MEETING SUMMARY
AIR QUALITY FORUM
September 8th, 2020
10:00-11:30 a.m.
Zoom Meeting

Members and Alternates in Attendance
Angela Markley, Unified Government  
Andres Savastino, KCMO
Richard Rocha, Bayer  
Gina Bowman Business to Government Relations LLC
Doug Watson, KDHE  
Jaclyn Brown, WYCO
Mark Leath, MoDNR  
Lynelle Ladd, SBEAP K-State
Shelley Reimer, MoDNR  
Steve Krabbe, EPA Region 7

Other Attendees:
Allison Smith, KDOT  
Dan Wilkus, Evergy
Jaclyn Brown, WYCO Air Quality  
Kelly Gilbert, Metro Energy Center
Beto Lugo Matinez, Clean Air Now  
Aaron Deacon, KC Digital Drive

MARC Staff
Karen Clawson, MARC  
Doug Norsby, MARC
Kate Ludwig, MARC  
Martin Rivarola, MARC
Tom Jacobs, MARC  
Amanda Horner, MARC
Katherine Harelson, MARC  
Paul Lampe, MARC
Alex Rotenberry, MARC
1. Introductions and Determination of Quorum

Introductions were made. Quorum was met.

2. July Meeting Summary*

The summary was APPROVED.

3. MARC Programming Update
   a. Summary of CMAQ project applications
   b. Process overview and call to action

Karen Clawson provided an update on what will occur with CMAQ during the coming months. Currently, the programming process is in Phase 2. Staff have received 14 applications for the CMAQ program. Funding available includes $5.6 million for Kansas and $6.6 million on the Missouri side. Project types within the CMAQ program are alternate fuel, bicycle & pedestrian, and traffic flow.

The Air Quality forum is responsible for alternative fuel, diesel retrofit, and outreach and education CMAQ projects. The funding for these projects is undersubscribed and will be redistributed to other projects. An ad hoc work group will be pulled together to make recommendations on that redistribution. One additional consideration for the alternative fuel projects is that project sponsors are still not able to secure Buy America Waivers. There is still uncertainty about the waiver system in future years.

4. Climate Action Plan

The Climate Action Plan is currently being drafted. There has been a great amount of feedback and ideas are starting to congeal. Ms. Clawson presented to big ideas that will play a major role in the plan.

Mitigation suggestions/comments:

- Resilience web works to improve community adaptability to climate change and action.
- Local food production is a suggested mitigation option. Food insecurity has risen greatly over the years, especially during the pandemic.
- Food hubs and distribution are helpful when addressing disproportionally affected communities.
- 15-minute neighborhoods align closely with planning sustainable places and will be included in the Climate Action Plan.
- Renewable energy investment creates jobs opportunities and reduces emissions. Renewable energy is a mitigation strategy for Climate Change.
- On the adaptation side, a focus was centered in on our disproportionately affected neighborhood.
- The Climate Action Plan hopes to adopt a plan that will help coordinate this process and bring folks to the table, to help up meaningfully represent all people.
- Vegetative buffers should be used on public lands and around residential areas for additional air quality benefits.
- Budget is always a big issue when working to implement policy. It is important to remember the government can implement ordinances requiring folks to have to plant a certain number of
trees. Turning to government ordinances etc. Work to remove strain on government and onto developers.

- The Climate Action Plan needs everyone's help to figure out how to roll out the policy proposals. We need to lend further support to low income communities. Broad partnerships are very important and help avoid budget restraint in the planning and implementation.

5. US Ignite/KC Digital Drive/MARC/Children’s Mercy community air monitoring project

An opportunity has arisen to implement a community air monitoring project. Research has been conducted over the past 3-4 years to figure out how to use air quality monitors amongst local community members. Cheap low-cost air quality censors work to broaden what we know on a more granular level in our community. The AQ&U project in Utah worked to place 150 censors around the Salt Lake City region to view correlation with COVID-19. The study compared susceptibility amongst the community to see if poor air quality related to increased chances of getting COVID. The community is receiving 75 tetrad censors. A work group with MARC, Children Mercy, and others who are interested in participating will be forming. If you are interested in joining interested in joining please let that be known. The group will be meeting in a couple weeks to form framework and where monitors will be placed.

Other Notes:

- Doug Watson from KDHE for point of contact regarding community monitoring.
- Steve Krabbe from EPA 7 informed the forum about the Argentine community monitoring study and how the data represents particulate matter in relation to transportation resources.


Shelley Reimer and Doug Watson shared updated state rules. The low RVP rule is out for public comment right now. Currently there has been a rule emplaced on low RVP requirement on gasoline in the area. There is now modeling that shows the same kind of results on NOX and VOC and how they will decrease in the transportation sector. Baseline study in 2017 was done on the RVP rule and now is being reviewed in 2020. Two studies are being done one with and without RVP requirement and one without.

- Missouri wanted to ensure SIP are in alignment across the state line in an effort to stay in attainment.
- At the last commission meeting a request for approve re-designation under sulfur dioxide standards to be moved back to re-attainment. The commission is also increasing the fee and structure to $55 per ton in 2022. The rule will become effective on September 30th.
- Approval from commission on the re-designation request for re-attainment for two counties is currently underway.

7. Other Business a. Vision Zero Summary

Vision zero summit brought to us by MARC’s Amanda Horner and Alex Rotenberry. Vision Zero works to eliminate traffic fatalities and increase safety for drivers, walkers, bus riders, and others using the transportation system. Over time, our community has seen an upward trend in traffic crash fatality. The summit will take place over the course of 3 weeks.

8. Next Meeting – Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. 9. Adjourn