

# EAQAC Minutes

October 3, 2012

Present: Paul Bubbosh, Fred Booth (new unofficial member), Ken Cantor, Eric Coffman, Steve Gibb, Stephen Shaw, Aaron Cutler (by phone), Sam Biondo, Bernie Bloom (by phone), Ben Snowden and Reuven Walder (new unofficial members).

Absent: Tim Whitehouse, Jim McDonnell, Ed Barbour, Melitta Carter

Lacking a quorum, the September and October minutes will be reviewed for approval in November.

## **Introductions and Updates**

Paul Bubbosh asked all members to introduce themselves so the new members can be familiar with the committee. He stated that he had received a response to the July 26, 2012, EAQAC letter requesting fleet information from the MCPS to further EAQAC's understanding of fleet composition and fuel mix and would circulate the letter.

Ken Cantor raised a question about what the committee would do if the total number of County vehicles is such a small proportion of VMT in the county that altering the mix would have no substantial impact on emissions. Paul recognized this possibility but he and Steve Gibb noted that susceptible subpopulations are still a concern in certain heavily travelled routes and more information might be helpful in reducing pollutant burdens.

## **DEP Update**

DEP liaison Eric Coffman reviewed ARRA grant expenditures and accomplishments and briefed the committee on the possibility of a new power purchasing agreement (PPA) for canopy solar units above parking garages that could generate in excess of 20 megawatts and save \$500k in the first year.

Eric stated that Brian Dean at ICF may be available to discuss the modeling done to examine internal/external air exchange rates that would be affected by new county residential codes and mechanical ventilation.

## **Possible Focus of Future Meetings/Members**

Fred Booth would like to focus on consumer education and outreach on home appliance efficiency and other sustainability topics.

Reuven Walder is interested in exploring PPA's for community groups, demographic analysis for energy programs, and emerging energy technologies.

Bernie Bloom would like to examine a new radon code expected out in 2 months time.

Stephen Shaw would like to focus on weatherization and other home action steps.

Ken Cantor plans to revisit set-top cable boxes and their energy footprint.

Steve Gibb is interested in susceptible subpopulations along heavily trafficked corridors.

Paul Bubbosh would like schools to uniformly erect "no idling" signs near child pick-up spots.

**Action Items:**

1. Paul Bubbosh/Eric Coffman will circulate the MCPS response to the chair's July 26 letter requesting fleet information.
2. Paul and Eric will follow-up with FMS' Bill Griffiths to secure route and engine-type information on the Ride On program's fleet.
3. Paul will email County Council member Mark Elrich to ask what buses and what fuel type will be used for the proposed Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) program.