

## February Meeting Summary

The February meeting of the Hood County Clean Air Coalition was held February 7, 2024, in the Granbury Parks Department conference room at 301 North Hannaford Street in Granbury, Texas. There were five board members present which represented a quorum. Board members present included Treasurer Joe Drew, Judge Ron Massingill, Mayor Jim Jarratt, Mayor Teena Conway, and Chuck Licata. Also present at the meeting were Chris Klaus of the North Central Texas Council of Governments and Michelle McKenzie, Air Quality Program Manager.

- 1.) Treasurer Joe Drew called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.
- 2.) Local Updates were provided by Michelle McKenzie.
  - a. Review of January Meeting Summary. The January Meeting Summary was sent for board member review. There was no discussion regarding the January Meeting Summary. A motion to approve the January Meeting Summary was made by Mayor Teena Conway and seconded by Mayor Jim Jarratt. The motion passed with a vote of five ayes and no nays. The January Meeting Summary will be sent to Steve Reid's office for the development of Annual Minutes. Cost last year was \$150.
  - b. Monthly Budget Review revisions for October and November and review for December.

The October Rider 7 portion of the Budget Review was revised to reflect \$10,528.41 was received in reimbursement from NCTCOG for the Rider 7 Interlocal Agreement. A motion to approve the revised October Rider 7 budget review was made by Chuck Licata and seconded by Mayor Teena Conway. The motion passed with a vote of five ayes and no nays.

The November Clean Air Funds portion of the Budget Review was revised to include the \$25,000 donation for FY 24 from the City of Granbury which is paid out monthly. As the November Clean Air Funds portion of the Budget Review was approved subject to this revision, a vote was not held.

The December Budget Review includes no expenses for the Rider 7 NCTCOG Interlocal Agreement but reflects a balance of \$2,635.12 remaining to be reimbursed. Clean Air Funds were used to pay \$5,148.27 for salary and \$2,253.09 for fringe, \$23.99 for the Adobe license and \$105.00 for the post office renewal. Total expenses for December were \$7,530.35 paid from the Clean Air Funds. The City of Granbury donation was received in the amount of \$2,083.33 for the Clean Air Funds leaving a balance was \$54,318.78. It was noted that the check for the post office box was not received by the post office in December or January, so the check was cancelled, and a new check was requested in January including a late fee. These actions will be noted with the January Budget Review. A motion to approve the December Budget Review was made by Mayor Jim Jarratt and seconded by Chuck Licata. The motion was approved with a vote of five ayes and no nays.

Summary Approved:



Date:

March 6, 2024

c. The annual tax filing is due for the Coalition. Previously this was done through Molly Willsher and Associates. Last year the expense was \$95 for the filing of the 990 N.

d. Reports

i. The DFW Air Quality Improvement Plan public meeting in Granbury was held January 9<sup>th</sup> in the Granbury City Council Chambers. NCTCOG sent several staff members to present and answer questions in an open house format following the presentations. Those present were invited to take a survey regarding possible projects to be included in the plan and note the best locations for EV charging in Hood County on a map. There were about a dozen participants in the meeting. Thank you to the City of Granbury for allowing NCTCOG to host the meeting in the City Council Chambers and to Board Member Chuck Licata and numerous city staff in helping to get the meeting coordinated and set up.

ii. Air North Texas Meeting. The Air North Texas Coalition meeting was held January 18, 2024. Following introductions and a review of the November meeting, the City of Grand Prairie provided an overview of their air quality activities including monitoring, oversight, and education. They incorporate Air North Texas messaging in their city website, newsletters, and social media. They produce newsletters for water utilities, childcare, automotive, and food services. Their Clean Air Action Day campaign included a social media campaign, city staff event, contest for city employees, and an industry challenge that included 12 industrial participants that were recognized at their Environmental Awards luncheon. They also held an art contest for kids for ways to improve air quality. They offer promotional items like chip clips, air fresheners for cars, t-shirts, and a ball game that features balls that follow the air quality index colors. They attended or hosted 17 community events including an Earth Day event. The Air Quality Update was presented by Jenny Narvaez. The update included information about the review of the particulate matter standard that is still being completed. There are six particulate matter monitors in the DFW region with one in Tarrant County and one in Dallas County that are at risk of being nonattainment under the new standard. The ozone design value for DFW for 2021-2023 is 81 parts per billion. After just being reclassified as serious, they will likely be reclassified as severe for the 2008 ozone standard as they have not met the 75 parts per billion standard. State modeling for ozone levels is not matching what is happening at the monitors and more work is likely to be done to see what is causing that to happen. The new attainment date will be 2027 under the serious classification. If the new attainment date is not met, section 185 fees will likely be implemented for point sources in the DFW region including power plants and cement kilns. The section 185 fees would occur annually beginning in 2028 and continuing until the area reaches attainment. Estimates are that the fees would amount to about \$45 million per year. The next Air North Texas meeting is scheduled for March 21<sup>st</sup>.

iii. DFW Clean Cities Advisory Committee Meeting. Michelle McKenzie, Air Quality Program Manager for the Hood County Clean Air Coalition was

named to the DFW Clean Cities Advisory Committee in 2023. Due to communication issues, she was not able to attend the first Committee meeting held in the Fall of 2023. The second DFW Clean Cities Advisory Committee meeting was held January 22, 2024, at NCTCOG offices. Following introductions and a brief review of the Guiding Principles, elections were held for the Chair and Vice Chair positions. Dr. James Wood from DFW Airport was elected as Chair and Jose Correa was elected as Vice Chair. Following the election, the Guiding Principles were voted on and approved. There was a discussion about the Strategic Plan and suggestions for revision. Committee members are asked to send any further suggestions or comments by February 2 and DFWCC staff will incorporate these in the document to be sent out by February 16<sup>th</sup>. A meeting date of March 4<sup>th</sup> was voted on and approved to consider the Strategic Plan. The next regular quarterly meeting will be held in April. Meetings are expected to be in person, but a hybrid option may be included. In the DFWCC activity update, they have received approval for four grants including for new EV infrastructure, fixing broken EV charging stations, resiliency in EV charging, and for five heavy-duty hydrogen fueling stations in the Texas Triangle.

- iv. EPA Advance Partner Meeting. The EPA Advance Partner meeting was held on January 24, 2024. Presentations and discussion were about coalitions and how to build and support them. Anton Cox from the Capital Area Council of Governments presented the history of the Central Texas Clean Air Coalition. Austin is the largest city in the United States that has not been designated nonattainment, but their current design value is above the 2015 Ozone Standard with a value of 71 parts per billion. Their coalition was formed in 2002 and began with 12 members. They worked together to grow and now have eight ozone monitors in their region. They focus on their five urban counties for air quality planning but oversee a total of 10 counties. Their cost of nonattainment study won an award, but they now believe the estimate of \$20-43 billion over a 20-year span was underestimated. By 2023, the coalition had grown to 20 coalition members and nine ozone monitors. They also added particulate matter to their monitoring program and, through an EPA grant, added eight PM sensors to the region. They are working, with the City of Austin taking the lead, to develop a plan for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. The Environmental Protection Network, EPN, serves an advisory role for technical assistance for groups like coalitions. There are a series of funding opportunities that are opening that will require partnerships and coalitions to be successful including the CPRG program. The discussions stressed the importance of outreach to community organizations as well as local governments and industry to grow the coalition and incorporate community benefits into the planning process.
- e. There was nothing to report at this time for the social media accounts, but work continues developing the social media accounts.

### 3.) EPA Updates

- a. Reconsideration of the PM NAAQS – EPA’s final decision is still at the Office of Management & Budget (OMB), undergoing inter-agency reviews. We expect the review process to end “imminently” and expect the EPA Administrator’s signature on the final decision shortly thereafter. An email from Mia South with EPA was received the morning of the meeting announcing that the new PM 2.5 standard was set at 9 micrograms per meter cubed. The new standard may result in Dallas and Tarrant counties being designated nonattainment for the PM2.5 standard. More information will be provided as it is made available.
- b. Review of the Secondary NO<sub>2</sub>/SO<sub>2</sub>/PM NAAQS – EPA released the final Policy Assessment earlier this month. There is a Consent Decree addressing EPA’s timing to propose and finalize their decision on this NAAQS. EPA has asked the litigants to extend the date for signature on the proposal from February 9, 2024, to April 9, 2024. The proposal will be submitted to OMB soon.
- c. Review of the Primary NO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS – nominations for members on the CASAC Primary NO<sub>2</sub> panel were announced January 24, 2024. The next step will be volumes 1 + 2 of the Integrated Review Plan – EPA expects to release these documents this spring.

#### 4.) Regional Updates

- a. Local Government energy use reporting due in March. A Power Point presentation from NCTCOG was sent to board members with information about the reporting that is due.
- b. NCTCOG received \$15M from the Charging & Fueling Infrastructure Program to build EV chargers across the 16-county area. It will be a while before work gets underway, but once it’s underway NCTCOG is interested in following up on any HCCAC interest in new installations.
- c. Please note upcoming DFW Clean Cities events at [www.dfwcleancities.org/events](http://www.dfwcleancities.org/events)
- d. The DFW Clean Cities Annual Survey is open- [DFW Clean Cities Annual Report](#)
- e. The Dallas-Fort Worth Air Quality Improvement Plan is moving forward for Regional Transportation Council approval on Feb 8 then on to NCTCOG Executive Board approval on February 22. By Friday the RTC item will be posted at and will include: [North Central Texas Council of Governments - Regional Transportation Council \(nctcog.org\)](#) An outline of the plan, a summary of public engagement/feedback, and a listing of proposed Transportation measures with preliminary info on how much grant money we may request in the subsequent step of the program. There was a virtual workshop about the water/wastewater/solid waste sectors held on February 6<sup>th</sup>.
- f. Rider 7 Update: The Cresson monitoring project was successful in collecting a robust NO, NO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, and O<sub>3</sub> dataset from June 17 to November 15, 2023, with measurements successfully achieved 92 percent over this period. Overall meteorological parameter measurements spanned from August 15 to November 15. Wind speed and direction were made 88 percent of the sampling period. The project successfully collected and analyzed a combined total of 19 ambient samples for VOC analysis at Hood and Hunt County. At both sampling sites, diurnal trends of nitrogen compounds exhibited larger variability and higher concentrations from evening into the morning, followed by lower concentration and lower variability during the day and early evenings.

NO concentration increased during morning traffic periods. The fluctuation in NO, NO<sub>2</sub>, and NO<sub>x</sub> is likely driven by a combination of meteorological conditions (e.g., boundary layer height, day-time photochemical activity) and emission sources. The acquisition of a high-quality dataset for NO<sub>2</sub> data may be useful for comparison with satellite-based measurements of NO<sub>2</sub> data in the future. More in depth analysis of collected nitrogen gas species measurements, ozone, and VOC measurements with additional back trajectory analysis can provide better understanding of chemical processes, sources, and transport of pollutants in creating high ozone event days. Additionally, longer sampling of these field measurements can provide a better characterization of these locations and provide spatial and temporal understanding of ozone chemistry in the region. In a discussion of the FY24/25 Rider 7, with Hood County currently at a 75-ppb design value, photochemical modeling to identify issues causing the higher readings the last two summers may be beneficial and the Rider 7 funds would provide needed funding for this. In other potential projects, NCTCOG staff reported that TCEQ did like the crash assessment along 377 project idea. Other suggestions included additional monitoring including continued monitoring at perimeter nonattainment counties, with possible monitoring near transit developments and freight hubs. There was also a discussion regarding the need to look at previous modeling studies to see what previous recommendations were.

In preparation for 89<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session (2025), there was a discussion of what changes can be made to Rider 7 rules including flexibility of what funds are eligible for including allowing for implementation especially for fueling infrastructure projects and anti-idling equipment.

- g. TCEQ Alternative Fueling Facilities Program  
The Alternative Fueling Facilities Program grant opened on January 23, 2024. The grant has \$12 million available with \$6 million available for CNG and LNG and \$6 million for other fuel types. For CNG/LNG projects, \$2 million is available for small businesses and \$4 million is available for all others. For other fueling, the breakdown is the same. Fueling types include CNG, LNG, CNG with LNG, hydrogen, biodiesel, biodiesel blends, propane, electricity, and methanol (85% by volume). Stations can be public or private with public preferred. Public stations must be open eight hours a day, at least 8am-6pm for at least five days per week. Maximum awards are \$400,000 for CNG or LNG, \$600,000 for combined CNG/LNG, or up to 50% of the total cost or up to \$600,000 for other fuels. Allowed costs include equipment, supplies and materials, construction (including planning and engineering), and contract services. Applications are due by March 22, 2024. The operation period is 3 years and will require annual reporting for that time.
- h. TCEQ Clean School Bus Program is scheduled to open in February.
- i. Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program All-electric Grant
- j. Other funding opportunities are listed at [nctcog.org/aqfunding](http://nctcog.org/aqfunding).

5.) Other Discussion.

6.) Adjourn until March 6<sup>th</sup>.