



KNOX COUNTY
TENNESSEE
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

KNOX COUNTY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD MEETING

The Knox County Air Pollution Control Board (Board) met in regular session on Wednesday April 21, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. Those members present were Ms. Cindy Pionke, Dr. Linda Reeves, Mr. Mike Conger, Mr. Chris Sharp, Dr. Robert Burns, Mr. Doug Ross, Mr. Robert Scott, and Mr. Chris Howley.

Also present were Mr. Brian Rivera, Division Director of Air Quality, and other Air Quality team members.

Ms. Cindy Pionke, Board Chair, presided.

The following proceedings were had and entered of record to wit:

In re: Roll Call and Board Members Introduction

Ms. Cindy Pionke called the meeting to order and asked Ms. Melanie Deford, Air Quality Office Manager, to call the roll, and it was determined that a quorum was present.

In re: Amendments to the Agenda

Ms. Cindy Pionke asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. There were none.

In re: Approval of Minutes from Meeting of January 20, 2021

Ms. Cindy Pionke asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes from the January 20, 2021 meeting. Mr. Chris Howley so moved, and Mr. Mike Conger seconded the motion. Ms. Cindy Pionke asked if there was any discussion of the minutes. Ms. Cindy Pionke noted that the minutes needed to be amended for a misspelling of Mr. Brian Rivera’s name on second page. Noting that amendment, Ms. Cindy Pionke asked for another motion to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Chris Howley so moved, and Dr. Linda Reeves seconded the motion. Ms. Cindy Pionke asked Ms. Melanie Deford to call the roll for the vote. All Board members present voted to approve the minutes as amended, except Mr. Robert Scott, who abstained, and the motion carried.

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In re: Citizen's Comments and Requests

Ms. Cindy Pionke asked if there was anyone present who wished to address the Board. There were none.

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In re: Director's Update

Mr. Brian Rivera, Division Director of Air Quality, presented the Director's Update.

Mr. Brian Rivera told the Board members that there is a new Knox County Law Department representative for the Board. Ms. Jessica Jernigan-Johnson fills the role previously held by Mr. Myers Morton.

Mr. Brian Rivera stated that this is the last Board meeting for Dr. Tara Sturdivant, Ms. Cindy Pionke, and Mr. Chris Howley. Their terms will expire and other candidates have been nominated for those Board seats. Mr. Brian Rivera thanked these three Board members for their service.

Mr. Brian Rivera informed the Board that Air Quality team members have been inputting facility compliance evaluations and permit records into Field Services database. To date, Air Quality team members have uploaded 35% of facility's permit records into Field Services, which is ahead of the goal to have all the permit records uploaded by the end of the year.

Mr. Brian Rivera mentioned to the Board that due to COVID-19 related issues, the update to the Air Quality website has been delayed.

Mr. Brian Rivera detailed to the Board some news items from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). First, Mr. Michael Regan has been confirmed to be the next Administrator of the U.S. EPA. Second, there has been no nomination for the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation (OAR). Third, EPA has not yet proposed any changes to regulations that affect Knox County Air Quality. Lastly, EPA has received some extra air grant funding, through such Federal actions as the American Rescue Plan Act. The sum of these funds should eventually be disseminated to the State and Local air programs.

Mr. Brian Rivera updated the Board regarding the response to odor complaints received on the grease trap recycling facility Liquid Environmental. Mr. Rivera explained that the facility has completed extending the height of the scrubber's stack. Since the stack's extension, Air Quality has conducted multiple assessments of the odors and the odor frequency & intensity have decreased. Air Quality has determined that the facility is now in compliance with the regulations. Mr. Rivera went on to say that Air Quality has obtained a device called a Nasal Ranger to quantify the intensity of the odors and has revised the Air Quality odor policy to incorporate the use of this device.

Mr. Brian Rivera introduced Ms. Amber Talgo, Knox County Air Quality's Air Monitoring Program Manager, to update the Board on the air monitoring activities. Ms. Talgo told the Board that monitoring for the ozone season started on March 1st without any problems.

Ms. Amber Talgo also let the Board know the American Lung Association's "State of the Air" annual report had come out, and that Knox County's had been given a grade of "B" for ozone and a grade of "A" for PM2.5.

Ms. Amber Talgo reported to the Board that there had been two exceedences of the PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) in 2021. On both of the days when the exceedences occurred the levels of PM2.5 were adversely influenced by controlled open burning in the surrounding counties.

Ms. Cindy Pionke asked if the Board had any questions or comments on the Director's Update. Mr. Mike Conger asked to thank the three departing Board members for their service, especially Ms. Cindy Pionke for serving as the Chair. Mr. Conger also asked about the status of Board members nomination process. Mr. Brian Rivera explained that the respective organizations had formally submitted nominees. Mr. Rivera went on to say that these nominations should be acted on at the Knox County Commission meeting in May. The new Chair and Vice-Chair would be elected at the Board meeting in July. Mr. Rivera agreed to send information on the nominees to the Board. Mr. Rivera also indicated that some informative outreach for the new Board members would take place in July and October.

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In re: Regulatory Revisions

Mr. Brian Rivera presented the proposed changes to the Knox County Air Quality Management Regulations Sections 25, 41, and 45. The proposed changes provide for the electronic public noticing for construction permits, permit rescissions, and major source permitting, instead of newspaper publication. The proposed changes also eliminate the associated public notice fees provisions. The revisions were being proposed after an EPA ruling on these matters and some recent TDEC rule revisions.

Ms. Cindy Pionke discussed a few points of the proposed changes with Mr. Rivera.

After the discussion, Ms. Cindy Pionke asked for a motion to adopt all the revisions. Dr. Robert Burns made a motion to adopt all the proposed regulatory changes, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Chris Howley. Ms. Cindy Pionke asked Ms. Melanie Deford to call the roll for the vote. All Board members present voted to approve all the regulatory changes and the motion carried.

A complete copy of these regulatory actions is filed with these minutes.

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In re: Enforcement Update

Mr. Brian Rivera presented the Enforcement Update Report to the Board. Mr. Rivera told the Board there were a few, typical open burning violations. There was one permit source violation, at gasoline bulk storage terminal facility. They had failed to submit a report on time and also had failed to perform a test with the required timeframe.

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In re: Reports

Ms. Cindy Pionke asked if there were any additional reports. Mr. Brian Rivera stated there were none.

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In re: Other Business

Ms. Cindy Pionke asked if there was any other business or questions involving the Board. There was none.

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In re: Adjournment

Ms. Cindy Pionke asked if there was a motion to adjourn. Dr. Robert Burns so moved and Mr. Mike Conger seconded it. The meeting was adjourned.