

## April Meeting Summary

The April meeting of the Hood County Clean Air Coalition was held April 3, 2024, in the Granbury Parks Department conference room at 301 North Hannaford Street in Granbury, Texas. There were three board members present which did not represent a quorum. Board members present included Chairman Mark Franco, Joe Drew, and John Campbell. Also present were Lisa Clement of the Cresson City Council, Lance LaCour of the City of Granbury, Bill Black, and Michelle McKenzie, Air Quality Program Manager.

1.) Chairman Mark Franco called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m.

### 2.) Local Updates

- a. The City of Cresson has recommended Lisa Clement to represent them on the board for the Hood County Clean Air Coalition. The appointment will be considered when a quorum is present. The HCCAC board will need to elect a new Secretary when a quorum is present.
- b. The approval of the March Meeting Summary will be considered when a quorum is present.
- c. The approval of the Monthly Budget Review for February will be considered when a quorum is present. As the Rider 7 Interlocal Agreement is completed, all expenses will be from the Clean Air Funds budget. For February, expenses were \$3,432.18 for salary and \$1,533.33 for fringe, \$23.99 for Adobe license, and \$25.46 for office supplies (flash drives). Total expenses for February were \$5,015.18. Donations were received in February from the City of Granbury in the amount of \$2,083.33 and from the City of Cresson in the amount of \$2,000.
- d. Reports
  - i. In the ozone season report, for 2024 there has been one moderate day and no exceedance days. The fourth highest reading is 50 and the design value is 70 ppb.
  - ii. Joe Drew sent a summary report for the emissions proposed for the new Wolf Hollow Power Plant. In reviewing the 2020 National Emission Inventory by EPA, a table was created showing the increase in the emission inventory for Hood County related to this proposed project. Chris at NCTCOG provided some thoughts about the project: the proposed NOx is 289.27 tons per year with 8 new peaking generators leaving the question of when these are most likely to be utilized and how much of the NOx emissions is likely to be generated during ozone season. He also asked what a photochemical model would suggest the ozone impacts to a monitor whose design value is already over the 2015 ozone standard, can the county/ region tolerate more NOx emissions, and what is the tradeoff if their permits were not granted i.e. more rolling brownouts, limited excess capacity during hot summer months with 140,000 people moving to DFW annually. In the previous photochemical

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modeling that was done for the previous expansion at Wolf Hollow, the modeling showed the increase in ozone in the southwest corner of Hood County for high ozone days likely because the county high ozone days typically occur when the winds are out of the north during the summer months. There could be a greater ozone impact on the counties to the north when the winds are from the south during the summer months. The air quality program manager reached out to TCEQ to find out if the public comment period is still open and for how long it is open so that we can provide a statement. TCEQ expects there to be a public meeting followed by a second public comment period. A draft comment will be sent to board members for review.

- iii. The Air North Texas Coalition meeting was held March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Following introductions and a review of the January meeting, Daniela Tower presented the Air Quality Update. Ozone season began on March 1<sup>st</sup> and as of March 18<sup>th</sup>, the design value for the DFW region is 70 parts per billion with Granbury as the current controlling monitor. The ozone numbers have been going up in the region since the 20-22 design value years. The 70-ppb design value will go up in summer. There have been no exceedances of the ozone standards in 2024. While the Hood County monitor is at 70 ppb, there are five other monitors at 69 ppb. The PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard was lowered to 9 micrograms per meter cubed. There are currently eight PM monitors in the region with the monitor in Ellis County being moved for construction. After it is relocated, the data will not be usable for three years to allow for the three-year averaging at the new location. There are two monitors in Tarrant County that do not meet the new PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard (9.5 at the Harris Athletic Center and 10.4 at the California Parkway monitor) and one monitor in Dallas County (9.6 at the Convention Center) that does not meet the new standard. There are two additional monitors that are currently reading 8.9. It is estimated that 112 counties across the United States that will not meet the new standard with most being on the West Coast. EPA looks at five factors in the designation process: air quality data (the design value), emission and emission-related data, meteorology (weather patterns and transport), geography/topography, and jurisdictional boundaries (the planning and organizational structure of an area). New guidelines have not been published yet but are expected in the next one to two months. It is possible that with the jurisdictional boundary factor, more than just the two counties may be designated non-attainment. Initial area designations happen two years after the final rule. NCTCOG may use the new PM<sub>2.5</sub> Rider 7 funds to increase monitoring. Following the air quality update, information from the Air North Texas annual report was presented along with website and social media quantification and administrative announcements. The next meeting will be in-person at NCTCOG offices on May 16<sup>th</sup>.
- iv. Advance Partner Meeting Check in meeting was held March 26<sup>th</sup>. On March 26, 2024, the Air Quality Program Manager met through TEAMS with Mia South coordinator for the EPA Advance Program and Randy Pitre with EPA. The discussion included the proposed permit for the new

Wolf Hollow Power Plant, the need for assistance in training to use EPA tools to calculate emission reductions, and the topic of exceptional events for the next Partner meeting scheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup>. Mia suggested the use of a cost benefit analysis for discussions of a nonattainment designation. Randy suggested participation in the PM Advance program with the new PM2.5 standard. Mia will provide more information about steps that would need to be taken to participate in the PM Advance program. The discussed with the new standard that a PM season similar to the ozone season may be part of discussions going forward and the need to address questions about background and the impact of wildfires on PM monitoring. Board members' interest in adding participation in PM Advance program will be considered when a quorum is present.

- v. The EPA Advance Partner meeting was held on March 27, 2024. Presentations and discussion were an overview of the exceptional events rule, exceptional events requirements, and details of recently developed tools and resources including data visualization tools, tiering structure for PM2.5 events, and a completed prescribed fire demonstration. The designation process and dates for the new PM2.5 standard are the final rule was established on February 7, 2024, data for 2023 will be certified May 2024, states are due to submit designation recommendations by February 7, 2025, data for 2024 due to be certified and EPA to calculate design values in May 2025, EPA will notify states of any modifications 120 days before final designations in mid-October 2025, the 30 day comment period for the modifications ends mid-November 2025, states must submit any additional information by mid-December 2025, and final designation decisions due February 6, 2026. The exceptional events schedule is notification of submittal is due by January 1, 2025, demonstration submittal is due February 7, 2025, initial notification about demonstration due September 30, 2025, and final area designations due February 6, 2026. New EPA tools can help with exceptional events identification including data visualization and comparison tools that offer tile plots to help identify days that could qualify for exceptional events and determining if they have regulatory significance, a tiering for PM2.5 and wildland fire events to help determine what level of support would be needed, and a wildland prescribed fire demonstration conducted in Nevada County, California to help with developing an exceptional events demonstration. In the question and answer for the discussion, questions included as exceptional events are happening more frequently, are they still considered exceptional events? The answer being that exceptional events are defined in the rule as out of agency's control or not reasonably controllable. The discussion also included if PM will be subject to seasons like ozone with the answer being that wildfire season could be considered a "PM season", but there is no definition of a PM season right now. The last question was how is international transport considered? The tools help identify when monitors are impacted by events including international events like the Canadian wildfires last year. The years to be considered for the new PM2.5 designation process are 2022-2024. In other program updates,

regional EPA contacts will be reaching out to Advance partners regarding their updates and suggestions for their plans going forward.

- 3.) There were no EPA updates for this meeting.
- 4.) Regional announcements included that the DFW Air Quality Improvement Plan's Primary Climate Action Plan was sent to EPA March 1<sup>st</sup> and the application for the Implementation Grant was sent to EPA on April 1<sup>st</sup>. EPA expects to notify grant recipients in the fall of 2024.
- 5.) There was no other discussion.
- 6.) Adjourn until May 1<sup>st</sup>.