporting function of Valley AIRNow, not central. SHENAIR is better suited for this level of education.
 - CJ: SHENAIR is behind it. But would it help Valley AIRNow to share some of the costs?
 - Bob: Equipment is expensive, and has a shelf life (both relative to obsolescence and interest in using). The bookmarks are effective and inexpensive. Can we

use more materials like bookmarks to get into the schools—tangibles kids can take home to their parents?

- Patrick: Please bring GLOBE equipment to June meeting, and devote some time to showing it to us. We'll decide then.

- **Anti-Idling initiative on I-81.**

Tom and Donna both would love to see anti-idling plan along I-81.

- Dan: Get UPS to join in!
- Patrick: How would it work?
- CJ: Truck stops, school districts, deliveries, fleets, etc.: set up idling network like AQAD network.
- Bob: On June 1, low sulfur diesel will be offered for voluntary use. By October 1, its use will be mandatory.
- Bob and Jeff: Both said we should pursue anti-idling program.
- Jim: Could shopping centers be induced to put up anti-idling banners/signs in their parking lots?
- Patrick: Does DEQ see anything from elsewhere we should be doing?
- Dan: Valley AIRNow is who everyone else is looking to. We're at the forefront.
- Tom: You're doing all you can, and doing it the best.
- CJ: Program would bring more collaboration, especially with Roanoke and Martinsburg.

- **Misc.**

Bob noted there are many private schools around Winchester area (e.g., Winchester Academy). Since SOL's and its tight curriculum are not an issue in private schools, we could be reaching them immediately.

- CJ: Todd will contact private schools and set up appointments.
- Also, Steve noted there is increased funding and effort going into Rideshare program right now. Might be some more opportunities for collaboration with Rideshare, later.

5. Upcoming Events

Next Task Force meeting: June 7, Chamber of Commerce.

Bookmarks in the Walking and Running events at Apple Festival.

May 11—Health and Fitness Fair Tiffany will attend.

May 15-21—National Air Quality Awareness week.

June 26-30—teacher workshop. Recruitment is ongoing.

June 30—Biannual report is due. Tiffany asked Tom to send past reports and field some report questions.