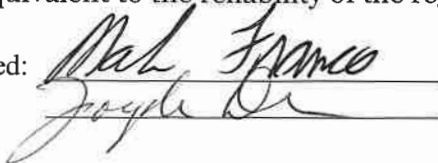


## February Meeting Summary

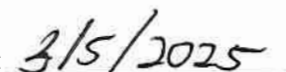
The February meeting of the Hood County Clean Air Coalition was held on February 5, 2025, in the Granbury City Hall Pre-Council Chambers at 116 West Bridge Street in Granbury. There were five board members present which represented a quorum. Board members present included Chairman Mark Franco, Judge Ron Massingill, Mayor Jim Jarratt, Joe Drew, and Chuck Licata. Also present were Madelyn McKenzie, Jeremy Johnson of the Texas A&M Transportation Institute, Daniela Tower of the North Central Texas Council of Governments, Scott Bradley, Sharla Caro of the Rancho Brazos Community Center, and Michelle McKenzie, Air Quality Program Manager.

- 1.) Chairman Mark Franco called the meeting to order at 9:00 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 of the January Meeting Summary. A motion to approve the Summary was made by Judge Ron Massingill and seconded by Mayor Jim Jarratt. The motion was approved with a vote of five ayes and no nays.
  - b. Monthly Budget Review for December. For December, salary expenses from December 19-December 31<sup>st</sup> were covered by the NCTCOG Rider 7 grant in the amount of \$1,544.48 along with fringe expense in the amount of \$154.44. Clean Air Funds were used to cover the balance of \$1,887.70 for salary and \$1,732.70 for fringe. Additional Clean Air Funds expenses were \$23.99 for the Adobe license and \$108 for the post office box renewal. Total Clean Air Fund expenses were \$3,752.39 and combined with NCTCOG expenses of \$1,698.92, total combined expenses for December were \$5,451.31. Donations were received in December from the City of Granbury in the amount of \$2,083.00. Balance for Clean Air Funds at the end of December was \$37,633.18. A motion to approve the December budget was made by Joe Drew and seconded by Mayor Jim Jarratt.
  - c. The Air North Texas Coalition meeting was held on January 16, 2025. Following introductions and a review of the November meeting, Daniela Tower presented the Air Quality Update. As the ozone season doesn't start until March 1st, Daniela presented an overview of the Rider 7 air quality monitoring project in Hood County. The Rider 7 is limited to monitoring, emission inventory, data analysis, and limited modeling projects. These funds are available to near non-attainment or affected counties. For North Texas, this includes Hood and Hunt counties. This biennium the focus is on Hood County. The hope is to try to answer the question of how much of the pollution issue is transport versus local emissions. One monitor will be located southeast of Wolf Hollow power plant to see what the contribution to air pollution the power plant makes. The Rider 7 requires monitors that are Federal Equivalent Monitors (FEM) meaning they are equivalent to the reliability of the regulatory monitors. These monitors cannot be

Summary Approved:

  
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Date:

  
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used for the designation process or to negate the measurements at the regulatory monitors. For Hood County, these monitors will help evaluate the influence of the power plant and associated bitcoin facility as well as transport. This project will contribute to NCTCOG's goal of a "one stop shop monitoring network" that will allow monitoring data to be connected to health data and allows for collaboration with interested parties. They are hoping to have one system or website to collect information and allow for integration of air quality and health in a regional database as well as serve the local interest in the data and allow equity support by establishing an emphasis on low-income disadvantaged communities that often are exposed to higher emissions and have more health issues. There was a brief discussion about the expansion of monitoring in Parker County.

The City of Grand Prairie was awarded the Partner of the Year award for 2024. Staff presented their activities in 2024. They had 44 social media posts about Air North Texas in 2024 on Facebook and X. They also included Air North Texas messaging in 13 newsletters from the Public Health and Environmental Quality Department. One of the newsletters goes out to over 400 industrial and business contacts. They also had five digital billboards around the city with ozone and mosquito messaging with an estimated 4.1 million impressions. They used promotional items like a ball toss game using stress balls that participants got to keep, a selfie poster for people to take photos and post about air quality on social media, and a postcard with clean air tips and a QR code to link to the Air North Texas website. They also have a couple of city vehicles with wraps and offer windshield screens with air quality messaging. They also hosted 13 events with Air North Texas with 9015 participants including for Earth Day, the solar eclipse, and the mayor's 5K. For Clean Air Action Day, they had 130 employees participate including in a celebration event. They offered Environmental Awards in a Clean Air Industry Challenge that had 12 industries participating and yielded 258 pledges. International Paper won with a DIY air plant event for 150 employees. Print Pack came in second with daily clean air mails for 205 employees. Those who pledged for clean air were entered into a contest for a TV. In administrative announcements, ozone season starts March 1st, the Air North Texas advertising campaign is scheduled to start May 1st. They have migrated to a new website and will be sending information about how to log in for partner resources including social media posts, graphics, and other resources. The next meeting is scheduled for March 20th.

- d. Annual Meeting Minutes were signed and sent to Steve Reid's office. After the January Meeting Summary is approved, it will be sent to Steve Reid's office for the development of the 2025 Annual Minutes. The annual 990 N tax filing for 2024 will be done at Molly Willsher's office.

3.) EPA Updates were provided by Carrie Paige with EPA.

- a. Scott Mason is the new Regional Administrator for the EPA Region 6. You can read more about Scott at this link:  
<https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/regional-administrator-epas-south-central-region-region-6>.
- b. EPA is anticipating receiving recommendations from state governors and tribal leaders regarding area boundaries for designations under the 2024 annual PM2.5

National Ambient Air Quality Standard - those recommendations are due to EPA by February 7, 2025. This date (2/7/25), is also the deadline for states and tribes to submit demonstrations for PM<sub>2.5</sub> monitoring data that has been potentially impacted by an exceptional event.

4.) Regional Updates from NCTCOG were presented by Michelle McKenzie.

a. DFW Clean Cities Announcements

- i. DFW Clean Cities Stakeholder Input Session is scheduled for February 26<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 p.m. Register at the DFW Clean Cities events website link on the agenda. DFWCC would like to invite stakeholders to provide input on the design of projects to implement alternative transportation technologies! Event topics include where electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure in the region should be built, opportunities for the utilization of autonomous robot delivery to solve transportation issues, how resilience can improve charging to ensure operations of EVs during grid outages, ways new transportation technologies can be used to improve air quality, updates on the latest resources and funding opportunities.
- ii. A Fleet Manager Roundtable Meeting is scheduled for February 26<sup>th</sup> from 10-11 a.m. This will be an open discussion on best practices/ processes for transitioning to alternative fuel vehicles and electric vehicles. The meeting will feature a panel of local fleet managers who will share the fleet processes they have implemented to assess whether AFVs and EVs are suitable for their fleets. The meeting is intended for fleet managers, directors of transportation, and other fleet management staff. Discussion items will include trialing EVs through a pilot project, departmental feedback on new vehicles with AFV and EV considerations and testing the use of AFVs and EVs through a departmental loaner project. The meeting is virtual. Please register at the DFWCC website.
- iii. The Texas Clean Fleet Program is Now Open. TCEQ has opened TCFP, which provides funding to Texas fleet owners to help replace aging diesel vehicles with new hybrid or alternative fuel vehicles. It is offering an estimated \$16 million in grants and up to 80% of the cost of the new vehicles may be reimbursed. Eligible entities must own and operate a fleet of 75 or more on-road vehicles in Texas and applicants must replace at least 10 vehicles with new hybrid or alternative fuel vehicles. Applications will be accepted until March 21<sup>st</sup> and the grant is competitive.
- iv. DOE Funding Opportunities  
DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) has three recent Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs), aimed at enhancing the resilience, reliability, and security of the electric grid. The NOFOs are particularly relevant for electric utilities but depending on the NOFO eligible applicants can include institutions of higher education, for-profit entities, nonprofits, and state and local governmental entities. Please see below for a summary of each NOFO.  
[Blue Sky Training Program](#)  
Funding Amount: \$5 million

Eligible Project: Training for first responders, law enforcement agencies, local communities, utilities, authorities having jurisdictions, and others on how to respond to unanticipated failures of energy storage systems (ESS).

The deadline to apply is February 2, 2025

Renewable Integration Management with Innovative High-Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Power Circuit Breakers ([REIMAGINE BREAKERS](#))

Funding Amount: \$1.5 million - \$3.5 million

Eligible Project: Research and development efforts focused on reducing the costs associated with HVDC circuit breakers.

The deadline to apply is February 28, 2025

Human-Centric Analytics for Resilient & Modernized Power sYstems ([HARMONY](#)) Funding Amount: \$1.25 million

Eligible Project: Research, development and demonstration activities to enhance the electric grid reliability and help human operators in one of the following areas: risk analytics, cybersecurity and grid communications, or human factors

The deadline to apply is March 20, 2025

- b. The State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) local government energy reporting is due March 4<sup>th</sup>.
- c. Funding Opportunities are found at <https://nctcog.org/aqfunding>

#### 5.) Rider 7 Updates

- a. Monitors will be installed this week and there will be a presentation following these updates. The RFP process for the emission inventory is completed and the Coalition will need to review the proposals and decide which proposal to move forward with. An amendment was needed as there was an error in the amount for the Interlocal Agreement. The updated grant amount is \$238,374 instead of \$288,444.66. The new breakdown by project is \$40,000 for the emission inventory project, \$200,445 for the monitoring project, and \$47,929 for the administrative activities. The amendment will not need to go to the City Council for review before being signed.
- b. Review of proposals for Emission Inventory. Three proposals were received and forwarded to board members for review. We will need to review everyone's scoring sheet and discuss which proposal to move forward with. The one proposal that is over \$50,000 would require going back to the City Council for consideration and resubmitting to the RFP process. Mark Franco and Chuck Licata shared how they scored the three proposals. Joe Drew, Mayor Jim Jarratt, and Judge Ron Massingill agreed with their assessments, which were similar. A motion to approve moving forward with the proposal from Ramboll was made by Chuck Licata and seconded by Mayor Jim Jarratt. The motion was approved with a vote of five ayes and no nays. With the proposal coming in at \$44,064, a budget revision will need to be made to increase the budget for the emission inventory project to \$44,064 and reduce the budget for administrative activities to \$43,865.
- c. Future planning for the Rider 7. NCTCOG is planning to ask representatives in the Texas Legislature to potentially extend what funds can be spent on from the Rider 7 grant to include creation of a database for monitoring

results, modeling for ozone (currently modeling is allowed only for particulate matter), and purchase additional data. The EI proposal from Ramboll included proposals for additional work that could be beneficial – a biogenic emission inventory analysis and update including evaluate updated soil NOx parameter inputs for Hood County (atmospheric deposition, fertilizer application, soil moisture) or generate soil NOx emissions using the updated soil NOx parameterization. Another aspect would be to improve drought stress models for biogenic VOC emissions. (Studies have shown that environmental stress can induce emissions of compounds not normally emitted and can substantially alter the emission rates of other VOCs. Additional monitoring could also be a potential project. It was suggested that an emission inventory could be carried out to consider the impact of the new data center that is being proposed near Tolar.

- d. Jeremy Johnson with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute and Daniela Tower from the North Central Texas Council of Governments are here to present information about the monitoring project. Daniela began the presentation with an overview of the North Central Texas Council of Governments and the TCEQ monitoring network in North Texas. The Rider 7 is limited to monitoring, emission inventory, data analysis, and limited modeling projects. These funds are available to near non-attainment or affected counties. For North Texas, this includes Hood and Hunt counties. This biennium the focus is on Hood County. The hope is to try to answer the question of how much of the pollution issue is transport versus local emissions. One monitor will be located southeast of Wolf Hollow power plant to see what the contribution to air pollution the power plant makes. The Rider 7 requires monitors that are Federal Equivalent Monitors (FEM) meaning they are equivalent to the reliability of the regulatory monitors. These monitors cannot be used for the designation process or to negate the measurements at the regulatory monitors. For Hood County, these monitors will help evaluate the influence of the power plant and associated bitcoin facility as well as transport. This project will contribute to NCTCOG's goal of a "one stop shop monitoring network" that will allow monitoring data to be connected to health data and allows for collaboration with interested parties. They are hoping to have one system or website to collect information and allow for integration of air quality and health in a regional database as well as serve the local interest in the data and allow equity support by establishing an emphasis on low-income disadvantaged communities that often are exposed to higher emissions and have more health issues. Jeremy Johnson continued the presentation with an overview of the Texas A&M Transportation Institute. He described the equipment being used in the project and what information would be collected including ozone, particulate matter, NO<sub>2</sub>, and meteorological data. Each monitor site will have cloud storage for data. Two sites are connected directly to electric and the other three sites require solar panels with battery back-ups. The data collected will hopefully answer questions about the influence of transport emissions.

- 5.) Other Discussion: Joe Drew found this information about a new data center campus to be built in Tolar. Phase I is 3.2 GW, and the proposal is to grow to 5 GW. It is a

2,600-acre project and will include on-site power generation. If this goes according to plan it will be substantially larger than Wolf Hollow and their affiliated bitcoin operation. <https://www.datacenterdynamics.com/en/news/sailfish-plans-multi-gigawatt-data-center-park-outside-dfw-texas/>. Chuck Licata will be interviewing staff at NCTCOG about recycling on February 19<sup>th</sup>. He is planning to make a video to cover questions about recycling.

7.) Adjourn until March 5<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.

8.)