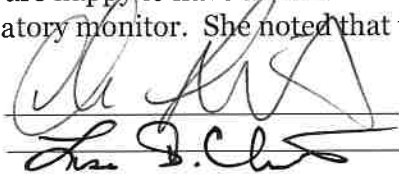


## August Meeting Summary

The August meeting of the Hood County Clean Air Coalition was held on August 7, 2024, in the Granbury Parks Department office at 220 North Travis Street in Granbury, Texas. There were five board members present and one participating virtually through Zoom which represented a quorum. Board members present included Chairman Mark Franco, Mayor Jim Jarratt, Mayor Pro-Tem Lisa Clement, Chuck Licata, and John Campbell with Joe Drew participating virtually. Also present were Darlene DuVal, Madelyn McKenzie, Zak Monroe, Bill Black, and Michelle McKenzie, Air Quality Program Manager.

- 1.) Chairman Mark Franco called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.
- 2.) Local Updates were provided by Michelle McKenzie
  - a.) Consideration of Communications Officer Position for HCCAC Board. With the inclusion of virtual access for meetings and the upcoming development and maintenance of a new website and affiliated social media, it was proposed to add a communications officer position on the board to help oversee these media additions. Motion to create a Communications Officer position to be filled by board member Chuck Licata was made by Mark Franco and seconded by John Campbell. The motion was approved with a vote of six ayes and no nays.
  - b.) Consideration of changing the currently open Representative of Tolar board member position to open member position. It has been over a year, and we have not been able to make any contact with representatives of the Tolar City Council. In the interest of keeping the board a nine-member panel, it was suggested to consider changing the ninth board position from a representative of Tolar to an open board position. A motion to change the representative of Tolar board member position to an open elected board position was made by Chuck Licata and seconded by Mayor Jim Jarratt. The motion was approved with a vote of six ayes and no nays. Nominations to fill the position will be made at the September meeting.
  - c.) Rider 7 Update. The NCTCOG Executive Board approved the Resolution for the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Granbury on July 25<sup>th</sup> in the amount of \$288,374, which includes funds remaining from the previous Rider 7 grant. The Statement of Work between NCTCOG and TCEQ has been signed. Work is ongoing to coordinate locations of monitors for the monitoring project. The latest planning is for five monitors to the north, south, east, and west of the regulatory monitor and one in Somervell County at the border with Hood County to measure southern transport of ozone and NOx emissions. The north and south monitors will measure ozone and NOx while the east and west monitors will only measure ozone. Contacted Sharla Caro with Rancho Brazos Community Center. They are happy to have a monitor located there for the eastern side of the regulatory monitor. She noted that they have air quality concerns because they

Summary Approved: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

8-4-24

d.) have a relatively high number of youths with asthma in the community. Joe was going to check with Vista's lease owner for the western side. Working on contacting the Somervell County Judge's office, a contact for Rocking X Ranch and a contact for the Ken Hill Foundation. No real work can be started until the contract between NCTCOG and TCEQ is fully executed and the Interlocal Agreement between NCTCOG and the City of Granbury is fully executed.

e.) Reports

- i. Ozone Season update. In the ozone season update, there have been two exceedance days since the start of ozone season and 32 moderate readings. The design value is 76 ppb.
- ii. The Air North Texas Coalition meeting was held July 18, 2024. Following introductions and a review of the May meeting, Daniela Tower presented the Air Quality Update. The air quality update will now be more technical with future information including monitoring and data, implications for health, affected locations overview, and role of air quality modelling. The current design value for the DFW region is 80 parts per billion and there have been 14 exceedance days over 71 parts per billion and 3 exceedances days over 86 parts per billion. The region is being reclassified as "serious" for the 2015 standard effective July 22, 2024, with an attainment date of August 3, 2027. The PM2.5 standard has been lowered to 9 micrograms per meter cubed. The 24-hour standards for PM2.5 and PM10 have been retained. Preliminary data indicates that Dallas and Tarrant counties will be designated non-attainment for the new PM2.5 standard. Ellis county is also at risk with a potential design value currently of 9.2 micrograms per meter cubed. The non-attainment designations are based on a five-factor analysis including air quality data, precursor emissions of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, VOC, and NH<sub>3</sub> and direct emissions, meteorology, geography and topography, and jurisdictional boundaries. The attainment date years for the design value will be 24/25/26. If the region doesn't meet the standard by the attainment date, 185 fees will be applied to stationary sources and will be collected annually until the area comes back into attainment. The state has not said how the fees will be collected. The fees would go back to the state, but they have not said what would be done with the fees. The hope is that the funds will go back to the region for air quality efforts. Clean Air Action Day had 738 participants and 2,049 total commitments. Quantification results were reviewed for the Air North Texas website. In partner updates, Grand Prairie is including Air North Texas in their Cycling with the Mayor event and Dallas recorded a video on ozone with Arlo and posted it to their social media accounts. The next meeting is scheduled for September 19<sup>th</sup>.
- iii. The DFW Clean Cities Technical Advisory Committee meeting was held July 22, 2024, at the NCTCOG offices. Following introductions, there was discussion about the redesignation process for DFW Clean Cities. A stakeholder meeting was held on June 18<sup>th</sup> to get feedback. A webinar with DOE will be scheduled in October 2024. The last designation was completed in 2019. Fuel importance is listed as primary being zero emission vehicles, secondary being CARB and low NO<sub>x</sub> options, and the third being other alternative fuels. The proposed highlights are DART and DFW International Airport's use of renewable natural gas and the IH-45 ZEV plan. These projects are driven by the need to reduce criteria

pollutants of ozone and particulate matter. In a discussion about what fleets are seeing as challenges, Frisco and Dallas are leaning towards hybrid vehicles because they see issues with weight concerns for towing, safety in crashes, and difficulty in getting information related to electric vehicles. Carrollton has 25 electric vehicles, primarily Chevy Volts, that have had some warranty issues, but overall have been good. They have not tried light duty trucks yet, but like the idea of hybrid trucks, electrifying golf carts and zero turn mowers. DFWCC is working to replace their mission statement and would like it to be shorter- around 9 words or less. The DFW airport is working on electrifying their ground fleet. DFWCC is applying to the Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle grant from EPA for class 6/7 vehicles. Announcements of awardees is expected in February 2025. October 6<sup>th</sup> is the date for a Ride and Drive event associated with National Drive Electric Week. They would appreciate help with promoting the event and with ride and drive location suggestions.

- iv. The EPA Advance Partner meeting was held on July 24, 2024. The meeting topic was Challenges and Successes of a Midwestern Utility EV Fleet Adoption. Two representatives of City Utilities of Springfield, Missouri presented about their EV adoption. The City Utilities handle water, natural gas, electricity, broadband, and public transportation for the City of Springfield with a population of 180,000. They produce their own power through wind, two power plants, and a five-megawatt solar farm. Because they are the electric company providing fuel for EVs they provide advisory services and customer support to EV buyers and owners. Missouri has about 25,000 registered EVs. The City Utilities has one community charging station, five battery electric vehicles, electric forklifts, and two electric buses. They used VW settlement funds to add charging stations at local gas stations. Their fleet includes 700 vehicles total which includes EV assets of 4 Hyundai Konas, 1 Ford Lightning, 2 Gillig electric buses, and 14 electric forklifts and golfcarts. They are using strategic adoption for electric vehicles including using proven technology and providing adequate training for mechanics. Challenges they have faced in EV adoption include budget dollars, lack of available heavy-duty vehicles, and range concerns. Their successes include having a driving experience comparable to internal combustion engine vehicles, community satisfaction, low-maintenance cost (no maintenance costs associated with Konas for four years), savings on gasoline and reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and increased EV adoption in Springfield. They received \$1.5 million from the Low/No Emission grant program in 2019 for the two electric buses. They have about a 200-mile range which means they need a strategic route. The required level three chargers had just enough power to work. Their plan is to purchase two battery electric vehicles each year for the next five years including cars, light-duty trucks, and compact SUVs. All their electric vehicles are wrapped so they are easily identifiable. They use 34% of their electricity from renewable sources and have saved 11,650 kilograms of greenhouse gases and 2,152 gallons of gasoline. They offer three different rebates associated with EV charging. The first is for residential home upgrade to add 50-amp branch

circuit. Each service address is allowed two rebates for 50% of the cost up to \$500. The second rebate is for the EV charger which is also two per service address and 50% of the cost up to \$500. The third rebate is for builders to upgrade new homes to be EV ready which is also two rebates per address in the amount of \$100. It is cheaper to add EV chargers before the home is built. Their future planning includes an internal EV task force, customer portal EV calculator, continued customer rebate incentives, and community education events.

f.) Website Update. The Go Daddy account with WordPress was set up August 1<sup>st</sup> with a one-year plan for web building and hosting and two years to reserve the domain name. Madelyn has partially set up the Home page and is working on the Clean Air Education Page. The small storage amount may mean just linking to the You Tube page for videos as putting a small video on the site caused issues. Madelyn McKenzie reviewed the preliminary website.

3.) EPA Updates. There were no EPA updates this month.

4.) Regional Updates.

a.) DFW Clean Cities Lunch and Learn for School Districts Guide to Clean School Bus is scheduled for August 27<sup>th</sup> from 12-1 as a virtual Zoom meeting. Topics will include funding programs including TCEQ Clean School Bus Program, the TCEQ TxVEMP All Electric Grant Round, and EPA Clean School Bus as well as clean school bus resources of deployment planning, technical assistance, infrastructure, and driver and technician training.

b.) Funding Opportunities

5.) Other Discussion. The AQPM received an email from Celine Busnelli with Earth Justice that TCEQ has set a public comment meeting September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the Lake Granbury Conference Center. She also said TCEQ has released a preliminary determination to approve the proposed permit for Wolf Hollow III last week and Constellation Energy released a statement that crypto mining operations at Wolf Hollow will not increase as Marathon has indicated that they have no current plans to expand their mining capacity in Hood County or the site footprint. She also noted that the site operations at Wolf Hollow for 2024 have been at 99.5 % daily operation compared to 66% daily operation in 2023 according to emissions/ operating data. She was asking about attendance at the meeting and if the Coalition was planning on sending in more comments.

6.) Adjourn until September 4<sup>th</sup>.