

## July Meeting Summary

The July meeting of the Hood County Clean Air Coalition was held on July 2, 2025, in the Granbury City Hall Pre-Council Chambers at 116 West Bridge Street in Granbury. There were four board members present, which did not represent a quorum. Board members included Judge Ron Massingill, Mayor Jim Jarratt, Joe Drew, and Chuck Licata. Also present were Darlene DuVal, Madelyn McKenzie, and Michelle McKenzie, Air Quality Program Manager.

1.) Treasurer Joe Drew called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

2.) Local Updates were provided by Michelle McKenzie

- a. Consideration of approval of the June Meeting Summary will take place at the next meeting when a quorum of board members is present.
- b. Monthly Budget Review for May. For May, salary expenses were covered by the NCTCOG Rider 7 grant in the amount of \$5,418.27 along with fringe expense in the amount of \$546.04 for a total of \$5,964.31. There was an invoice for TTI in the amount of \$3,291.11 for a total of \$8,985.42 covered by the NCTCOG Rider 7 grant. Reimbursement funds of \$44,304.24 were received in May. The remaining fringe expenses in the amount of \$1,818.09, \$54.87 for liability insurance, \$23.99 for the Adobe license, and \$159.04 travel expense were covered by the Clean Air Funds for a total of \$2,055.99. Total expense for the month of May was \$11,041.41. Donations were received in May from the City of Granbury in the amount of \$2,083.00. Balance for Clean Air Funds at the end of May was \$39,448.91. Consideration of approval for the May Budget Review will take place at the next meeting when a quorum of board members is present.
- c. Reports
  - i. Ozone Season Report. In the ozone season report, for 2025 there were 22 moderate days and 1 exceedance day through the end of June. The fourth highest reading remained at 63 and the design value is still at 72 ppb as of the end of June.
  - ii. The North Central Texas Council of Governments held an update meeting for the Air Quality Improvement Plan and Section 185 fees on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Impacts of air pollutants include irregular heartbeat, respiratory symptoms, premature death, environmental impacts, and economic impacts. In the North Texas region, ten counties are designated non-attainment for the 2008 ozone standard and nine counties are designated non-attainment for the 2015 ozone standard. Two counties may be designated non-attainment under the recently revised PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard. The state did not recommend any PM non-attainment areas. The ozone design value for DFW is at 79 parts per billion and ozone season does not end until November. They have had six exceedance days. The number of

Summary Approved:

The image shows two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The top signature is more legible and appears to be "John Campbell". The bottom signature is less legible but appears to be "Joe Drew". Both signatures are written over horizontal lines.

Date: 10-1-25

exceedance days and the values have been increasing since 2022. DFW has seen a reduction of 2/3 of NOx emissions from 2006 to what is estimated for 2026 with estimates going from 582 tons per day down to 188 tons per day. North Texas faces a growing population with a potential estimated population of 12 million by 2050 with growth in Johnson, Ellis, Denton, and Collin counties. Vehicle miles traveled per day is expected to increase from 208 million miles per day to 377 million miles per day. Electricity demand increased from 2002-2022 by 3.1%, but from 2024-2030 growth is expected to reach 13.6% due to data centers, crypto activities, and the hydrogen industry.

DFW faces failure to attain Section 185 fees and a move from serious to severe classification of non-attainment for ozone if they don't reach attainment by the end of 2026. Penalties of \$45 million per year could be assessed as soon as 2028. The fees would be collected by TCEQ from power plants, refineries, and cement plants. If TCEQ does not collect the fees, EPA collects the funds with interest and the funds stay in federal accounts. If TCEQ collects the funds, the funds will stay in the state. The state is proposing to use TERP funds to offset the fees. If the amount from TERP isn't enough, then industry would pay the difference. The highest percentage of point sources for the 10 county non-attainment area are 42.2% from Ellis County, 14% from Wise County, and 11% from Johnson County. TERP funding comes from vehicle title transfer fees, diesel equipment fees, vehicle inspection fees and from commercial vehicle fees with about 1/3 going to TxDOT and 65% to TCEQ.

The Climate Pollution Reduction Grants required Priority Action Plans by March 1, 2025, and Comprehensive Plans by December 1, 2025. The state plan is the Comprehensive Roadmap to Reduce Emissions focuses on voluntary actions to reduce emissions with a focus on industry and oil/gas due to TCEQ's role in regulation.

Funding opportunities include a Regional PACE program that is being developed. Tax credits for electric vehicles may be going away, but for now there is \$369 billion from the Inflation Reduction Act with rebates available for local government fleet funding. The North Texas Zero Emission Vehicle Project is opening summer 2025 with funding for infrastructure and workforce development in the amount of \$58 million to be available.

- iii. The North Texas Asthma Summit was held on June 18<sup>th</sup> sponsored by SaferCare Texas in partnership with the Health Science Center, JPS Hospital, Cook Children's Hospital, the American Lung Association, Children's Health Hospital, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Parkland Hospital, Positive Breathing, Dallas County Health and Human Services,

and the North Central Texas Council of Governments. The event began with a presentation by Dr. Darlene Bhavnani, an epidemiologist called Environmental Drivers of Viral Infections and Asthma Exacerbations. Studies show increases in exacerbation rates for asthma by neighborhoods and by race and ethnicity. Data indicates that minority populations are more likely to be hospitalized with influenza and RSV and that these populations are at higher risk for viral infection and they also are more likely to live in disadvantaged neighborhoods. Return to school in August/ September in Texas is linked to an increase in upper respiratory infections. In looking what causes this, the data showed that those in vulnerable neighborhoods have the largest increase in infections. In looking at the neighborhoods, they found that those living in rental homes explained 40% of the difference. They hypothesized that children from rental homes were more likely to be living below poverty, and sick children may be sent to school because parents don't have sick leave, these children live in crowded, poorly ventilated areas, and are more exposed to indoor and outdoor air pollution. The student population exposed to diesel exhaust had increased reactions. These children may also be exposed to higher stress levels through exposure to violence, discrimination, and lack of social cohesion. They may also be more exposed to pest allergens. A TEXHALE study was designed to evaluate the effects and consider what steps could be taken. They looked at increasing air filtration in homes and schools, treating pests, and increased cleaning. In the discussion after the presentation, other issues were discussed that could impact on the data including the lack of health education, not knowing if a child has allergies or a cold to determine if a doctor's visit is needed, lack of access to doctors leading to an increase in emergency room visits, and the influence of diet and exercise. There was also a discussion about issues related to mold as a factor. In a discussion about Better Breathing Initiatives, they offer healthy homes outreach for low-income housing. They found that in some instances families can be threatened with evictions for complaining about pests, smoking neighbors, and filters needing to be changed. Relating to issues with schools, there are issues with parents not being able to take off from work for children's doctor appointments or if the child is sick, especially with multi-child families and limited sick time. Top challenges for children with asthma were limited access to doctors' offices either not being able to get scheduled when needed or inability to take off from work, limited time with doctors to understand treatment at home and not having tools or resources for all caregivers (i.e. Grandparents), stressors like lack of funds for better housing or healthier food options, lack of funds for intermediate repairs for homes (i.e.. Large expenses like roofing and plumbing issues), and lack of access to transportation (public transportation helps with

this). In education concerns, one of the biggest challenges is educators allowing children with asthma access to their inhalers.

A representative from Parkland Hospital presented their text messaging program for vulnerable populations, which resulted in 36% less asthma-related ER visits and 60% fewer hospitalizations. Their Pediatric Asthma Surveillance System program was included in an article in the New England Journal of Medicine. In the Asthma 411 program, schools were allowed to administer unassigned albuterol to students presenting to the nurse's office with asthma-type systems.

In the Community Health Needs Assessment from Cook Children's Hospital information was gathered from the eight counties that they serve including Denton, Hood, Johnson, Parker, Tarrant, and Wise Counties. About 9% of children in these counties have asthma. Statewide, about 6% of children have asthma and across the country about 7% of children have asthma. In the survey that they conducted with parents for the assessment, 17% did not have a doctor and 23% did not receive needed care. Concerns were lack of funds, doctor's office waiting times, and insurance didn't cover the cost of the doctor's visit or treatment. About 50% of the children of families that participated missed at least one day of school due to asthma and 43% were considered under-resourced. The data dashboard is available at [cookchildrenscommunity.org](http://cookchildrenscommunity.org).

- d. Rider 7 Update. The draft of the Emission Inventory Review was received on June 16<sup>th</sup> and sent to NCTCOG. Monitoring project is continuing. A summary of the status of the monitoring project was presented to the Granbury City Council on June 17<sup>th</sup> and a brief overview of the Rider 7 projects was presented to the Hood County Commissioners Court on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Hood County Commissioners approved \$30,000 in funding support for the Coalition at that meeting. Rider 7 was included in the state budget that was approved at the end of May. Funding remains the same at \$281,250 base for each area- for North Texas that refers to Hood and Hunt counties. Allowable expenditures were expanded to include not just emission inventory, monitoring, and administrative expense, but also air pollution data analysis, modeling of pollution levels, and regional air quality planning. Administrative expense is still capped at 10% and prohibited expenditures include marketing and outreach activities, bicycle use programs, carpooling awareness, environmental awareness campaigns, and locally enforceable pollution reduction programs.

### 3.) Regional Updates

- a. Regional EV Infrastructure Working Group Meeting EV Codes Roundtable July 9<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will feature presentations from cities with EV-Ready code implementation experience, insight, from subject matter experts, and a discussion on EV codes. The meeting is virtual and scheduled from 1-2 that day.

- b. Texas LoanSTAR Revolving Loan application deadline is August 31<sup>st</sup> for low-interest loans to assist public sector institutions finance energy-related, cost-reduced retrofits of facilities.
  - c. Provide Input on Future EV Charging Locations. Visit the website listed to access the TxDOT interactive map and leave comments anywhere in the state and complete the survey directly on the website.
  - d. North Texas Resilient EV Charging Plan Information. NCTCOG is seeking stakeholders with diverse perspectives and expertise to guide the development of the North Texas Resilient EV charging plan. The project aims to enhance the resiliency of EV charging infrastructure and ensure critical EV operations can continue during grid disruptions.
  - e. Funding Opportunities at [nctcog.org/aqfunding](http://nctcog.org/aqfunding)
- 4.) Other Discussion. The EPA Advance Program ended as of June 12, 2025. The website will continue to be publicly available but not updated. They will include the Advance Partner database as a reference.
- 5.) Adjourn until August 6<sup>th</sup>.