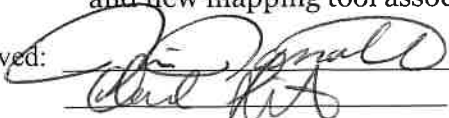


## March Meeting Summary

The March meeting of the Hood County Clean Air Coalition was held March 6, 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 Board Chairman Mark Franco, Mayor Jim Jarratt, Judge Ron Massingill, Joe Drew, and Chuck Licata. Also present at the meeting were Crystal Moore of United Way, Zak Monroe of Heine Propane, and Michelle McKenzie, Air Quality Program Manager.

- 1.) Chairman Mark Franco called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.
- 2.) Local Updates
  - a. Review of February Meeting Summary. The February Meeting Summary was sent for board member review. There was no discussion about the Summary. A motion to approve the February Meeting Summary was made by Mayor Jim Jarratt and seconded by Judge Ron Massingill. The motion passed with a vote of five ayes and no nays.
  - b. Mayor Teena Conway resigned from office after the February Cresson City Council meeting. Attorney Steve Reid said the Annual Minutes will not need to be amended as the action happened after the Annual Meeting. The Coalition will need to follow protocol to fill the open Board Member position and elect a new secretary.
  - c. The January Budget Review includes no expenses for the Rider 7 NCTCOG Interlocal Agreement and reflects the final reimbursement of \$2,635.12 was received in January. A new budget summary has been created for the calendar year 2024. Clean Air Funds were used to pay \$3,432.18 for salary and \$1,839.00 for fringe, \$23.99 for the Adobe license, \$25 for the post office late fee as the check for payment was late in the mail, and \$75.84 for travel expenses for the DFW Clean Cities Technical Advisory Committee meeting. Total expenses for January were \$5,396.01 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 \$51,006.10. In financial documents it appears funds in the amount of \$2,000 for the Clean Air Coalition were approved at the February Cresson City Council meeting and funds were received by the City of Granbury in February. This funding will be reflected in the February budget summary. A motion to approve the January Budget Review was made by Chuck Licata and seconded by Joe Drew. The motion passed with a vote of five ayes and no nays.
  - d. Documents for the filing of the 990 N tax form were taken to the CPA's office of Molly Willsher and Associates on Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Documents reflecting the filing were picked up on March 1<sup>st</sup>. The invoice was in the amount of \$120.
  - e. Reports
    - i. The EPA held a webinar on February 21, 2024, to discuss a memorandum and new mapping tool associated with the new PM2.5 standard of 9

Summary Approved:



Date:

5-01-2024

5-1-2024

micrograms per meter cubed. In the webinar, EPA staff noted that the designation process is outlined in the Clean Air Act Section 107 d. Areas are classified as attainment, nonattainment, or unclassifiable. The process includes four steps: states submit designation recommendations to EPA within 12 months of the new standard, EPA notifies states of any modifications required with 120-day letters, states have 60 days to submit more information for the 120-day letters, and final designations are required within two years of the announcement of the new standard. The memorandum for the new PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard is available on the particulate matter website for EPA. It includes information and the schedule for violating areas and those areas contributing to violations. The air quality data that will be used for recommendations is the design values associated with monitoring data from 2021-2023. The 2023 data should be certified in May 2024. Final designations will be based on monitoring data from 2022-2024. The boundaries of an area are determined by five factors: air quality data from regulatory monitors, emissions and emission related data, meteorology, geography, and jurisdictional boundaries. Exceptional event submissions will be considered. The schedule is the final rule was published 2/7/2024, states will certify data in May 2024, state recommendations will be due by 2/7/25 and final designations will be due by 2/7/26. Exceptional events filings will be due by 1/1/2025. The mapping tool includes the five factors used for determining boundaries. It also includes CEJEST to identify disadvantaged communities.

In the question-and-answer session, EPA noted that the meteorological data Hy splits are 24-hour wind trajectories. Exceptional event submissions will need to go to regional representatives. Air quality sensors won't be used for determining designations but may be used for determining boundaries. Design values will be inputted into the mapping tool as soon as the 2023 data is certified. Information on the mapping tool is at the county level and will be based on 2022 modeling platform based on the 2020 National Emissions Inventory.

- ii. The EPA Advance Partner Meeting was February 28<sup>th</sup>. The EPA Advance Partner meeting was held on February 28, 2024. Presentations and discussion were about a research project on the impacts of decarbonization on reducing air quality health disparities in Georgia. The introduction to the presentation noted significant reductions in NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, CO, PM, and VOC over the last several years. While places across the U.S. have come out of nonattainment, 85 million people still live in counties that are nonattainment. The EPA GLIMPSE model and COBRA tool were used in the analysis along with the EPA environmental justice tool. They set a target of 80% reduction by 2050 for carbon dioxide emissions in Georgia to see what the impacts would be. Deep decarbonization reflected decreases in CO, NH<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, but not PM. This was a result of the inclusion of carbon capture sequestration that increased PM. Conclusions were that decarbonization resulted in co-reduction of air pollution emissions. Economic benefits of \$410 million were also reflected in the results over 97% of the Georgia counties.

Disbenefits were small and a function of growth. They are continuing the project and looking closer at the environmental justice benefits.

- f. Zak Monroe of Heine Propane and Alternative Fuel Innovations presented propane vehicle options and potential for a new propane alternative fueling location along Highway 377. In the presentation, Zak noted that as an alternative fuel, propane is cost-effective, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, promotes sustainability, is lower maintenance, and contributes to domestic security as it is locally sourced. Currently, propane fuel costs can offer about \$1 per gallon in savings. He discussed a towing company in Weatherford that he has worked with as a case study that has been successful. The company is looking at adding an additional 18 propane powered trucks. Propane offers emission reductions and economic benefits.

### 3.) EPA Updates

- a. On February 7, 2024, EPA strengthened the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter (PM NAAQS). The EPA is setting the level of the primary (health based) annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard at 9.0 micrograms per cubic meter to provide increased public health protection, consistent with the available health science. EPA is not changing the current:
  - primary and secondary (welfare-based) 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards,
  - secondary annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard, and
  - primary and secondary PM<sub>10</sub> standards.

EPA is also revising the Air Quality Index and making changes to the monitoring network.

Fact sheets, a presentation, maps, and data tables are posted at

<https://www.epa.gov/pm-pollution/final-reconsideration-national-ambient-air-quality-standards-particulate-matter-pm>.

There is a notice of opportunity to comment on the proposed update of PM<sub>2.5</sub> data from T640/T640X PM mass monitors: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2024-02-15/pdf/2024-02935.pdf>; comments must be received by March 15, 2024.

- b. Review of the Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS): the Final Integrated Science Assessment is posted: <https://assessments.epa.gov/isa/document/&deid=359536>. We expect to see a draft Policy Assessment with exposure and risk analyses (if/as warranted) later in 2024. For more info: <https://www.epa.gov/naaqs/lead-pb-air-quality-standards>.
- c. Review of the Secondary NO<sub>2</sub>/SO<sub>2</sub>/PM NAAQS: EPA's proposed decision on the secondary NAAQS has been submitted to OMB for review. EPA expects to release the proposal this spring. The final policy assessment is posted: <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-01/noxsoxpm-final.pdf>. For more info: <https://www.epa.gov/naaqs/nitrogen-dioxide-no2-and-sulfur-dioxide-so2-secondary-air-quality-standards>.

### 4.) Regional Updates

- a. 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, they are interested in following up on any HCCAC interest in new installations.
- b. Please note upcoming DFW Clean Cities events at [www.dfwcleancities.org/events](http://www.dfwcleancities.org/events). Regional EV Infrastructure Working Group

meeting March 20<sup>th</sup> from 2-3 p.m. Email [cleancities@nctcog.org](mailto:cleancities@nctcog.org) to join the working group. .

- c. The DFW Clean Cities Annual Survey is open – please let us know what the fleets in Hood County are interested in. The survey is due March 11<sup>th</sup>. [DFW Clean Cities Annual Report](#)
  - d. The Dallas-Fort Worth Air Quality Improvement Plan document is available at <https://www.publicinput.com/nctcog-cprg>. The final plan was submitted to EPA on March 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - e. Rider 7 Update: Chris Klaus from NCTCOG was at the February HCCAC meeting and provided a presentation that we did not have time for further detail of the Cresson monitoring project. While Chris was here, there was a discussion about the need for the current Rider 7 funding. TCEQ did like the crash assessment along 377. With the high ozone design value, more photochemical modeling may be needed. Chris said he would follow up after having discussions with NCTCOG staff and Ramboll to discuss the cost of updated modeling and if it would be eligible under Rider 7. In addition, the suggestion of additional monitoring at perimeter nonattainment counties; possible monitoring near transit developments and freight hubs. The Air Quality Program Manager is working on researching what was suggested at the end of the last modeling study. There was also a discussion in preparation for 89<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session (2025), what changes can be made to Rider 7 rules? Flexibility of what funds are eligible for –> expanding to more than modeling and monitoring –> allowing for implementation, but not those items the Governor dislikes.
  - f. TCEQ Alternative Fueling Facilities Program  
Applications are due by March 22, 2024. The operation period is 3 years and will require annual reporting for that time.
  - g. TCEQ Clean School Bus Program is open until October 14<sup>th</sup> or while funds are available. The program is first come-first served.
  - h. Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program All-electric Grant is still open.
  - i. Other funding opportunities are listed at [nctcog.org/aqfunding](http://nctcog.org/aqfunding).
- 5.) Other Discussion. Ozone season began on March 1<sup>st</sup>. The current fourth highest reading at the Hood County monitor is 49 and the current design value is 69 parts per billion.
- 6.) Adjourn until April 3<sup>rd</sup>.