

## West Silver Valley Citizens Advisory Committee

The West Silver Valley Citizens Advisory Committee previously met on November 19<sup>th</sup> at the Panhandle Health Office in Kellogg. In attendance were 10 residents and DEQ staff.

### Notes

January 21<sup>st</sup>

Pinehurst City Hall, Pinehurst

1. **Introductions** - In attendance were 10 residents; Maureen Gilbert, Jann Higdem, Bob Launhardt, Karen Maravilla, Carol Young, Brian Nansel, Cathleen Sanborn, Lauren Chavez, Cathy Bettigole and Tom Richards. DEQ staff included Mark Boyle, Denna Grangaard and Ralph Paul.

2. **Committee Business**

**New Business – Brochure, woodstove survey** – Ralph delivered 100 copies of the groups' brochure for the members to begin placing around the area. Carol reported that the survey was going well and was well received by the community. She indicated that she had made 430 calls with 182 responses so far. Two new visitors joined the meeting with interest after taking the survey. Many people surveyed responded that direct-mail was a good outreach avenue. Carol reported that most folks get their information from the newspaper (SNP) either delivery or on-line. Respondents also report that direct mailing is the most effective. Several committee members stated that they are receiving feedback from the community about the WSVCAC logo and materials being circulated. It appears that WSVCAC branding is being noticed. Carol also mentioned she has heard from several people in the area that they plan to burn their blow down debris this spring. She suggested the group needs to get ahead of this to limit the potential impact. The group discussed moving up the residential yard debris program being funded by the targeted airshed grant to this spring. Mark stated that he did not think any agreements could be made in time to get anything implemented by spring. The group suggested that perhaps a partial plan to deal with the immanent need could be developed with minimal effort. A more defined and long-term plan could then be developed as the year progresses. Mark agreed to put that on the table for the new hire that will help coordinate all the projects in the area and see if it can happen fast. Additionally the group discussed that they could create some PRs about when to burn storm debris that would have minimal impact. DEQ could also develop some PR messaging as well in an attempt to educate burners how to avoid impacting their neighbors.

3. **Action Items**

- **Meetings – December meeting with KSD Transportation Dept.** - Ralph reported to the group that he had met with the Kellogg School District in December and talked about general air quality and the no idling signs placed around schools. He indicated he was well received by the group.
  - A committee member noticed busses continue to idle at the school. Idaho DEQ will contact the transportation department to better understand the need for this; as retrofit upgrades should have eliminated the need for idling. DEQ will also

follow-up with the diesel grant coordinator on previously implemented grant award which installed equipment on Kellogg busses. A member of the group stated that another no-idle sign was needed for the post office. There had been several trucks and cars at the post office which have been seen idling while the owner leaves the vehicle to retrieve mail inside the building.

- **Messaging – Trash burning** - Ralph also reported that at the December KSD meeting he heard from people reporting the open burning of trash. Because burning trash is illegal under DEQ rules, he encouraged KSD to provide names and addresses of where he could send informational letters. If necessary, DEQ can follow up with enforcement in this case. The WSVCAC group was encouraged to get educational messages about trash in the media.
- Ralph also informed the group that his news release was picked up on social media, statewide. He also indicated that the Shoshone News Press had not run the press release yet. Carol offered to follow up.

#### 4. Topic Discussion

- **Woodstoves – continued Sandpoint ordinance.** The group discussed various laws and authorities. DEQ does not have authority to regulate many of the civic burn activities that are unlawful under the fire code, or those that are a nuisance –even if it is unhealthy. However, DEQ can and does respond with educational assistance in any case they are made aware of. DEQ can enforce specific activities; during an air stagnation triggered burn ban for example (IDAPA 58.01.01.550-553 DEQ Stage One Forecast and Caution). The group thought that there was a need for general understanding about what DEQ can regulate and what they cannot. Mark Aamodt SCFD chief will be invited to the next meeting February 18. DEQ will work with their IT group to get the burn condition added to the forecast message so residents can get notification about burn conditions the evening prior so they can plan their activities accordingly. While discussing the woodstove and outdoor burning ordinance issues Jann stated that the County will not support a woodstove ordinance because it was not reasonable to call a burn ban or reduction and expect someone in Avery to comply or to limit contribution. This was a very insightful comment because woodstoves in Avery have no impact on the monitor. Mark suggested that perhaps an ordinance could be developed using air quality zones instead of one condition affects all of Shoshone county the same way. Jann thought this would be too complicated to write as an ordinance too confusing to the public and difficult to implement but agreed it made more sense and the county could be more receptive to this type approach.

#### 5. Comments

Bob Lundhart provided information about radon. The group encouraged Bob to contribute his works to the newspaper, as an individual passionate about this topic. The group appreciated the information. DEQ has no authority over indoor air quality, but supports health awareness. Bob encouraged the group to continue to work hard at cleaning up the air because the health of valley residents is at stake. Committee resident Carol Young reminded participants that the group existed to identify ways the local community could improve air quality and return the area to compliance with the federal and state standard.

#### 6. Next meeting – February 18<sup>th</sup> 6 - 7 PM

Panhandle Health District Kellogg

Adjourn