

# Minutes

## Bi-State Region Air Quality Task Force

Monday, June 17, 2019, 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 December 10, 2018 Meeting Minutes. The meeting was chaired by Gary Statz who called to approve the minutes. Larry Burns motioned to approve the minutes, and David Mallum seconded. The motion carried.
2. Update from Resource Agencies on Current Air Quality Status/Issues. Matthew Johnson of the Iowa DNR reported there were no current updates from his agency. Chris Schmidt of the Illinois DOT reported that the U.S. EPA has approved reclassifying the PM 2.5 status for all Illinois counties as “unclassifiable attainment,” which effectively means there are no areas of non-attainment in the state. ILDOT is rewriting its design manual to reflect the new designation.
3. Local Status Report and Air Quality Issues. Sarah Gardner reviewed the status report provided in the agenda packet. The design values for ozone and PM remained unchanged for Illinois from the previous meeting, while Iowa recently published updated values for 2015-2017. Ms. Gardner noted that the new values indicated an increase in measured ozone values, up from 62 ppb to 65 ppb, which the task force may want to continue to keep in mind for future outreach efforts. The PM standards for Iowa, meanwhile, remained the same for Muscatine and decreased slightly for the Quad Cities. Ms. Gardner also noted an item in the status report regarding the QC Rideshare platform and said Bi-State had recently been in conversation with staff at the Arsenal about this resource that could help cut down on bridge congestion and the associated emissions. She shared a brochure with the group that has been developed to explain how to sign up for the service and said if anyone knew of another organization that would like to have a presentation made to their employees to let her know.
4. Updates from the Bi-State Alternative Energy Conference. Ms. Gardner reported the conference, which served as the first quarter meeting for the Air Quality Task Force, was well attended and featured discussions of best practices for encouraging solar development, including zoning practices, comprehensive plan elements, and design features such as pollinator habitat, fencing, and vegetative inclusions. It also included a session focused on energy efficiency incentives for public buildings. Bi-State is aware of several communities that contacted their utilities requesting more information on energy efficiency rebates following the conference and of others since encouraging solar development through planning and zoning measures. The task force discussed some of the recent questions about charging higher fees to solar customers to pay for grid maintenance. Lisa Perry shared how the power purchasing agreement works for the Rock Island hydro power plant, which, similar to a solar customer, receives a credit for the power it generates that is applied to its power bill, but also still pays fees to help support grid maintenance. Mr. Schmidt reported that IDOT has recently submitted a request for a two-year feasibility study for solar installations at IDOT facilities such as rest stops, maintenance yards, and along right-of-ways, and he commended the task force for encouraging discussion of this topic.

5. Other Business. Ms. Gardner noted that Bi-State will not be receiving a Schwiebert grant in the coming year to host another conference like the Alt Energy and Alt Fuels Conference. She suggested, as an alternative, the task force could look into sponsoring an event in the Quad Cities for National Drive Electric Week, which takes place in September each year. Ms. Gardner said she had been in conversation with a city council member in Riverdale who is an electric vehicle (EV) driver who had expressed interest in such an event, which has not yet been held in the Quad Cities. Mr. Schmidt noted that the FAST Act contains a provision to designate electric corridors across the U.S., two of which (I-80 and I-74) cross through the Quad Cities. He said he would be happy to support such an event and bring literature on electric vehicles as well as recommend EV-affiliated groups/developers such as Rivian to have a booth at the event. The group discussed the idea and recommended Ms. Gardner look into the feasibility of hosting an event this year or next year.
6. Scheduling of Next Meeting. The group agreed that if they moved forward on an Drive Electric Week event in 2019, it could serve as the third quarter meeting. Otherwise, the next meeting was tentatively scheduled for September 9, 2019 at 11 a.m.
7. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.