



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 January 20, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. Those members present were Ms. Cindy Pionke, Dr. Tara Sturdivant, Dr. Linda Reeves, Mr. Mike Conger, Mr. Chris Sharp, Dr. Robert Burns, Mr. Doug Ross, and Mr. Chris Howley.

Also present were Mr. Brian Rivera, Division Director of Air Quality Management 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: Approval of Minutes from Meeting of July 15, 2020

Ms. Cindy Pionke asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes from the July 15, 2020 meeting. Dr. Robert Burns so moved, and Mr. Mike Conger seconded the motion. Ms. Cindy Pionke asked Ms. Melanie Deford to call the roll for the vote and upon vote the motion carried.

\*\*\*\*\*

In re: Amendments to the Agenda

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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.

In re: Director's Update

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

Mr. Brian Rivera told the Board members that some of the Air Quality team members had been participating in the Knox County Health Department's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The participation had included contact tracing, data entry, assisting in managing the vaccination clinics, and other activities. However, Air Quality had also continued with their regular business and had met all of their U.S. EPA's grant requirements.

Mr. Brian Rivera explained that Air Quality had expanded the database used for complaint records to also include permit records. This year's goal is to populate the database with those permit records. Air Quality will also provide the public access to the database. The database should facilitate public information requests. It should also provide Air Quality team members access to the files, should they need to work from home, as they had during 2020.

Mr. Brian Rivera let the Board members know that the Knox County Air Quality website was being reviewed for improvements. One change was that a FAQ page had been developed and added to the site's listings.

Mr. Brian Rivera reported to the Board on the odor complaints and responses regarding the Liquid Environmental Solutions, Inc. The facility now has completed installing a negative pressure system inside the building, to improve capture of fugitive odors. However, Air Quality team members still detect odors downwind of the site, so the facility will try increasing the height on the control device's stack. This is intended to improve the dispersion of the odors. The increasing the stack height should be completed by the end of the month (January 2021). Air Quality team members will then check to see if the situation has improved.

Mr. Brian Rivera mentioned that due to the new White House Administration changes were occurring with personnel and assignments at the U.S. EPA. The Board will be updated on these developments at future meetings.

Mr. Brian Rivera stated that in December of 2020 U.S. EPA had finalized the NAAQS (National Ambient Air Quality Standards) for ozone and particulate matter. U.S. EPA decided to maintain the standards at the same level as previously set.

Mr. Brain 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 said that though some of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter results are not in yet, it is expected that the CY2020 ambient readings will show no problem in Knox County meeting the NAAQS.

Ms. Amber Talgo detailed to the Board that the PM2.5 monitoring system had been improved by adding two new T640 continuous monitors. Ms. Talgo also confirmed that the monitor at the Bearden site had been removed. These changes are estimated to save Air Quality \$13,000.00 in the cost of filters analysis.

Ms. Cindy Pionke asked about the protocol involved in removing air monitors. Ms. Talgo provided a brief description of the process.

Ms. Amber Talgo added that the two new ozone transfer standards had been obtained and would be deployed in the 2021 ozone season.

\* \* \* \* \*

In re: Enforcement Update

Mr. William Schaad, Air Quality Environmental Specialist II, presented the Enforcement Update Report to the Board. The report listed 34 Warnings or Notices of Violation (NOV) for open burning, one NOV and one Warning for an asbestos demolition projects, 2 NOV's for gasoline dispensing facilities, one NOV for installing equipment without permits, one NOV for notifying Air Quality of a testing event, and one NOV for failing to get approval from Air Quality for transferring certain materials.

\* \* \* \* \*

In re: Reports

Mr. Brian Rivera briefly reported to the Board on the State of Tennessee's progress in allowing for on-line publishing of public notices, instead of exclusively publishing in newspapers. The State's new Rule allowing on-line publishing will be effective on January 21, 2021. Mr. Rivera plans to bring regulatory changes before the Board at the April 2021 meeting to provide for Air Quality to utilize on-line publishing, and also to remove the provisions for the publishing fees.

\* \* \* \* \*

In re: Other Business

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

\* \* \* \* \*

In re: Adjournment

Ms. Cindy Pionke asked if there was a motion to adjourn. Dr. Linda Reeves so moved and Dr. Tara Sturdivant seconded it. The meeting was adjourned.