

Minutes

Bi-State Region Air Quality Task Force

Thursday, December 11, 2025, 2:30 p.m.
Bi-State Regional Commission
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Members Present:

Larry Burns, Rock Island County
Jim Grafton, Rock Island County
Matthew Johnson, IA DNR
Raymond Miller, Scott County Health
Department
Lisa Perry, City of Rock Island
Alan Silas, MetroLINK
Tim Smith, SSAB

Others Present:

Lisa Ahern, Bi-State Regional Commission
Gena McCullough, Bi-State Regional
Commission
Natalie Murphy, Bi-State Regional Commission
Oakley Thompson, Bi-State Regional
Commission

1. Introductions and Consideration of June 30, 2025 Meeting Minutes – Lisa Perry moved to approve the Minutes, and Alan Silas seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by consensus.
2. Update from Resource Agencies on Current Air Quality Status/Issues – Matthew Johnson of Iowa DNR provided updates for Iowa. On November 18, 2025, the EPA approved Muscatine’s new designation of attainment. On December 18, 2025, the entire state of Iowa will be in attainment. The governor of Iowa sent in recommendation that each county is in attainment with new annual SO₂ standard on December 10, 2025. The federally accepted standard for PM_{2.5} levels is currently 9mg. There are legal challenges to this standard, and a decision should be rendered from the D.C. circuits court by mid-February 2026. Per Matthew Johnson, if the standard changes, it will likely revert back to its previous 12mg standard. When asked about wildfire particulates, Mr. Johnson stated that this only becomes critical when the particulates cause the design value to exceed the standard. The process for extraordinary exceedances is only undertaken when the standard is exceeded.
3. Local Status Report and Air Quality Issues – Gena McCullough reviewed the status report provided in the agenda packet. The report is attached to these minutes.
4. Grant and Funding Opportunities – Gena McCullough read through grant funding opportunities related to alternative fuel vehicles.
5. Other Business – Gena McCullough initiated a conversation about meeting logistics. In the past, the task force met more often, but since air quality has been in good standing locally, the group has met twice a year. The group agree going forward they will meet twice a year – once in November and once in May. Gena McCullough brought up the action items of the

previous Clean Air Partnership. As members thought through the action items, discussion pivoted to work task force members are working on related to air quality.

- a. Alan Silas (MetroLINK) – MetroLINK plans to add a hybrid channel cat ferry to their fleet. The hope is the ferry will be battery electric if possible. The second major project they are pursuing relates to electric vehicle charging stations. MetroLINK has taken lead on installation of charging stations on the Illinois side of the region. Four will be installed in the Illinois Quad Cities with the first two being constructed in the spring.
- b. Tim Smith (SSAB) – SSAB has a program called zero steel that encourages their facilities to reduce CO2 emissions and their carbon footprint. On site the company uses electric vehicles as an alternative. They also use biodiesel when feasible.
- c. Lisa Perry (City of Rock Island) – The City of Rock Island’s waste water treatment facility uses biogas technology to capture methane emitted in the process to power some of the county.
- d. Raymond Miller (Scott County) – Similar to Rock Island’s waste water treatment technology, Scott County’s landfill recently implemented a similar process. Now, landfill gas will be converted into renewable natural gas.

The group decided that at the next meeting, they would like to hear more about the gas conversion at Scott and Rock Island counties.

6. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:10 p.m.