

Minutes

Bi-State Region Air Quality Task Force

Thursday, December 17, 2020, 11:00 a.m.
Bi-State Regional Commission
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

1. Introductions and Consideration of December 2, 2019 Meeting Minutes. The meeting was chaired by Gary Statz, who called to approve the minutes. Larry Burns motioned to approve the minutes, and Gary Statz seconded. The motion carried.
2. Update from Resource Agencies on Current Air Quality Status/Issues. Matthew Johnson of the Iowa DNR reported that EPA had finalized their review of particulate matter NAAQS and determined to retain the standards as is. It also appeared that ozone standards would be retained as is, but a final decision would not be made until early the next year. Johnson also noted that local sources in Buffalo and Muscatine continue to be included in the State Implementation Plan. Rory Davis noted that the areas most effected by nonconformance were large urban areas such as St. Louis and Chicago. He also noted that there has been an overall drop in NOx exceedances. This is likely to do with the closure of coal power plants as cleaner energy sources become more affordable. DERA Grant deadline had been extended to December 21.
3. Local Status Report and Air Quality Issues. Brandon Melton 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 based on 2017-2019 data. Melton noted that the new values indicated a slight decrease in measured ozone values, up from 65 ppb to 63 ppb, though this is still well below the 70 ppb limit. Relating to PM 2.5 design values, the Iowa QC saw no change in the 24-hour standard, which remained at 21 ug/m³, but there was a slight increase in the annual standard from 8.4 to 8.5 ug/m³ in the Iowa QC. These are still below the respective 35 and 12.0 ug/m³ standards. He also noted one PM 2.5 exceedance for Rock Island recorded on June 4. An exceedance for PM 2.5 was also recorded in Davenport on July 4 at two monitors.
4. Presentation on Extreme Weather and Transportation Resilience Report. Gena McCullough gave a presentation on this project nearing completion. The report was the result of FHWA's Resilience and Durability to Extreme Weather Pilot Program. Bi-State was one of 11 pilot projects selected in 2018. The program vision is to reduce future costs of replacement, restoration, or recovery of transportation assets over their life-cycle due to extreme weather. Its intent is to develop tools and methods to be applied, so that nationally, the transportation infrastructure is more durable and resilient. The purpose of the grant was to conduct a vulnerability assessment and determine strategies to mitigate impacts. These findings were incorporated as a resilience discussion into the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) in such a way as to be reproducible by MPOs of similar size and capabilities. Next steps will be to provide the final report to FHWA, incorporate elements into the LRTP and Planning Process, and share resilience report results. Lessons learned through this planning process were: growing staff capacity in climate knowledge, data integration, valuing resilience, proactive collaboration, mainstreaming resilience, and resilience-informed planning.
5. Other Business.
No other business.
6. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.