1. **Call to Order**
   Chair Peter McGrath called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m.

2. **Approval of Minutes**
   Chair McGrath asked for a motion for the approval of the January AQC meeting minutes.
   **Action Taken:**
   Motion: A motion was made to approve the January AQC meeting minutes as written.
   Made: The motion was made by Fern Paterson and seconded by Gordon Miller.
   Vote: The motion was adopted unanimously by a roll call vote

3. **Public Comments to the Air Quality Commission (AQC)**
   **Action Required:** Open Public Comment Period

   **A. Air Quality Permit Reviews**
   Public comment on the proposed permits will be received at this time. The Air Quality Commission opens public comment for air quality permit reviews per Mecklenburg County Air Pollution Ordinance, Regulation 1.5213 – “Action on Application; Issuance of Permit”. Inclusion on the AQC agenda does not imply or infer any action or opinion by the AQC or its members regarding any permit.

   Chair McGrath, opened the public comment period for the facilities below, providing notice of the Mecklenburg County Air Quality’s (MCAQ) intent to issue/modify their air quality permit(s):
Jason Rayfield, Permitting Manager, was available to answer questions. Jason informed the AQC members that the KAT Industries permit action is an alternate public notice which means the 15 day public comment period started with a legal notice published in the Charlotte Observer. Jason explained that KATS Industries is a portable crusher facility. Chair McGrath asked a question concerning the portable crusher location and Jason stated this is the initial location of the portable crusher.

B. General Comments to the Commission
None

4. Request for AQC Action on MCAQ FY23 Budget
Leslie Rhodes, Air Quality Director, presented the preliminary fiscal year 2023 budget for the Air Quality division to the AQC members. It was stated that no property tax dollars are being requested for the FY23 budget. The MCAQ budget was prepared with no increases in permitting fees or gasoline tax revenue also considers level funding in federal grant funding; it was stated that MCAQ may see some increases in federal grant funding but that was not included in the budget. The capital expenditures expenses are associated with equipment that is needed to continue the implementation of the photochemical assessment monitoring stations (PAMs) requirements and one vehicle replacement from gasoline to an electric vehicle. Leslie noted that the air monitoring program continues to be under-funded by EPA. She explained to the AQC members that what staff is required to do and what they are funded to do doesn’t add up causing staff to use fuel tax revenue reserve to offset the expenses. The AQC members were informed that the Air Quality FY23 budget will be included in the LUESA budget request submitted to the Board of County Commissioners. Leslie paused to take questions from the AQC members.

- Chair McGrath asked a question concerning the increase in personnel budget. Leslie explained there is no increase in full-time equivalent (FTE) staffing, however, MCAQ is required by the county to budget for employees raises and cost to insurance. Chair McGrath follow-up with a question about drawing funding from the fuel tax reserve. Leslie explained that the nearly
$34,000 increase reflects the difference over the past fiscal year that staff is drawing from fuel tax reserve.

- Rev. Janet Garner-Mullins asked a question concerning what plans or methods have been looked at to receive additional funding for the budget to address under-funding of the air monitoring program. Leslie explained that this is not unique to local or state agencies and that this is a problem across the nation and that EPA has been made aware of this issue. There have been several requests made to the EPA for additional funding from the Section 103 grant which doesn’t require a match or Section 105 grant which does require a match. Staff do believe there may be some money received from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding that will help offset some of the air monitoring expenses. It was noted that within the next five years that MCAQ will have to request additional funding from the BOCC if the reserve account is no longer able to offset the conditions.

**Action Taken:**
Motion: A motion was made to recommend that the budget as presented be submitted to LUESA and the BOCC.
Made: The motion was made by Gordon Miller and seconded by Janet Garner-Mullins.
Vote: The motion was adopted unanimously by a roll call vote

Written handout: FY23 Budget (PowerPoint slide)]

Rosa Mustafa joins at 11:46 a.m.

5. **Updates and Presentations**
Chair McGrath asked if there were any announcements from the AQC members and MCAQ staff.

A. **Announcements**
   GRADE Grant Selection Meeting update
Chair McGrath provided the AQC members with an update from the GRADE grant selection meeting and highlighted the success of the GRADE program. It was stated that the selection committee recommended funding $1.23 million for thirty projects executed by ten companies. It was stated that nearly half of the projects being for zero emission vehicles that are converting diesel to electric vehicles; this includes ten diesel engine vehicles at Charlotte Douglas Airport that will be replaced. This will result in 200 tons of NOx reductions with 79 tons of that within the West Charlotte corridor.

Chair McGrath highlighted a challenge that the selection committee is having receiving projects from Minority, Women and Small Business Enterprises (MWBSE) and asked the AQC members to give some thought to specific companies or businesses that could take advantage of the program or ways the selection committees could make better contacts within the communities. Chair McGrath paused to take questions from the AQC members.
Air Quality Commission Summary Minutes

- Rev. Janet Garner-Mullins asked a question concerning the methods used to reach out the MWBSE. Chair McGrath stated the committee has compiled a distribution list from various sources that was sent out in writing via email or flyers. Rev. Garner-Mullins stated that having a town hall and reaching out to homeowner’s association that may have residents of those business that may be on the list would be a benefit to help promote the program as well as members on the AQC reaching out to their contacts. Rev. Garner-Mullins requested Chair McGrath to send her information on the program that she would be happy to share with her contacts. Chair McGrath will send information about the program.

- Megan Green informed the AQC members that the next call for project is expected to be summer 2022, she suggested to look into doing some targeted outreach.

- Rosa Mustafa asked what is the deadline on the GRADE application? Megan stated that these applications that the selection committee recommended was from a call for projects that ran from October 2021 through December 2021 and the next call for projects is still to be determined but we expect it will take place this summer.

- Leslie asked for feedback from the AQC members on any tools that staff could provide that will help share the information during the next call for projects. Chair McGrath stated that he thinks that the AQC members have all the tools needed; it’s just a matter of getting the information to the right people.

- Dr. Aaron Levy asked if there is a full list of the vehicles selected for the projects at the airport. Megan stated that these are all ground support vehicles; specifically ten baggage tractors that will be replaced. Dr. Karl Welke asked a follow-up question about how many pieces of equipment did this represent for the airport. Megan provided background history on the AeroGRADE project and highlighted the total number of equipment/vehicles replaced at the airport.

Leslie Rhodes, Air Quality Director, provided the following MCAQ updates. [Written handouts: AQC rezoning summary-March 2022; Monthly Business Activities Report]

**Ozone Season**
The AQC members were informed that ozone season start March 1. Ozone monitors have been prepped receiving proper maintenance and are ready for the start of ozone season tomorrow.

**Airwaves newsletter**
The annual airwaves compliance newsletter is scheduled to be issued mid-March to stationary sites and the AQC members will receive a copy. This year’s the newsletter will feature an interview with AQC member, Billy Powers that will allow the audience to learn more about the AQC; Leslie appreciated Mr. Powers for helping with this newsletter article.

**EPA releasing 2017 Air Toxic Data**
The AQC members were informed that the EPA will be releasing the 2017 Air Toxic data called “AirToxScreen” soon. In the past, this data has been called the National Air Toxics Assessment or NATA. This year it will include a mapping feature to review the results that will include mobile and industrial sources emissions. Staff does not expect any area within Mecklenburg County to be flagged as having excessive risk. It was noted that EPA intends to release this data more frequently. Leslie provided some background information on criteria air pollutant versus toxic air pollutants.

**Highlight of Clean Air Act Case**
Chair McGrath informed the AQC members of a Clean Air Act case being heard by the Supreme Court today about the clean power plan. The Supreme Court is hearing a case about whether the EPA has authority to promulgate regulations that apply to the power plant industry as a whole. Chair McGrath will keep the AQC member posted on the decision.

**B. AQC Annual Report**
In preparation of the 2021 AQC annual report, the AQC members were provided a list of 2021 AQC report potential article topics and were asked to volunteer for specific topics to draft articles for the report. Chair McGrath asked the AQC to select two or three topics to write an article on that had not been selected from the list to date. The timeline for the AQC report was provided below and the article should be two or three paragraphs per topic.

Timeline for AQC Report is as follows:
- **February 28** - Assign articles at February Meeting
- **March 14** - Deadline for submitting draft content to MCAQ
- **March 28** - Review Draft Report (send March 21 or with AQC agenda) and provide feedback
- **April 25** - Review Final Report (send April 18 or with AQC agenda); Vote to approve
- **May 18** - BOCC presentation

Topics/Articles assignments:
- Opened public comment opportunities for Air Quality permits (MCAQ staff)
- Open public comment period for the Annual MCAQ monitoring Network (Fern Paterson)
- Establishment of hearing panel & Questions and report out from Clean Aire NC permitting workshop (Janet Garner-Mullins)
- Fy2023 budget priority discussion (Peter McGrath)
- Charlotte moves & Breathing room (Aaron Levy)
- New Indy & Update on SC odors impacting Southern Mecklenburg (Jamie Watts)
- Quarry Operation (Peter McGrath)
- Colonial Pipeline spill update, Addendum to the 2021-2022 network plan & EPA actions on Ethylene Oxide (Fern Paterson)
• Photochemical Assessment Monitoring System Overview (Gordon Miller)
• Second Near-Road Monitoring Station, ozone season and wildfires updates & Annual PM2.5 update (Brian Magi)
• GRADE story map & Flexible Air Permits (Marcus Hackler)
• 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (Rosa Mustafa)
• COVID-19 (Aaron Levy)

The AQC members were informed that they would be provided the 2021 AQC meetings summary minutes as a reference document for the article. The AQC members were asked to email all articles to Ieshishua Pierce.

[Written handout: AQC Report Topics Timeline]

6. Next Meeting
Chair McGrath informed the AQC members that the proper technology is not available at this time to host a hybrid meeting; it was agreed upon to hold the March AQC meeting in-person on March 28th.

7. Adjournment
12:29 p.m.

Mecklenburg County will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities. Mecklenburg County will make reasonable accommodations in all programs to enable participation by an individual with a disability who meets essential eligibility requirements. Mecklenburg County programs will be available in an integrated setting for each individual. If accommodations are necessary for participation in any program or services, participants are encouraged to notify staff.