

Meeting Minutes

Valley AIRNow Air Quality Outreach Program
Winchester-Frederick County
November 1, 2006
Northern Shenandoah Valley Air Quality Improvement Task Force

9:30-10:30 AM
Winchester Regional Airport
491 Airport Road, Winchester, VA 22601

Attendees

Valley AIRNow: Tiffany Tumer

Task Force Members: Patrick Barker, Gary Dove, Jim Giraytys, Ken Jones, Steve Kerr, Jeff Rezin

DEQ: Dan Salkovitz (call-in), Tom Ballou (call-in)

Meeting began at 9:35 am.

1. Outreach Output

Since the last Task Force meeting in September, Valley AIRNow has been very busy in terms of public outreach and information dissemination. First, Tiffany has continued the recruitment campaign for the AIRCorps program by enrolling two new members—Access Independence and COTEFECO Corporation. Access Independence was a lead provided by fellow Task Force member Bob Claytor, who was thanked for his efforts despite his inability to attend today's meeting. Patrick Barker inquired about COTEFECO Corporation as he was not familiar with this company. Tiffany explained that COTEFECO was a new business to the area with their Headquarters located in Front Royal, VA. She mentioned that this company offered Emulsion to Combustion products and services to those with emissions reduction and energy efficiency applications. She encouraged the Task Force to visit the COTEFECO website at www.cotefco.com for additional information.

Valley AIRNow has also been involved in many outreach events and presentations over the past two months, including:

- 2006 Virginia Environmental Education Conference at Smith Mountain Lake. Valley AIRNow gave a PowerPoint presentation on air quality to environmental educators from across the state. Tiffany noted that this presentation was the only air quality session during the entire conference.
- Opportunity Winchester Street Festival. Steve Kerr staffed an informational booth for Valley AIRNow in conjunction with the NSVRC Rideshare Program. Steve mentioned that the day went very well despite the weather. The only problem that he encountered was the display of the Valley AIRNow banner which was too tall to hang from the table. Steve noted that several Shenandoah University students seemed to be very interested in the Valley AIRNow program.
- JMU Open House. Valley AIRNow staffed an air quality exhibit at James Madison University in September.

- Green Circle Fall Fitness Fair. Valley AIRNow inserted informational bookmarks in approximately 100 Runner's Packets.
- National AFV Day Odyssey. This was a huge event at James Madison University on October 12. Area students, including students from Millbrook and Sherando High Schools, participated in the event. From 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, the students rotated to six exhibits from all areas of sustainability located across the JMU campus. Valley AIRNow staffed an air quality exhibit which contained two interactive stations—a *Learning Resources* station and *What You Can Do* station. The Learning Resources station consisted of an explanation of GLOBE equipment and the projection of Smog City onto a large screen. Tiffany explained Smog City as an online ozone simulation game. Gary Dove inquired about where he could access the game. Tiffany provided the web address (www.smogcity.com) and encouraged the Task Force members to download the game.

The *What You Can Do* station consisted of a cubic meter model to help students visualize what ozone might look like, a stationary bike allowing the students to experience the resistance of over and under inflated tires and finally, practice tires to help the students learn how to properly measure tire pressure. Patrick asked if the students were given a survey of the Odyssey Day events. Tiffany responded that Valley AIRNow is currently in the process of developing a study to measure the effectiveness of their outreach activities that would include a student survey of Odyssey Day. This study would also include quantitative measurements of emissions reductions due to behavior change and presented at the AIRNow Conference in February.

Tiffany also mentioned that Odyssey Day received a large amount of press coverage. Several newspapers and television stations covered the event. NBC-29 in particular aired two segments of the day's activities. These media clips can be downloaded from the Valley AIRNow homepage.

Also on the subject of Outreach Output, Tiffany stated that she had several meetings with the Frederick County School Superintendent and Assistant Superintendents over the past two months. The purpose of the meetings was to expand upon Valley AIRNow's current involvement with Frederick County schools. Tiffany pitched several potential programs, including:

- Driver's Education Curriculum. This is the Clean Air Champions program that Valley AIRNow has partnered with DEQ and American Lung Association of Virginia on. Bob Wever, the Science and PE/Health Coordinator for Frederick County, is currently exploring this idea with Driver's Ed teachers.
- Installation of Idling Signs. The Superintendents seemed very interested in this proposal. A safety audit of all Frederick County schools is scheduled for this winter and they will assess possible sign locations at this time. Tiffany estimated that anywhere from 30 – 50 signs may be installed.
- School Bus Biodiesel Program. An additional meeting is scheduled in December to discuss the possibility of biodiesel use in Frederick County school buses.
- Air Quality Policy. The addition of an air quality policy to the Teacher Handbook was explored with the Superintendents. Tiffany revealed a similar policy to the Task

Force that had been implemented in California schools (see chart, Slide 5). She stated that perhaps something similar could be done with Frederick County schools on Action Days.

Dan Salkovitz inquired about the exposure times listed with each activity. He suggested that Tiffany check with the Health Department or asthma clinics to determine if these recommendations are accurate. Dan also questioned the meaning of the asterisks in the chart. Tiffany volunteered to find the original document and provide more information at a later time.

Next, Tiffany asked if any of the Task Force members would contact Dennis Kellison, the Superintendent of Winchester City Public Schools. Frederick County schools seemed to be so receptive to the above proposals that she did not want to leave Winchester City schools behind. Patrick volunteered to contact Charlie Weiss to determine if he had made contact with Mr. Kellison to date. If he had not, Patrick stated that he would contact Mr. Kellison himself.

2. Task Force Input

- **I-81 Clean Corridor Group**: Tiffany stated that DEQ had recently requested SHENAIR take the lead on a collaborative group to coordinate programs that promote sustainable practices along the I-81 corridor. Transportation would be the first area of focus due to the large foundation that is already in place. Tiffany mentioned that Valley AIRNow would be a logical member of the group due to the idle reduction program it has been developing for area members of the freight industry.

Patrick and Jeff Rezin questioned the Clean Corridor Group by asking what would be expected of Valley AIRNow. For example, would Valley AIRNow funds be involved? Discussion of this question followed, led by Jim Giryatys, Steve Kerr, and Tiffany. It seemed that although the Clean Corridor Group was still in a developmental stage, Valley AIRNow would simply serve as a model for other areas in the I-81 corridor. Hopefully these areas would choose to implement some of the programs that Winchester and Frederick County have employed. Tom Ballou also presented information on the Clean Corridor Group at the request of Patrick.

Next, Tiffany passed out several materials that had been developed for the Idle Reduction campaign, including a brochure, bookmark, and poster. Patrick suggested that a link to these materials be sent to the entire Task Force for review. He also suggested that Valley AIRNow meet with Flying J to determine if truck drivers would actually use the materials.

Jeff pointed out that Step #5 in the bookmark and poster (“Follow idling laws and guidelines in your state”) may not apply since Winchester is not an urban area. Tiffany agreed although she pointed out that these drivers are traveling to other areas of Virginia in which this tip would likely apply. Jeff suggested that the best way to approach the freight industry regarding this step, would be to point out that there are currently no idling restrictions in place for the Shenandoah Valley.

However, in the future, regulations on idling may be imposed. So do something now while we have the opportunity to take actions voluntarily!

Patrick and Jeff questioned #7 in the bookmark as well ("Fill up your tank with biodiesel"). They were unsure of how available biodiesel was in the Northern Shenandoah Valley area. Tiffany agreed to look into this.

- December EAC Progress Report. Tiffany reminded the Task Force that the next status report to the EPA was due December 31st. Updates on existing programs in the area, as well as any new projects, were discussed by the group.

3. Upcoming Events

- Next Task Force meeting: February 7, 2007 at the Winchester Regional Airport.
- Commute Smart Virginia meeting: December 7.
- EAC Status Report: December 31.
- 87th AMS Annual Meeting: January 14 – 18, 2007.
- VCE Annual Conference: January 16 – 18, 2007.
- National Air Quality Conference: February 11 – 14, 2007.

4. General Comments/Input

Patrick asked Dan and Tom to refresh his memory on what will happen after Ozone Season 2007 in terms of the Early Action Compact. Dan and Tom stated that after all of the data has been collected and analyzed, Winchester-Frederick County will be formally designated as an attainment area in early spring/late summer of 2008. Patrick then asked if efforts should continue through Ozone Season 2008. Tom responded that yes, it may be worthwhile to continue these efforts. He also mentioned that EPA may be reviewing the 8-hour ozone standard in the near future, possibly lowering it to around 70 ppb. This may be a further incentive to continue the efforts.

Jim next asked for time to update the Task Force on recent and upcoming SHENAIR events. These events included:

- Blandy Meteorological Tower. The tower was launched on October 23rd at the Blandy Farm. Jim agreed to send Tiffany the web link to view the tower's data for distribution to the Task Force.
- Oklahoma Climatological Survey. Representatives will be in the area all next week and will be meeting with several Winchester-Frederick County folks, including Barbara Van Osten.
- Science on a Sphere. To be inaugurated in early December at James Madison University.
- UVA Asthma Alert System. Ongoing.
- SHENAIR Public Meeting. Scheduled for November 6. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 10:28 am.