

**AIR QUALITY & ENERGY WORK GROUP
MEETING SUMMARY**

Tuesday, June 2, 2009
1:30 p.m.

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Scioto Conference Room

Members

David Celebrezze, OEC	Megan Lashutka, Ohio Petroleum Council
Samantha Herd, Congresswoman Mary Jo Kilroy's Office	Carolina Prado, Ohio EPA
John Hollback, American Electric Power	Adam Ward, Ohio EPA
Judy Kress, Chair	Ira Weiss, Fairfield Heritage Trail Association

Staff

David Abel	Laura Koprowski
Chris Gawronski	Chad Parasa
Ashley Lester	Shari Saunders

1. **Welcome and Introductions** – Chair Judy Kress opened the meeting.
2. **Ohio EPA Update** – Adam Ward introduced himself. He is the Air Quality Office Unit Manager for the Central District Office. His office covers ten counties in central Ohio. He and his staff are in charge of the air quality monitors.

There are five district offices in Ohio. They don't really get involved in the state implementation plans. The district offices are mainly consulted by the Central Office in their planning efforts.

The Air Quality Unit of the Central District Office has a staff of about 20. Most of them work in permitting, enforcement or are monitor staff. One staff person covers asbestos and one covers open burning. The Central District Office has other divisions such as waste water, surface water, etc. The district offices are the face of the Ohio EPA. They interact with citizens and companies on a day to day basis.

Adam's office has recently begun an outreach effort to local groups (civic and neighborhood associations). Their goal is to meet with the groups to address concerns they might have.

Enforcement activities have not really stepped up in central Ohio. A couple of large cases have made it to court. This has led to more publicity, not necessarily more activity.

Carolina Prado shared information about the open burning rule. In February 2008, Ohio EPA proposed an open burning rule. Most of the comments they received (99%) were opposed to the rule. Ohio EPA has reworked the rule and is ready to go with a new rule. They are waiting for the state budget hearings to finish before presenting it.

The new rule is not as stringent as the earlier proposed rule. It will affect how new boilers are installed. Carolina expects the rule to be put out some time the second week of July. A

comment period will follow. She estimated that there are about 20,000 open burning boilers in Ohio.

The U.S. EPA had stimulus funds available for the Diesel Emission Reduction Grant (DERG) program. They granted \$26 million to Region 5 states (Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin). The Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) and Ohio EPA joined forces and applied for part of that grant money on behalf of private institutions, public institutions, and smaller applicants. ODOD and Ohio EPA received a grant for \$5 million.

U.S. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson will be in Columbus on Wednesday, June 3, for a press conference announcing the grant award. The press conference will be on the Veterans Plaza at the statehouse.

Visit ODOD's website (<http://development.ohio.gov/newsroom/releases/press.htm?id=3712>) for a list of the grant recipients.

The next regular DERG round is coming in the fall.

- 3. Legislative Update** – Samantha Herd from Congresswoman Mary Jo Kilroy's office shared information on the American Clean Energy and Security Act. The bill made it out of the Energy and Commerce Committee last month. It still needs to go through eight other house committees. This bill is the second highest priority for House democratic leadership (their first priority is the health care bill.)

One change in committee is that the bill's cap and trade program was changed to 85% given to companies and 15% for auction. Greenhouse gas emission reduction goal levels were also changed to:

- 17% below 2005 levels by 2020
- 42% below 2005 levels by 2030
- 85% below 2005 levels by 2050

More changes will occur. The chair of the Agriculture Committee has a number of concerns. Congresswoman Kilroy sits on the Environmental Caucus as well as the Ohio Caucus. This is important legislation, but we need to be careful how this affects Ohio and our economy. There are a lot of positives in the bill including job creation and cutting down on pollution.

John Hollback from AEP was asked what his company thought of the bill. AEP supports the bill. They are hoping for further improvements to it. The cap and trade program makes sense. The biggest emphasis should be on technology. We won't be able to meet the demand for electricity in the United States on renewables only.

John asked Samantha if the renewable requirements were state specific or electricity wide. She said it is unclear.

Samantha was asked if local governments are part of the cap and trade program. The state has a specific role. Each state will be able to develop an account to manage.

John stated that the administration faces a big challenge with China. It's projected that China will not agree to any limits. This is a global issue. If everyone is not in it, it won't make any impact. If China does not agree, this could cripple the U.S. economy.

Carolina Prado was asked about the Climate Change Registry. Right now it is voluntary for organizations to report their emissions. Five Ohio based companies are part of the registry. The first report will be prepared in 2010 for 2009 levels. At this point, the registry is only a mechanism for tracking emissions.

There is a lot of anxiety and fear among medium and small sized companies about the effect of the bill on them. They are concerned about the viability of their business. Congresswoman Kilroy is aware of this and has been making efforts to reach out to them to address these concerns. She needs their feedback now.

4. **MORPC Regional Plan Goals** – Chris Gawronski distributed background information on MORPC’s regional plan project. This will be discussed more at the next work group meeting. MORPC is combining their topical plans into a broader regional plan.

Chris is asking the work group for their input on goals and ideas for the regional plan. The goals and ideas don’t have to be just air and energy related. He asked the work group to review the handout and be ready to discuss the plan at the next meeting.

We are not redeveloping MORPC’s vision. Keep in mind that goals should be measurable. You are welcome to send your thoughts to Chris prior to the next meeting. Chris’s email is cgawronski@morpc.org.

MORPC’s existing plan is on their [website](#). Be aware that it is narrowly focused - it is for transportation only.

5. **Outreach to School Districts** – David Abel reported that MORPC is partnering with Ohio EPA on the next round of the Ohio Clean Diesel School Bus Grants. There is \$1.3 million available. The deadline for grant applications is September 1. The school districts need to apply directly to Ohio EPA.

MORPC sent a letter to 100 school superintendents in MORPC’s 12-county region inviting them to a Grant Workshop on June 9. David will follow-up with the superintendents and transportation departments to help facilitate the application for their districts.

David has the list of those contacted. Let him know if you have other contact information that could help. He asked the work group members to talk to their own school districts about the opportunity available to them. Invite them to come to the workshop or contact David at dabel@morpc.org or 614.233.4197.

David was encouraged to contact the department of education. It would be very helpful if they would contact school districts and strongly encourage them to apply for these grants. The state education association sent information about the June 9 event to school transportation directors. School Board Presidents should be contacted as well.

6. Other Business

- Pictures from the Clean Air Fair are at www.cleanairfair.org.
- The Kick-Off for **Riverfest On Tour** last Friday at COSI was great. Events continue throughout the month of June.

- This year's Summit on Sustainability & the Environment is October 6 at COSI. Sponsorship opportunities and online registration is at www.greenregion.org. Feel free to send Ashley Lester ideas for breakout sessions/speakers and keynote speakers.
- Ashley asked the work group to help spread the word about [EnviroFlash](#), MORPC's free air quality alert email service. Judy Kress said the Breathing Association still has the telephone alerts for those without access to computers.
- AEP just announced that they will be issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for 1100 megawatts of renewable energy. This is part of their global climate change program. Their target is 2000 megawatts by 2011. They have purchased 1500 megawatts already. If you know any companies who would like to bid, send them to www.aep.com for a copy of the RFP.

Questions or comments, please contact Ashley Lester at (614) 233.4168 or alester@morpc.org.

Addendums

1. [MORPC Regional Plan Overview](#)
2. [June 9th Grant Information Session](#)
3. [Riverfest On Tour](#)