

Minutes

Bi-State Region Air Quality Task Force

Monday, December 10, 2018, 11:00 a.m.

Bi-State Regional Commission
Rock Island County Office Building
Third Floor Room 320
1504 Third Avenue
Rock Island, Illinois

1. Introductions and Consideration of June 29, 2018 Meeting Minutes. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Statz, who called to approve the minutes, noting a correction was needed to include Rory Davis of the Illinois EPA as an attendee of the June 29 meeting. Ms. Burns motioned to approve the minutes with this correction, and Mr. Osiny seconded. The motion carried.
2. Update from Resource Agencies on Current Air Quality Status/Issues. Matthew Johnson of the Iowa DNR reported that his agency has submitted the Infrastructure State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the 2015 ozone standard to the EPA. Notably, the state has determined that emissions in Iowa do not cause or contribute to downwind nonattainment or maintenance problems for the 2015 standard, though the EPA still must approve the plan.
3. Local Status Report and Air Quality Issues. Mr. Gardner reviewed the status report provided in the agenda packet. The design values for ozone and PM remained unchanged for Iowa from the previous meeting while Illinois had recently published updated values for 2015-2017. Ms. Gardner noted that the new values indicated a slight improvement in PM for the Illinois Quad Cities and a slight increase in measured ozone values, which the task force may want to consider for future outreach efforts.
4. Discussion of Presentation Ideas and Agenda Items for 2019. Ms. Statz reported that new interconnecting signals were going to be installed in Davenport using Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program (ICAAP) funds and offered to give a presentation on them in the summer. Ms. Gardner noted that Bi-State will be hosting an Alternative Energy Conference in February and suggested that might serve as the first quarter meeting next year, just as the Alternative Fuels Summit had served as the first quarter meeting in 2018. She also said she had identified several speakers who might be able to provide information about regulatory changes at a future meeting.
5. Other Business. Ms. Gardner noted that a funding opportunity existed for low-emissions vehicles through the VW settlement funds, which were being administered through the Iowa DOT. There are a wide range of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles that qualify for this funding, as well as non-road transportation (such as forklifts). More information is available through IDOT, and a webinar through the Iowa Clean Cities Coalition will have more information as well. The application period for the first funding cycle will close January 18, 2019. In Illinois, the funding has been prioritized for non-attainment areas and areas with high VW diesel registrations, largely around Chicago and St. Louis. The first round of funding application period has already closed. Ms. Gardner also informed the group of a recent \$50 million dollar settlement in Muscatine as part of a class action lawsuit against the Grain Processing Corporation (GPC). Most of this settlement will go to residents near the plant, but \$6.5 million will be spent on pollution controls to address smoke, odor, and haze from the plant. Lawyers representing GPC argued nuisance claims such as these had been nullified by the Clean Air Act in 1970, but this argument was rejected by the court.
6. Scheduling of Next Meeting. The group discussed potential meeting times, suggesting Monday meetings might work better than Fridays going forward. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 13 at 11 a.m., and attendance at the Bi-State Alternative Energy Conference in February was encouraged in lieu of convening a meeting in the first quarter.
7. Adjournment. Mr. Power motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Burns seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.