

## **MEETING SUMMARY**

### **AIR QUALITY FORUM**

**July 11th, 2023  
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

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

Angela Markley, Unified Government  
Krystal Voth, City of Leavenworth  
Allison Smith, KDOT  
Doug Watson, KDHE  
Kelly Gilbert, MEC  
Richard Rocha, Bayer  
Andy Savastino, Kansas City, Mo  
Allison Crowther, K-STATE PPI

Jodi Gooseman, City of Kansas City, Mo.  
Dan Williams, City of Kansas City, Mo.  
Mark Leath, MoDNR  
Gayle Bergman, UG Public Health  
Justus Welker, Johnson County Transit  
Britni O'Connor, MODOT  
Carol Adams, KCMO EMC

#### **Other Attendees:**

Blake Butler, City of Kansas City, Mo.  
John Neuberger, Sierra Club

#### **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. May Meeting Summary\*

The May meeting summary was APPROVED.

## 3. Ozone Season Update

- Since May 25th, monitors have shown the KC Region exceeding standards. May and June both saw one exceedance, and the rest occurred during June. According to Weather or Not, June 2023 holds the most exceedances that have ever happened in one month.

There has been an increase in exceedances partly due to wildfire smoke coming from the north & west. AirQ KC has been a part of a lot of conversation regarding what is happening with our air quality and what that means for community health.

- NAAQS for ozone is set at 70 ppb.
- Any monitor's 4<sup>th</sup> highest 8-hour daily reading above 70ppb violates standard for the year.
- An official violation of the NAAQS is defined by Design Value --a monitor with a three-year rolling average of each season's 4<sup>th</sup> highest 8-hour daily reading above 70ppb.

All six monitors have now hit a 4<sup>th</sup> high reading exceeding the NAAQS. On June 14<sup>th</sup> the Rocky Creek monitor is the 4<sup>th</sup> highest reading that caused our Design Value for 2021-2023 to tentatively violate the ozone standard. We do have concerns that the JFK monitor's design value may also violate the Design Value before the season end.

- Chris from Weather or Not is going to share a in depth review of what has been going occurring.
  - Cause of ozone exceedances:
    - Early parts of June were dominated by an unusual weather flow. There were several north to east flows that brought Canadian wildfire smoke down to the KCMO region. Once we passed June 10th-11th, the same situation happened again. The July exceedances were due to stagnant air patterns and our typical sources from the Southwest.
  - Where are we going?
    - The pattern through the rest of July is going to be similar to the last few weeks. This will be followed by thunderstorms that come and clean it out pollutants. We will see less stagnant air mass lasting through end of July- early August.
  - Questions:
    - What were the highest peaks recorded in KCK? Is that because of the railroad?
      - KCK is the only station that could adequately capture AQ due to location. There is also a lot of industrial area in KCK, and not as much green infrastructure.

- Kelly, what do we do to protect our community in the meantime?
  - Focus on the fact that it is a current event. It has taken such a spotlight in the media and we need to double down on awareness.
- How does PM 2.5 factor into our ozone alerts?
  - It's a long-term planning regarding local ozone & PM 2.5 production. The more we ask folks to stay inside, the more we need to be aware that not everyone has the same kind of indoor air quality. Basic weatherization can reduce asthma induced medical visits by 33%.
    - On days with AQ alerts, we should work with the city on opening places for people to be protected from extreme cold, heat, and air quality.

#### **4. Kansas Fire/Smoke Season Summary**

- 2023 Flint Hill Prescribed Fire Report
  - 2023 was an unusual year for the Flint Hills. Kansas only had 1.2 million acres burned this year, which is half as much as usual. Luckily there were no ozone or PM 2.5 exceedances relate to the yearly burn season.
    - You can look at [WWW.KSFire.org](http://WWW.KSFire.org) or [WWW.facebook.com/KSFire](http://WWW.facebook.com/KSFire)
  - Questions
    - Do you anticipate a heavy amount of burns next year?
      - It will depend on the weather. If we have a drought, we will likely see a low number of burns. Alternatively, if we get a lot of rain, there will be more fires.
    - Will there be an increase in fall burning?
      - Yes, we have asked farmers to spread their burns out.
    - When you describe fall burning, what are the months that is allowed? Late August, September, and first few weeks of October. The reason is to allow for regrowth before Winter.

#### **5. State Rules in Progress**

- KS – No updates on any state rules currently. Quick update on the state climate change program: KDHE is starting to look for folks to help implement the program. In late fall we hope to engage with community members to figure out where our needs are regarding projects.
- MO -- Next air conservation meeting will be on July 27<sup>th</sup> here in Jeff City. One item for public hearing: St. Louis nonattainment plan.

**6. Transportation or Partner Updates**

- Jim Starcev, KC Digital Drive will be working with Tellus out of Utah. Tellus had conversations with Scripts nationally regarding Air Quality News coverage. Now, KCMO is currently on the short list to be one of the main Script coverage areas for Air Quality.
  - Scripts would purchase and expand the monitor coverage.

**7. Other Business**

**8. Next Meeting – Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.**

**9. Adjourn**