

Minutes

Bi-State Region Air Quality Task Force

Monday, December 2, 2019, 11:00 a.m.
Bi-State Regional Commission
Rock Island County Office Building
Third Floor Room 302
1504 Third Avenue
Rock Island, Illinois

1. Introductions and Consideration of June 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes. The meeting was chaired by Gary Statz, who called to approve the minutes. Larry Burns motioned to approve the minutes, and Tanner Osing 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. Sam Shea of the Iowa DOT reported no updates from his agency as well.
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 Iowa from the previous meeting, while Illinois recently published updated values based on 2016-2018 data. Ms. Gardner noted that the new values indicated a slight increase in measured ozone values, up from 63 ppb to 65 ppb, though this is still well below the 70 ppb limit. She also noted two ozone exceedances for Rock Island recorded on June 7 and August 3 of this year. An exceedance was also recorded in Davenport on August 3. Matthew Johnson confirmed it is normal to see fluctuation in ozone measurements based on differing meteorological conditions from year to year, and an additional increase of 6 ppb would be needed to exceed the threshold, since an area is not in non-attainment until it is 1 ppb over the 70 ppb limit. He also noted the EPA is currently reviewing design standards, though an update is not expected until late 2020, and it is likely the EPA will not lower the threshold below 70 ppb. Ms. Gardner then noted Illinois also published updated 24-hour Standard and Annual Standard for PM_{2.5} at 19.2 ug/m³ and 8.0 ug/m³, both of which were lower than the previous standards using 2015-2017 data.
4. Updates from the National Drive Electric Week event. Ms. Gardner reported the collaboration with the local Sierra Club to launch a National Drive Electric Week event was successful. Many local EV owners brought their vehicles to the event, which had about 200 attendees over the course of the day. Many people stopped by the Air Quality Task Force booth to get more information on these vehicles, including emissions benefits. In addition, MetroLINK sent one of its electric buses to the event, Jerry & Sparky's participated by bringing down electric bikes, and an all-electric lawn care service called Sustainable Stewards had their equipment and solar array at the event. Based on this success, local organizers of the Quad Cities Earth Day event have approached Ms. Gardner about having an electric vehicle component to the April event. Ms. Gardner said she also anticipates another event being put together next September as well, and that on the whole this seems to have been a good idea for the Air Quality Task Force to pursue.
5. Presentation on Interconnecting Signals in Davenport. Mr. Statz shared a real-time demonstration on the new software implemented to monitor and manage the interconnected traffic signals in Davenport. The hardware/fiber connections for the signals were funded using ICAAP monies from Iowa, and the City of Davenport purchased the software. Mr. Statz showed how the signals worked together to improve the flow of traffic and reduce wait time at red lights, thus cutting down on

vehicle emissions from idling and helping to improve air quality in the Quad Cities. He pointed out the different programming for the signals based on the time of day, and showed how the system monitored for cars at intersections so that, if there was no traffic waiting on cross streets, traffic could be allowed to continue to flow on the main roadway. Currently, 60 signals representing about 40% of the city's traffic lights are connected on this system. Mr. Statz said although it was not practical or necessarily desirable to have all the signals connected through this system, ultimately about 75% of the signals could be. Those on the outlying areas on the edge of the city where the cost-benefit of running fiber optic cable out to them would not be favorable would likely be left operating independently of the interconnected system. He also noted that currently the lights on 3rd and 4th Streets do not operate on this system, but if the streets are converted from one-way to two-ways streets, they likely would be. The software has been in place for about one month, and Mr. Statz said he felt it had already shown itself to be a useful and beneficial system.

6. Other Business.

Ms. Gardner said that because the Quad Cities has remained consistently in attainment, and because updates on design values are obtained about twice a year, she proposed to the Bi-State Regional Commission leadership changing the meetings for the Air Quality Task Force to a biannual rather than quarterly schedule. The meetings will be aligned to when updates are received from Iowa and Illinois, most likely resulting in meetings in June and December. Ms. Gardner will try to arrange for a speaker to attend each meeting to provide additional information related to air quality issues. The group agreed this was a good idea.

7. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.