

Meeting Notes
Coastal Bend Air Quality Partnership Meeting
October 25, 2021
4:00 pm
Virtual meeting via Zoom

Present:

Trent Thigpen
Gretchen Arnold
Sarah Garza
Sharon Bailey Murphy
Randy Wright
Adrian Araiza
Andrew Franzone
Aron Bagget
Ashby McMullan
Beth Becerra
Craig Kondoff
Darcy Schroeder
Glenda Swierc
Jane Gimler
Kirsten Crow
Kelly Ruble
Matt Garcia
McKenzie Ward
Roger Tennapple
R Shulz
Taylor (?)
Wayne Rivera
Sherman Hampton
Frank Solis

- Ozone season 2021/2022 Update
 - Gretchen reviewed the ozone data to date for 2021 as of October 22, 2021. She reminded the group that there have been elevated levels of ozone in October in the past and that this year saw elevated ozone levels on October 6 and 7 that pushed up the value of the 4th highest 8 – hour average of ozone for 2021. To date, the 4th highest 8 – hour average of ozone in 2021 at CAMS 4 is 65 ppb and at CAMS 21 is 64 ppb.
 - If CAMS 4 and CAMS 21 do not experience any more ozone elevations in 2021, CAMS 4 must experience a 4th highest 8 – hour average of ozone less than 83 ppb and CAMS 21 must experience a 4th highest 8 – hour

average of ozone less than 82 ppb in 2022 in order to remain in attainment of ozone standards in 2022. Gretchen committed to send out an update to the group if there are any ozone elevations for the remainder of 2021.

- A question was asked about what the area's 4th highest 8 – hour ozone average was for 2021 prior to the October 6 and 7 ozone elevation event. Gretchen committed to go back and look. Gretchen was unable to identify what the 4th highest 8 – hour ozone average was on October 5 with an on-line search. TCEQ data on-line only reflects the ozone averages over the year and not day to day. Looking at available data, CAMS 4 saw an 8-hour ozone average of 67 ppb on October 6 and 65 ppb on October 7; two of CAMS 4 4th highest ozone averages for 2021. CAMS 21 saw an 8-hour average of 72 ppb on October 6 and 66 ppb on October 7; two of CAMS 21 4th highest ozone averages for 2021. An ozone update distributed on September 16, 2021 reflected a 4th highest 8 – hour ozone average at both CAMS 4 and CAMS 21 of 60 ppb.
- A question was asked if the group would be expanding its efforts and attention into other air pollutants such as VOCs, PM, benzene, etc. Gretchen replied that the group focused exclusively on ozone in the past because ozone was the only criteria or regulated pollutant that the airshed was in danger of violating EPA standards. Gretchen stated that an organization working to address overall air quality with multiple pollutant efforts would require a full-time presence and effort in the airshed. The volunteer and part-time structure of the group in the past did not have the capacity or the resources to broaden their effort beyond ozone. Gretchen stated that the transition into a full-time organization dedicated to air quality provided an opportunity for the airshed to have an organization that looks at overall air quality.
- Coastal Bend Air Quality Partnership Transition Update
 - Sarah Garza; President of the Coastal Bend Air Quality Partnership brought the group an update on the transition process.
 - Sarah began by thanking the Board; Trent Thigpen and Sharon Bailey Murphy for their work. She also thanked the transition group for their work and input in the transition process. Sarah informed the group that bylaws have been passed and the Certificate of Formation has been filed with and approved by the Texas Secretary of State.
 - An application package to be submitted to the IRS for 501 C 3 approval has been drafted and is anticipated to be submitted to attorney Richard Leshin for submittal to the IRS within the next week or so.
 - The permanent Board structure was reviewed. The permanent Board is comprised of three business and industry seats, one seat for City of Corpus Christi, one seat for City of Portland, one seat for Nueces County, one seat for San Patricio County, one seat for Community,

one seat for the Port of Corpus Christi, and one ex-officio non-voting seat for Academia/Health. The City, County, and Port seats are direct appointments. One business and industry seat will be appointed by Port Industries and the remaining two seats will be presented in a slate by a nomination committee. The nomination committee will also include the Community and Academia/Health seats in their slate of nominees. The nominating committee has been approved and it is projected that they will present their slate of nominees by the end of the year.

- The job description for the Executive Director was developed and the job has been posted through Indeed, LinkedIn, AWMA and the air quality group. It is anticipated that the posting will close in about a week and interviews will take place in December. An interview panel is currently being established. Sarah shared that she and Gretchen met with the EPA Ozone Advance leads and they were very excited about the work being done in our airshed and the transition of the group.
- The overall transition process has had some delays in the overall timeline. Securing committed funding into the future was necessary in order to begin the remaining tasks and securing dedicated long-term funding required a significant amount of time and effort. Sarah stated that to date, funding of approximately \$200,000 a year has been secured and she thanked the supporters that committed to the organization; Nueces County - \$25,000 a year for three years, City of Corpus Christi - \$25,000 a year for three years, Port of Corpus Christi \$90,000 a year for three years and \$45,000 last year, RTA - \$5,000, MPO \$4,000, San Patricio County - \$5,000 and Port Industries - \$60,000 a year for three years. Sarah informed the group that Gretchen is still working with other entities to commit to supporting the organization.
- Next steps. Gretchen will remain with the organization to transition in the new Executive Director. The overall group will continue to be a part of the organization. Quarterly update meetings will continue, and the group will continue to participate in Ozone Advance. Once the Executive Director is brought in and the permanent Board seated, work will begin on the seeing through the strategic plan to include developing an action plan for the organization.
- Sarah asked for questions and there were none.