

## Minutes

### Mon Valley Clean Air Coalition

January 7, 2009

There were nine members in attendance: Larry Harris, Jarrett Jamison, Bill Wonderlin, Paula Hunt, Deb Fulton, Jim Kotcon, Jonathan Rosenbaum, Cindy O'Brien, and Linda Shuster

Duane was unable to attend the meeting, but sent an email indicating that the MVCAC checking account balance as of 11/30/08 was \$1555.58. A check for \$248.00 was paid earlier in November. He also noted that if we take up a collection at each meeting and document the individual contributors, this will help insure that we meet the guidelines for 501c3 status. Paula stated that she would perform an accounting of our donation records.

Duane made a motion that we renew our PO box at the Star City Post Office. Bill seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously. Paula will make the payment.

Duane made a motion that we renew our membership in the WV Environmental Council. Jim seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously. Paula will send a check for our annual dues.

Duane proposed that we invite a representative of the Group Against Smog & Pollution [GASP] from Pittsburgh to our next meeting, with the intention to consider a joint (co-operative) agreement with GASP for a one-year trial period. He noted that GASP has a portable meter for PM 2.5 that could be demonstrated. Duane stated that he would be willing to make the contact. The group agreed that this was a good idea, so we will ask Duane to proceed with this.

Duane noted that we now know that the water quality of the Monongahela River influences the air quality in the Monongahela River valley and beyond, given that those power plants using river water in their evaporative cooling towers have been experiencing problems from the high levels of total dissolved solids (TDS) in the river water. Duane recommended that we can raise this issue in the public press and before the state agencies. Bill asked Jim if the TDS would affect scrubbers, and Jim said "no," but emissions from the cooling towers could be affected, with some solids being released and additional solids being left behind.

Duane stated that the third meeting on the quality of the Mon River will be held this Friday at 10 am in the Airport Annex (lower level). The Director of the Water and Wastewater Division of the WV-DEP will be there to discuss the TDS problem(s). The meeting hosts are the Upper Mon River Association and the Chamber of Commerce. Linda suggested that this meeting may bring some attention to this matter if the newspaper covers it.

Duane proposed that MVCAC continue to maintain opposition to TRAIL and PATH. The group agreed that we would do so.

Duane made a motion that we oppose coal gasification plants whether for electricity generation or coal-derived hydrocarbon liquids, because these proposed plants have no demonstrated means for carbon dioxide control or containment. One such plant has been proposed for Mingo County in southern West Virginia and another is under consideration for Marshall Co. in the northern panhandle by CONSOL Energy. Jim seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The group next turned to the issue of the proposed designation by EPA of non-attainment for PM 2.5 particles in Mon County. Based on data from our monitors, we have exceeded the standard. Last week, Deb sent a link to an article in USA Today regarding air quality around public schools. Using an EPA model, they modeled the air quality at over 100,000 schools. Many schools in our county are surrounded by toxic air. Virtually all of the schools in Monongalia County were in the bottom 25%, indicating that nearly 3/4 of the schools around the country have better air quality than our schools. It was suggested that we write a letter to the editor regarding this issue, and Larry and Cindy volunteered to do this. Jim volunteered to write a letter to the EPA stating that we supporting the non-attainment designation and asking EPA to hold firm. Jarrett had already written three letters to EPA regarding the non-attainment designation. Jim noted that the MPO never conducted an evaluation of the effects of new roads on air quality, because we had been in attainment. He proposed that we ask for a study, in light of the proposed designation of non-attainment. Bill stated that he would check with Dan Boroff to determine the status of the MPO.

Jarrett reported that he had sent a letter to the PSC regarding Longview's water permit.

Our next meeting will be held in March. Hopefully, we will have a speaker from GASP for that meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Shuster, Secretary