

West Silver Valley Citizens Advisory Committee

The West Silver Valley Citizens Advisory Committee previously met on May 19th at the Pinehurst City hall in Pinehurst. In attendance were 14 residents and DEQ staff.

Notes

June 16th

Pinehurst City Hall, Pinehurst

1. **Introductions** - In attendance were 14 residents and other participants; Steve Aubuchon, Maureen Gilbert, Jann Higdem, Bob Launhardt, Cathy Bettigole, Carol Young, Brian Nansel Auto Rain, Andy Helkey PHD, Linda and Larry Yergler, Tom Richards, Scott Young, Sherrl and Robert Berntsen. DEQ staff included Mark Boyle, Ralph Paul and Dan Smith. Also at the meeting were Marc Fleming and Mitch Wachtel with Community Action Partnership.

2. **Committee Business**

New Business – Grant Coordinator – Dan Smith, DEQ Grant Coordinator, introduced himself to the group and explained the purpose of his position. He spoke about the woodstove changeout program and how he was working to get it going this year along with the dry wood, yard waste and educational portions of the grant.

Old Business – Expo/Peek into Summer – Carol reported to the group that the Expo/Peek into Summer at the Snake Pit went well and Dan Smith was introduced to the community. Thanks to Tom Richards for hosting the event this year.

3. **Action Items**

Messaging – recreational fires – Larry Yergler inquired if recreational fires were illegal and Ralph responded that they weren't; only that the group was trying to make people aware of the smoke produced and to make sure the fires weren't left smoldering overnight. The status of the Avista mailings was brought up. Steve indicated that he had discussions with people in Avista and the flyer/information card would need to proceed rapidly because Avista would be getting a lot of requests for different items being included in the bill mailings. A brief discussion ensued about what would be included in the mailing. This included: quick info on the upcoming woodstove change-out, into to the WSVCAC, how to burn wood properly, and info on open burning. DEQ volunteered to develop the insert and get it to Steve ASAP. Steve stated that Avista will have to format, and comment etc. prior to mailing. The group also decided that a booth would be set up during Pinehurst Days to get information out about the woodstove exchange program. Larry Yergler suggested that the group secure space right away and provided the contact name (Audrey Wadsworth) and number to get on the list. The sites are first come first serve therefore the group will need to commit to an early set-up to secure the most desirable spots. Three spots will be purchased. Dan Smith will contact and secure space.

4. **Topic Discussion**

Woodstove Ordinance – Ralph began the discussion with explaining he had taken the Sandpoint Ordinance and made some modifications to it for starters. The Sandpoint ordinance is a woodstove curtailment program and is a codified version of the voluntary program currently used in the in the Pinehurst area during winter time. He also handed out a map indicating zones within the NAA that could be the basis for calling advisories as well as a starting point for the woodstove changeout work. Larry commented that what was needed was an open burning ban from October through March like Libby, MT. Jann Higdem questioned the need for an ordinance and pointed out that the Pinehurst PM10 SIP had none. Ralph pointed out that the CAA required "permanent and enforceable measures". Jann stated that the PM10 SIP did not have an ordinance therefore ordinances are not required in a SIP. Mark Boyle responded to Jann's conclusion by explaining the reason the PM10 SIP did not have any ordinances was because the modeling and emission

inventory developed for the SIP demonstrated attainment through the replacement of uncertified stoves alone. At the time of this meeting it was still unclear what level of reductions would be needed for the current Annual PM2.5 attainment SIP. Others in the group mentioned being “smoked out” by prescribed fires after putting up with wildfire smoke. Much discussion ensued around the topic of limiting smoke impacts from open “prescribed” fire. Mark encouraged the committee to engage in addressing this issue in the community and suggested it was possible for a local county ordinance to be implemented which could help alleviate this problem.

5. Comments

6. Next meeting – July 21st 6 - 7 PM

Pinehurst City Hall (next meeting will be held at PHD in Kellogg due to scheduling conflict)

Adjourn