

Meeting Minutes

Valley AIRNow Air Quality Outreach Program
Winchester-Frederick County
Northern Shenandoah Valley Air Quality Improvement Task Force

March 5, 2008

9:30 – 10:30 AM

Winchester-Frederick County Economic Development Commission
45 East Boscawen Street, Winchester VA 22601

Attendees

Moderator: Tiffany Tumer

Task Force Members: Patrick Barker, Ken Jones, Bob Claytor, Dan Grinnell (VDOT), Dan Salkovitz (VDEQ)

Meeting began at 9:30 am.

1. News & Events: Past

- North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) Conference. Ms. Tumer announced that her attendance at the NAAEE Conference in Virginia Beach (November 14 – 17, 2007) was made possible by a VDEQ Office of Environmental Education grant. She was also invited by Virginia Clean Cities to speak on behalf of Valley AIRNow on the panel of *Alternative Fuels and Advanced Technology Vehicles*.
- Clean air art contest. The submission deadline for the clean air art contest was November 30, 2007. Ms. Tumer stated that approximately 100 pieces of artwork were submitted. Shenandoah University's Organization of Art Management Students selected six winning drawings, which were presented to the Task Force for review. This artwork can be viewed on the Valley AIRNow website at <http://www.valleyairnow.com/artcontest.htm>.
- NSV EAP semi-annual status report. The final NSV status report was submitted to VDEQ for inclusion in the state progress report to the EPA, which was due on December 30, 2007.
- City comprehensive plan update. Kelly Henshaw from Winchester City contacted Ms. Tumer for a list of air quality initiatives to include in the City Comprehensive Plan update (January 17, 2008).
- EPA press release, *Communities Reduce Smog Ahead of Schedule: January 31, 2008*. Ms. Tumer provided the Task Force with copies of the above press release, which outlined the 13 Early Action Compact areas that attained the 8-hour ozone standard earlier than expected.
- Art contest awards ceremony. The awards ceremony was held on February 1, 2008 at the Executive Protection Systems building in Winchester. Pictures from the event can be accessed from the Valley AIRNow website. The first place winner was Sophia Dorsey of Powhatan; second place was Bailey Taylor of Mountain View Christian Academy; third place was Allison Ward,

independently schooled; and honorable mentions were Edward Buzalsky (Heritage Clubhouse), Grace Baggett (Mountain View Christian Academy), and Sophia Addison (Mountain View Christian Academy).

Mr. Salkovitz suggested creating customized postage stamps displaying the student artwork. The Task Force agreed that this would be a cost-effective method of promoting the art contest as well as providing incentives for the AIRCorps program. Mr. Barker also volunteered to display the winning pieces of artwork in the Economic Development Commission's conference room.

Ms. Tumer extended her thanks to the Northern Shenandoah Valley Petroleum Association for donating money towards the contest. She received numerous emails from parents who also extended their thanks for the contest incentives.

- EPS art contest awards press release. Environmental Protection Systems developed a press release for the art contest awards ceremony, a copy of which was provided to the Task Force members.
- Federal Register. Ms. Tumer provided a copy of the federal register to the Task Force entitled, *Final 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards Designations for the Early Action Compact Areas*, which was announced on February 6, 2008.
- TV-3 Interview. As a result of the federal register announcement, TV-3 Winchester interviewed Mr. Barker. The text and video clip of the coverage can be found on the TV-3 Winchester website under *Frederick County Reaches Ozone Standard* (February 7, 2008). Mr. Barker suggested obtaining a copy of the clip by contacting the station and paying a nominal fee.
- Greater Shenandoah Valley EE Alliance meeting, February 15, 2008. Ms. Tumer reported that the Greater Shenandoah Valley Environmental Education Alliance is a networking group created several years ago for environmental education groups and organizations in the Valley. She announced that she would be attending the February meeting in Staunton.
- New Healthy Air Zone partners. New partners of the idle reduction sign initiative include Shenandoah University and Powhatan School.

2. Task Force Input – Ozone Season 2008

- Roundtable Discussion. Ms. Tumer opened the floor for discussion of wants and needs for ozone season 2008. Her ideas included:
 - Expand Healthy Air Zone sign program. Ms. Tumer stated that Valley AIRNow had installed approximately 100 signs in the area over the past year. She mentioned that there is additional money in the budget for purchasing an additional 100 signs to be distributed over the upcoming ozone season.
 - Expand AIRCorps program. Ms. Tumer announced that she would like to target health care professionals this year, including Valley

Health, Winchester Medical Center, doctor's offices, adult care centers, etc.

- *Expand AQAD membership.* Ms. Tumer suggested expanding AQAD membership by increasing the program's presence in the community (e.g. by attending community events such as Business Showcase, Apple Blossom Festival, Opportunity Winchester Street Festival, etc.).
- *Photo contest for high school students.* Wal-Mart made a late donation of \$500 last year to go toward the Valley AIRNow art contest. Ms. Tumer suggested using this money for a 2008 photography contest that would appeal to high school students. Photography courses, art classes, and student clubs could be targeted to avoid interfering with SOL requirements.

The Task Force agreed to pursue each of the items presented above. Ms. Tumer asked Mr. Grinnell if it is possible to install Healthy Air Zone signage at the Winchester rest area off of Interstate-81. Mr. Grinnell responded that he would look into it.

Mr. Barker offered to set up presentations to the Winchester City Council and Frederick County Board of Supervisors to explain the most successful Valley AIRNow education initiatives.

3. Upcoming Events

- Next Task Force meeting: April 2, 2008
- National Air Quality Conference, Portland: April 6 – 9
- JMU Earth Week, Advanced & Alternative Fuel Vehicle Ride-n-Drive: April 19
- 2008 National Air Quality Awareness Week: April 28 – May 2
- Ozone season forecasting begins: Thursday, May 1

4. General Comments/Input

Mr. Salkovitz clarified that the ozone season *forecasting* would start May 1st but actual ozone season *monitoring* begins on April 1st. He also mentioned that the EPA is expected to announce the new ozone standard over the next week or so. At this time, EPA would accept public comments. Mr. Salkovitz stated that the new standard would likely be in the 70 – 75 ppb range.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

