

**Wisconsin Partners for Clean Air (WPCA)
Steering Committee Quarterly Meeting
Meeting Summary**

Date: November 1, 2005

Time: 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Location: WDNR- Southeast Region Headquarters

Attendees: Carolyn Amegashie (DOT), Peter Beitzel (MMAC), Joe Caruso (MCTS), Greg Failey (Milwaukee County), Tiffany Goebel (Midwest Airlines), Jessica Laub (DNR), Jessica Lawent (DNR), Dennis Laskaskie (Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel), Terri Linder (MHD), Peter McMullen (DNR), Jerry Medinger (DNR), John Melby (DNR), Lee Patza (Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel), Tom Ravn (Serigraph), Myrelene Saunders (WE Energies), Karen Schmiechen (DOT), Francis Vogel (Wisconsin Clean Cities - Southeast Area), Cheryl Weslager (Serigraph)

Item: Best Workplaces for Commuters

Keypoints:

- WPCA received the Bronzed level award in the 2005 Race for Excellence Award and 2 WPCA members – WE Energies and UW-M have been recognized as Best Workplaces for Commuters
- Peter McMullen applied for a 2005 Race for Excellence Award from the EPA, and a Bronze Level Award has been given to WPCA “In appreciation of your enthusiasm and commitment in support of commuter benefits.”
- Myrelene Saunders from WE Energies explained the process and benefits of being nationally recognized from the EPA as one of the Best Workplaces for Commuters. WE Energies will use the logo on their Intranet page, in the recruitment process and on their Internet page. The application took less than one hour to complete. It involved writing a description of the benefits offered. Myrelene noted that even if a company does meet a specific criteria, they may still be recognized if they are providing other forms of benefits.

Follow-up: More information about the Best Workplaces for Commuters program can be found at: [Best Workplaces for Commuters Home Page](#). Contact Myrelene for more information 414-221-2714 or myrelene.saunders@we-energies.com

Item: Commuting Benefit Options for Employers

Keypoints:

- Karen Schmiechen reported on an increased interest in the DOT Rideshare program – a 250% increase in Internet “hits”.
- Increased interest in providing employee benefits that help cope with higher travel expenses and yet are not expensive or burdensome for the employer.
- DOT offers a \$0.39 mile reimbursement for emergency rides home for participating organizations.
- Joe Caruso reminded members that emergency rides home are available for those participating in the Milwaukee County Transit System Commuter Value Pass program.

Follow-up: Karen has a sample policy available for use. Contact Karen Schmiechen at 262-521-5454 or Karen.schmiechen@dot.state.wi.us

Item: Wisconsin Clean Cities –Southeast Area Beyond a Billion events

Keypoints:

- Francis Vogel described 3 Wisconsin events held in early October that were part of a national Clean Cities promotion showcasing their achievement – over one billion gallons of petroleum



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displaced through Clean Cities efforts.

- Local WPCA member featured on 10/14/05 event was Transit Express. Transit Express CNG powered vans have traveled over a million miles in the Milwaukee community.

Follow-up:

Item: General Mitchell International Airport

Keypoints:

- Greg Failey reported that airport business is up 10% over last year; about 25-30 people per day make use of the Amtrak station shuttle service to and from the terminal; CNG powered shuttles (12) are used on the property and 2 CNG powered Honda accords are part of the airport fleet
- There is a major construction/renovation project at the airport. Additional gates are being built and the construction includes energy efficiency initiatives as well as auxiliary power for plane heating/cooling at these new gates.
- The construction of a multi-fuel public fueling station on airport property has been modified. Plans are to install a public fueling pump at one of the nearby gasoline dispensing facilities on Howell Avenue.

Follow-up: None

Item: State of the Air – Report on the Clean Air Task Force Meeting

Keypoints:

- Peter Beitzel provided a summary of the information presented at the Clean Air task Force Meeting on October 31, 2005.
- While there was much supporting modeling and monitoring data presented, three key points were made:
 1. Air quality has improved
 2. Current and future regulations will continue that improvement, but will not be sufficient to reach attainment
 3. Some combination of local and regional controls will be needed to reach attainment.
- Quantifiable voluntary emission reductions – and recording of those reductions - will continue to be important to reach attainment.
- PowerPoint presentation is available at: <http://www.ladco.org/reports.html#presentations>

Follow-up:

- **Partners should continue to register eligible emission reductions on the Wisconsin Voluntary Emission Reduction Registry.**
- WPCA may want to pursue acting as a “clearing house” to record small reductions from Partner actions that alone would not be eligible for the registry.**

Item: Revising OAD /Health Advisory Outreach

Keypoints:

- Number and timing of OAD and Health Advisories issued in 2005 produced some confusion.
- PM2.5 health advisories are annual, rather than seasonal.
- Different programs are in place in different areas in the state (Partners for Clean Air, Dane County Clean Air Coalition, Cleaner Air Faster counties).
- Tom Ravn noted that 64% of the bad air days occurred on weekends.

Follow-up: Suggest some more review of past years to see if the weekend occurrences are a

significant issue.
Some change in the OAD and Health Advisory procedures will probably take place for 2006. Partners may be asked to review any recommended changes.

Item: Health Sub-Committee Update

Keypoints:

- The Health sub-committee is putting together an educational air quality/health packet for doctors in the Milwaukee area.
- Components of the “kit” and funding sources have been identified.
- Some minor details need to be worked out before production and distribution can occur.

Follow-up: Continue work on project.

Item: Transportation Sub-Committee Update (Joe Caruso)

Keypoints:

- Sub-committee conducted a baseline survey to find out what Partners are doing.
- Recommended doing a follow-up survey ASAP after the end of the ozone season.

Follow-up: Follow-up on recommendation.

Item: Industrial/ Manufacturing/Commercial Sub-Committee Update (Audrey Van Dyke)

Keypoints:

- The industrial sub-committee is working through/with the Federation of Environmental Technologists (FET) air committee
- Links have been placed on both the FET and WPCA websites

Follow-up:

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.