

EPA Air Toxics Pilot Working Group
Meeting Summary
October 14, 2003

Members attending: Rev. Marvin Smith, Emily Lee, Tim Nieberding, Eleanor Bykoski, Stu Greenberg, Richard King, Elissa Feldman, Elvin Vauss, Bill Davis, Frank (for Richard Connelly), Frances Henderson

Absent: Bob Leidich, Bill Skowronski, Herbert Mausser, Joe Calabrese, Hollie Dellisanti, Laura Hobson, Mike Suver, Tom McLeary, George Baker, Richard Connelly, Ed Resnick, Seletha Rogers-Thompson, Dennis Finn, Marty Gelfand, Colleen Moynihan

Facilitators: Sanda Kaufman, Linda Kimble.

The Ohio Air Toxics Group convened for the seventeenth time at the Sewer District.

August MEETING SUMMARY – approved.

EPA structure: Elissa Feldman used an organizational chart to describe the structure and staffing of USEPA offices involved in the Air Toxics Pilot.

Presentation: Stephanie Strong (Earth Day Coalition) described clean fuels and some projects related to them. A questions and answers period followed.

“Broaden your horizons”: ideas for programs of interest to be presented at each Working Group meeting:

- Emissions Inventory presentation (B. Driscoll)
- Sustainable Cleveland and Entrepreneurs for Sustainability – could be willing to make presentations on point sources and energy efficiency projects, and on sustainable businesses.
- Review of air toxics similar to the one conducted at the beginning of the pilot project.

Discussion of external opportunities and threats to the CCACC – the group supplied ideas to be incorporated in the strategic plan.

Discussion:

Opportunities

- NE Ohio as the next frontier
- Visibility may attract other neighborhoods
- Potential collaboration i.e. asthma coalition, city/county healthy house project, CWRU Center on Environmental Health. Ohio Environmental Council
- Go to inner ring suburbs
- Additional funding

- Utilizing SEP money
- Expansion
- Collaboration with other projects EPA and additional funding
- Clear Skies Initiative

Threats

- Economy
- Complexity of topic defeats communication
- Greater competition for private funding
- Loss of Working Group members–no replacements
- Clear Skies Initiative
- Communication Plan–absent

Slogan discussion: the group considered four alternatives and amended the one that many preferred. The selected slogan is: "*WORKING TOGETHER FOR CLEANER AIR*".

Absent Working Group members will be consulted by email and if there is no objection this will become the CCACC slogan.

Partnership guidelines discussion: Should everyone in the group approve what kinds of partners the campaign will have?

- Any project has to be approved by the entire working group so there is no need for another round of approvals since the proposal should spell out partners at that stage.
- The only time this would be needed would be if someone offered some in-kind assistance. Then the email approval process could be used. It remains a working group decision.
- There may be instances where something is added to a project at a later stage or someone might want to expand a project started out by the campaign. It is important to protect the logo so all the stakeholders think it's a good use of it. It could happen even one time but could become very divisive. So whenever the logo is used the Working Group should have the opportunity to approve its use.
- Example of situation where the campaign provided resources and volunteers and did not get any recognition. So this measure might help prevent this.
- If for some reason there is an activity separate of projects where the logo comes out, it should be dealt with electronically.
- Are there any legal issues with treating ourselves as an organization? If a gas can explodes and causes damage, are we all liable as an organization? We are creating logos, names, mission statements...
- We do not endorse products and are not chartered so we should have no liabilities.

- Liability had come up in a project we did (gas cans) and it was an on-site liability issue. The campaign is a subsidiary of ALA. So it falls under the insurance for ALA. Once it leaves that site, those issues are off limits. So events are covered by insurance for ALA, but outside it nothing is covered.
- This is a coalition with mission and logo without being a legal entity.
- If the group is concerned, we should look into it (ALA attorneys? Any others belonging to an organization with attorneys?) to increase the level of comfort. (Linda can ask the ALA attorney.)
- How about EPA as a sponsor investigating this? The EPA attorney looked at the EPA-ALA relationship but that person may not have a conclusive answer about this issue. Elissa will raise the issue with the lawyer. Bill Davis will consult the NOACA attorney. Linda will consult ALA attorney.

EPA sitting at the table: approved; the only person who will participate in consensus decisions is Elissa, but EPA members can give input to the discussion as they have before.

Funding committee: a prioritized list was presented. The group was asked what kinds of projects it wishes to engage in as input to grant proposals. The funders fit our mission. Information is needed about a wish list that can be built into proposals.

- Retrofit group and heavy-duty fleets – interested in more funding.

Implementation team updates (see team summaries, distributed at the meeting)

- Indoor air and schools:
 - IAQ brochure gone through a number of revisions;
 - struggling with the gas can problem – there have been some complaints about the gas cans given away so far so we are exploring other brands;
 - household hazardous waste collection coming up: volunteers needed for thermometer exchanges: Nov. 1, at the Car Center (55th and Cedar) and Ridge Road transfer station.
 - Working with schools: fine-tuning an incentive program for custodians offering some \$ for improvements; also, influencing large renovation programs to adopt tools for schools released recently by EPA.
 - Some thermometer exchanges, some coming up.
 - Exploring some project with the Cleveland Public Schools, testing kids in the morning to measure their exhale breath to estimate the CO₂ levels in blood.
 - Discussing with city council anti-idling ordinance and mercury ordinance (with model ordinances from around the country)
 - Talking with environmental tobacco smoke people (its becoming a subcommittee) about smoke-free homes.

- Thanks to the Sewer District providing thermometers for exchange. 260 thermometers were collected at two locations in the city after the Mayor mentioned it. Fun to meet the public.
- Heavy-duty fleets:
 - A number of vehicles have been retrofitted. A group met with the Cleveland Schools Administration.
- Electroplaters:
 - Talking to them about doing an ad-on of chemical action as well as pollution prevention.
- Anti-idling:
 - More members needed
 - Focus on schools – 4 elementary schools in St. Clair and Slavic Village. Will meet with the principals. Asking schools to choose one or more projects (poster contests, banners and crossing guards as anti-idling monitors). ALCOA has EHS posters – can they be tied with this project?

Request for exchange of ideas among teams.

Synergy discussion: 4 examples of offshoots from the campaign that have impacted the community. For example Alcoa...; RPM, parent company of Day-Glow opened the doors for the St. Clair Superior environmental committee to tour the facility (a lot of time and planning). RTA approved a resolution in Sept. 2002 to direct future contractors to use high-grade, cleaner diesel fuel (despite slight increase in costs of doing business).

There has been overlap between the Campaign work and other activities of St. Clair Superior – intense synergy beyond Day-Glow.

Anti-idling policy in Downtown.

Recognition: submit good news to Linda for the website.

- ALCOA-Durabrite process for shining wheels to be cleaned with water – no chemicals (environmentally friendly). Also, long-term commitment to NE Ohio; new transportation group locally,
- Mike Suver parting award.

METING ADJOURNED AT 8:50

Next meeting: TBA