

MEMO TO: SEMO RPC Air Quality Meeting Attendees
FROM: Dave Grimes
SUBJECT: Meeting Summary
DATE: March 1, 2010

The Air Quality Committee of the Southeast Missouri Regional Planning Commission held a meeting on February 26, 2010 at the American Legion Hall in Perryville. Twenty-seven people were in attendance including representatives from local governments, education institutions, economic development organizations, and the private sector. The following is a summary of that meeting.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Albert Fults at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Fults then asked for brief introductions around the room.

Mr. Fults noted that Stan Payne from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources was present and asked him for an update. Mr. Payne focused on what the standards mean, explaining the “primary 8-hour standard” is focused on “health,” and the more general “secondary standard is considered more “seasonal” and focuses on “welfare.”

In response to a question of “why is there a monitor in Farrar,” Ken Hagg of URS opined that this was sited to check transported air going into the St. Louis area.

This led into a discussion of background levels. Consensus quickly developed that the proposed EPA standards regarding ground level ozone levels were approaching making areas as nonattainment areas because of normal background level readings.

Mr. Payne was asked if the MoDNR was going to formally comment to EPA and he said he thought they would. Mr. Fults asked if the committee could get a copy of these comments and Mr. Payne said that he would ask about that.

The committee then discussed the joint letter from, among others, Senator McCaskill, asking the EPA Administrator to reconsider the proposed greenhouse gas regulations. The committee observed that this was not precisely the same as protesting ozone standards, but that the concept of federal legislative intervention on greenhouse gas was promising.

Mr. Hagg, following up on this discussion, reiterated that ground level ozone issues were national in scope and needed to be treated as such.

When asked about the Senate’s actions, Tom Schulte of Senator Bond’s staff said that the Senator was aware of the problem and the potential economic dislocations. The Senator, with bipartisan support including Senator McCaskill, hoped to slow down any implementation.

Open discussion followed. A consensus quickly developed that the committee needed to keep communicating with legislators. Terry Miner with Saberliner observed that it was important to get to the federal congresspersons and senators. They are, he said, the ones who might be in a position to do anything about EPA.

The suggestion was made that staff contact the Springfield group who had done one of the first Clean Air Action Plans in Missouri since they would be likely “allies” in this effort.

In addressing the question of “next steps,” Chauncy Buchheit agreed to distribute the “talking points” and all correspondence to the committee membership for their use in making contacts.

The next meeting was then set for March 26, 2010.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.