

# Fairbanks Air Quality Stakeholders Group

## Meeting Summary – July 20, 2018

The second meeting of the Air Quality Stakeholders Group was held on July 20, 2018, in the BP Design Theater at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

### Summary of Work Groups & Emerging Themes

The meeting opened with an overview by facilitator Brian Rogers of the three work group meetings that took place from July 13 to 19 (Point Sources, Wood Smoke Curtailment, and Wood Devices). Notes from the work group meetings will be available on the Stakeholders Group web page (<http://fnsb.us/transportation/Pages/stakeholders.aspx>). Two of the work groups (Wood Smoke Curtailment and Wood Devices) used Instant Insights polling to provide feedback on the control measures they considered. The polling was used to get a sense of which control measures implemented in other nonattainment areas need modification to work in Fairbanks and which new ideas proposed by stakeholders or the public have the most promise or support. Polling results will be used to prioritize control measures for further discussion and analysis. The polling results are included with the work group meeting notes.

A few main points or themes that came up in one or more work groups:

- EPA may be open to emission offset/remediation program instead of BACT
- Need for registration program to know the number and type of devices in use
- Means of targeting wood burning devices that do not have waivers (the 97% of stoves we don't know anything about)
- ULSD concerns over price elasticity: if price of heating oil rises will more people switch to burning wood?
- Interest in a new or expanded change out program
- Lack of building code promoting energy efficiency
- Recognition program for good responsible wood burners

### Presentation: FNSB Air Quality programs

Nick Czarnecki from FNSB gave a presentation on the borough's Air Quality Program – what initiatives they have implemented and how they have worked. A copy of the presentation is available on the Stakeholders Group web page. Some highlights:

- Sierra Research phone survey data provides an initial inventory
- Wood stove change out program: \$8.8 million spent to date (device change out only, not including staff time) \$5.5 million left from two different grants.
- Cut cost effectiveness almost in half in the first two quarters of 2018
- Emission reductions of 96.36 tons per year, 0.43 winter season emissions (tons/day)
- Wood stove change outs alone are not going to get us to the 80% reduction we need in North Pole.
- Looked at compliance rate: 50-89%, but data based on change out program participants, so not representative
- Staff would need to be greatly increased for full coverage
- Outreach efforts have been broad. FNSB spends significant amount on outreach.
- When we remove meteorology from the data, we see a decrease in emissions at the North Pole

### **Work Group Session 1**

Four of the work groups met in break out sessions from 10:00 am to 11:50 am. For three groups (Point Sources, Wood Devices, and Wood Smoke Curtailment) it was their second meeting. The Mobile Sources & Other (Oil/Coal) Space Heating met for the first time and completed the prioritization polling that other groups did at their first meetings.

### **Governor Walker**

Governor Walker addressed the stakeholders over lunch. He thanked them for their participation and expressed support for people talking to each other rather than about each other in an attempt to find local solutions to a local problem. He pledged to take a close look at anything that results from this collaborative process.

### **Update from Alaska DEC**

After lunch, Cindy Heil of ADEC provided an update on control measures

- Commercial sector analysis completed and draft sent to EPA. It includes measures for coffee roasting, char broiling, and garbage incinerations
- Regarding MSM, have found out we need to look at all serious SIPs for all pollutants (not just PM<sub>2.5</sub>).

### **Work Group Session 2**

The remaining four work groups met in breakout sessions during the afternoon (Education, Energy Efficiency, Funding, Regulatory Process/Monitoring). Discussion notes will be posted on the Stakeholders Group page.

### **Plenary: Recap and Next Steps**

In response to the home heating ballot initiative, which came up in discussion during two of the afternoon work groups (Education and Regulatory Process/Monitoring), some members asked the full group to consider taking a position in opposition to the referendum, which would greatly limit the Borough's ability to seek local solutions to the PM<sub>2.5</sub> air quality issue if it passes. After discussion, the question was put up for a vote using the electronic keypads. The results were 71% yes, 11% no 18% abstain. After clarification on what an abstention means and what a no vote means, a revote was taken and the final vote was 73% yes, 4% no, 23% abstain, so with only 1 no vote, the measure passed. [This effort is currently on hold pending a legal opinion on whether taking a position would violate Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC) rules.]

Before adjourning, plans for upcoming meetings and presentations were reviewed. These include an Energy Efficiency Brown Bag Lunch at Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC). The FNSB Air Quality Conference in September, and a presentation on UAF's drone program.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.