

## **MEETING NOTICE & AGENDA**

### **AIR QUALITY FORUM**

**February 13, 2024**

**10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

**MARC Board Room or Zoom**

#### **Members and Alternate in Attendance:**

Alicia Daniels  
Rollin Sachs, Johnson County DHE  
Allison Smith, KDOT  
Carol Adams, KCMO EMC  
John Neuberger, Sierra Club  
Doug Watson, KDHE  
Hillary Shields, Lee's Summit  
Leena Divakar, KSU (PPI)  
Rayan Makarem, Clean Air Now

Jodi Gooseman, City of Kansas City, Mo.  
Blake Butler, KCMO  
Michael Cunningham, MoDNR  
Dan Williams, KCMO  
Andrew Salastino, KCMO  
Brian Alferman, Johnson County  
Justus Welker, Johnson County  
Michael Parks, Lee's Summit  
Wes Minder, Platte County

#### **MARC Staff:**

Tom Jacobs, MARC  
Kate Ludwig, MARC  
Rachel Krause, MARC  
Karen Clawson, MARC

Doug Norsby, MARC  
Marc Hansen, MARC  
Martin Rivarola, MARC

**1. Introductions and Determination of Quorum**

**2. November Meeting Summary\***

The meeting summary was APPROVED.

**3. New National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM 2.5**

EPA has published a final rules setting the level of primary (health-based) annual PM2.5 standard at 9.0 ug/m<sup>3</sup>. EPA is not changing the current primary and secondary welfare-based 24-hour PM2.5 standards, secondary annual PM2.5 standard, and primary and secondary PM10 standards. In addition to the new annual standard, EPA is modifying the PM2.5 monitoring network design criteria to include a factor that accounts for proximity of populations at increased risk of PM2.5 related health effects to sources of air pollution.

Analysis of each PM2.5 monitor shows that there are two monitors (JFK in Kansas City, KS and Heritage Park monitor in Olathe, KS) that are tentatively violating the new standard. At this time, we do not know what impact the state and EPA's review of the monitoring data will have on our attainment status. Within 2 years after a final NAAQS, EPA must 'designate' areas as meeting (attainment areas) or not meeting (nonattainment areas) the final NAAQS considering the most recent air quality monitoring data and input from states and tribes. Within 3 years after a final NAAQS: States must submit state implementation plans (SIP) revisions to show they have the basic air quality management program components in place to implement the final NAAQS. Within 18 months after the effective date of designations, nonattainment area PM2.5 state implementation plans are due.

**4. EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program**

MARC has published its Draft Priority Climate Action Plan for public comment and review. Comments are due by December 17. The plan leans on a three-part framework: catalyzing neighborhood resilience, leveraging public leadership, sustaining critical infrastructure system resilience. Below are the priority strategies that have been included in the plan.

**Buildings and Energy:**

- Measure BE-1: Build resilience in LIDAC Communities by investing in resilience hubs.
- Measure BE-2: reduce energy burden by investing in quality housing.
- Measure BE-3: Achieve regional energy savings by investing in high-performance public, nonprofit and commercial buildings, and schools.
- Measure BE-4: Deploy renewable energy solutions to reduce grid and cost burden.

**Transportation**

- Measure T-1: Connect resilient neighborhoods and activity centers with green corridors and active transportation.
- Measure T-2: Connect resilient neighborhoods by expanding and linking trails/protected bikeways.
- Measure T-3: Enhance low-carbon mobility by investing in shared electric bike infrastructure and expanding use of electric bikes.

- Measure T-4: Expand the network of publicly-available electric vehicle charging infrastructure to fill network gaps and provide access to underserved communities.
- Measure T-5: Reduce emissions by transitioning public transit and municipal fleets to zero- and low-emissions technology.
- Measure T-6: Reduce the need for travel through sustainable land use and development.

#### **Urban Greening**

- Measure UG-1: Increase and maintain tree canopy along green corridors and within neighborhoods to mitigate urban heat islands, conserve energy and protect public health.
- Measure UG-2: Sequester carbon through the conservation and restoration of riparian and natural areas and through green stormwater infrastructure.
- Measure UG-3: Adopt stormwater standards and related policies to enhance land stewardship and sequester carbon.
- Measure UG-4: Leverage regional design and engineering talent to build civic capacity.

#### **Food, Agriculture and Waste System Innovation**

- Measure FA-1: Invest in innovation and entrepreneurship to build capacity of Kansas City regional food system stakeholders
- Measure FA-2: Build resilience in LIDAC communities by investing in applied regenerative agriculture facilities.
- Measure FA-3: Increase residential composting and diversion to local livestock.
- Measure FA-4: Reduce food waste at schools, food service, grocery, distribution, and commercial facilities.

#### **Cross-Sector Measures**

- Measure CS-1: Advance public policy through collaborative partnerships.
- Measure CS-2: Develop an equitable green workforce.
- Measure CS-3: Empower individuals to reduce GHG emissions through action.
- Measure CS-4: Create multi-faceted professional and community training program to accelerate implementation of measures.
- Measure CS-5: Develop a co-creation-based model to support capacity building, shared leadership, and project monitoring and evaluation.
- Measure CS-6: Kansas City Climate and Environment Education Project

### **5. Air Quality Public Education Work Group Recap**

The work group met recently to discuss the following topics:

- 2023 Ozone Season and PM2.5 Review
- Public Education Program ideas
- Seasonal Messaging around Pm2.5
- Audiences: Local government, businesses, and schools
- Mass notification system planning
- AirQKC.org Update

### **6. Transportation Updates**

- a. Call for Projects & CMAQ/Carbon Reduction Program Workgroup  
MARC will launch a call for projects in March for four federal transportation programs:

- o Surface Transportation Block Grant (2027-2028)
- o Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (2027-2028)
- o Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (2027-2028)
- o Carbon Reduction Funds (2025-2026)

Ahead of the programming of projects that committees will eventually do, MARC will convene a work group to discuss which committee or workgroup will recommend projects for the CMAQ and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funds. Eligible projects under both programs are very similar. In the past, different committees would split up the CMAQ projects and make separate recommendations. Last year, because CRP was new and programmed on a different schedule, an adhoc work group was formed to make recommendations. MARC staff will request that two members from the Air Quality Forum participate in the work group that will determine which body (existing or new) will make recommendations for these programs.

**7. State Rules in Progress**

None.

**8. Other Business**

- a. [Conflict of Interest](#) & [Whistleblowers Policy](#)  
b. Membership Update

Karen Clawson said that membership appointments were not as far along as she would like, but we continue to reach out to cities and counties to make those appointments. Because, we are still waiting on these appointments, co-chairs and community membership has also not been confirmed.

**9. Adjourn**

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

*\*Action item*

**Parking:** Free parking is available when visiting MARC. Visitors and guests should park on the upper level of the garage. An entrance directly into the conference area is available from this level. To enter this level from Broadway, turn west into the Rivergate Center parking lot. Please use any of the available spaces on the upper level at the top of the ramp. For directions to the MARC offices, visit [www.marc.org/mapandparking.htm](http://www.marc.org/mapandparking.htm)

**Special Accommodations:** Please notify the Mid-America Regional Council at (816) 474-4240 at least 48 hours in advance if you require special accommodations to attend this meeting (i.e., qualified interpreter, large print, reader, hearing assistance).

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