

## **MEETING NOTICE & AGENDA**

### **AIR QUALITY FORUM**

**November 14, 2023**

**10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

**MARC Board Room or Zoom**

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

Angela Markley, Unified Government  
Rollin Sachs, Johnson County DHE  
Allison Smith, KDOT  
Carol Adams, KCMO EMC  
Kelly Gilbert, MEC  
Richard Rocha, Bayer

Jodi Gooseman, City of Kansas City, Mo.  
Dan Williams, City of Kansas City, Mo  
Ryan Bolwes, UG Public Health  
Josh Wood, City of Olathe  
John Neuberger, Sierra Club  
Brian Alferman, Johnson County

#### **Other Attendees:**

Leena Divakar, KSU (PPI)  
Jacob Larson, KSU (PPI)  
Eleanor Matheis, KDOT

Garrett Garrison, UG WyCO/KCK  
David Albrecht, Metro Energy Center  
Jennifer Schwaller, HDR

#### **MARC Staff:**

Tom Jacobs, MARC  
Kate Ludwig, MARC  
Ron Achelpohl, MARC  
Rachel Krause, MARC

Doug Norsby, MARC  
Bridget Koan, MARC

**1. Introductions and Determination of Quorum**

**2. September Meeting Summary\***

The meeting summary was APPROVED.

**3. Ozone Season Wrap-up Report from Weather or Not**

Weather or Not joined the Air Quality Forum to share their report of the 2023 ozone season. The Kansas City region saw 16 exceedances during the 2023 ozone season.

**2023 Exceedance dates**

- May 25<sup>th</sup>
- June – 12 total
  - Highest # of exceedances of any month on record
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Red day since 2018
- July 3<sup>rd</sup>
- August 28<sup>th</sup>
- September 2<sup>nd</sup>

In 2023, the Canadian Wildfires carried smoke down, which increased ozone production for the region. The Kansas City region had the 12<sup>th</sup> warmest ozone since 1995 and 10<sup>th</sup> driest on record.

**2023 Statistics**

- Notably monthly rankings since 1995
- March - 9th coldest on record
- April 10th - driest on record
- May 7th - warmest & 9th driest on record
- June 8th - coldest & 8th wettest on record
- September - 7th warmest & 2nd direst on record

**Canadian Wildfire**

- June's historic ozone levels were rooted in eastern Canadian wildfires.
- Largest fire in Quebec province peaked in early mid-June.
- Increased upwind ozone production across the Great Lake region into Eastern Missouri.
- Stagnant pattern persisted for most of June.

**June Review**

- June 3rd-7th- 5 consecutive exceedances highlighted by RED day on June 6th.
- Started with dirty upwind from eastern MO into IL on 3rd, 4th, 5th (areas heavily influenced by wildfire smoke)
- Then airmass became stagnant for the 6th & 7th

- Each day was mostly sunny, highs: upper 80s to 90s.
- June 14th-16th – Another stretch of sunny, hot & stagnant weather
- Winds less than 6 mph; highs: mid 80s to low 90s
- Orange occurred each day, and even some red hours on the 15th.
- Small concern for afternoon cumulus clouds to limit ozone production.
- June 19th, 20th, 21st – Dirty upwind again from IL (influenced by Canadian wildfires)
- Steady SE winds 4-10 MPH but calm overnight.
- Full sun with highs in the upper 80s to 90s

**Discussion:**

- The report only represents ozone and not PM 2.5.
- Of the 16 days, have you compared which of the 8 monitors were in exceedances?
  - Yes, we did look at the monitors to see which areas were more saturated with adverse AQ.
- Do you see this data as becoming the new normal? Considering a lot of these numbers are unprecedented.
  - 2012 is the closest year Weather or Not has to compare to 2023. Weather or Not would not consider this a new normal currently.

**4. WAY TO GO Program Updates**

Way to Go's 15<sup>th</sup> annual event encouraged commuters around the region to take greener ways to and from work throughout the month of October. Throughout the challenge, points could be earned for carpooling, biking, walking, taking transit and scooting. There were a total of 278 participants who logged 8,331 green commute trips during the 2023 Green Commute Challenge. Of the 278 participants, there were 96 employers who participated. The 2023 challenge resulted in \$33,050 saved on gas, 22.4 tons of carbon emissions saved and 52,880 miles traveled.

The grand prize winning teams were the City of Kansas City, MO and HNTB. The Individual winner was Zach G. from UMKC. There were 11 local prizes were awarded during the challenge from places like Ruby Jeans, Blip, Chicken n Pickle, Made in KC and the WWI museum. Additionally, five local businesses provided discounts to green commuters throughout the month of October from Garden House Coffee, Oddly Correct, Bay Boy Sandwiches, Café Corazon and Urban Hikes.

a. Questions:

- How was work from home handled in the challenge?
  - Points were not awarded for telecommuting, but folks could still track those occurrences.
- Do you attribute any of the increased logging to the new app/software?
  - We received a lot of positive feedback regarding the ease with using the new platform. In the past we weren't tracking active users and these years we are seeing that people are really invested.

Way to Go has been working hard to build out employer outreach and look to where we can support respective businesses in their communities. We have 96 champions from the folks who participated in the green commute challenges to work with.

## **5. EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program**

The Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program provides funding to states, local governments, tribes and territories to develop climate action plans. The update of the Kansas City Regional Climate Action plan started this summer and will be a two-phase process. The first phase MARC was awarded \$1 million for planning efforts and phase two of the grant is for implementation. The Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) is due March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, and the Implementation grant for the CPRG is due April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Key criteria of the grant are:

- Impact of GHG emissions reductions
- Transformative regional impact
- Benefit to low-income and disadvantaged communities
- Job Quality

### **Engagement Process:**

- Community Coalitions will continue to meet through Nov 15
  - Workshop data will be collected and shared with participants for ongoing project development.
  - Submit your project(s) in the project portal
- Local government workshops, November 20-21
- Workshop: Review of Draft Priority Climate Action Plan framework
  - December 1, 8:30-11:30am, Kaufmann Center
- Draft PCAP presented to MARC Board of Directors, January 2023

## **6. Mass Notification System Study**

MARC's Air Quality Program has allocated some of its funding to study Mass Notification System and regional coordination around potential threats and emergency situations. MARC will work with the Metro Emergency Managers Committee to determine the scope of work for the project.

## **7. State Rules in Progress**

Cameron Weeks from MDNR shared that the commission will meet on December 7<sup>th</sup>. The only item that will be discussed is updating the definition rule. Doug Watson from KDHE shared that KDHE will be holding CPRG public meetings across the state. The community engagement process allows for state engagement and input of the CPRG program.

**8. Transportation or Partner Updates**

The MARC planning boundary has now expanded to include Ray County. MEC is doing a diesel emission reduction program to add transportation electrification funds.

**9. Other Business**

Commissioner Angela Markley was recognized for her service to the Air Quality Forum.

**10. Adjourn**

*\*Action item*

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**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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