



MECKLENBURG COUNTY

- *Air Quality Commission* -

Monday, July 22, 2019, 11:30 a.m.
Ed Woods Conference Room
Fourth Floor, 2145 Suttle Avenue, Charlotte, NC

The monthly meeting of the Mecklenburg County Air Quality Commission was held Monday, July 22, 2019, 11:30 a.m. in the Ed Woods Conference Room, at 2145 Suttle Avenue, Charlotte, NC.

Air Quality Commission Members Present

Peter McGrath	Marcus Hackler	Gordon Miller	Terry Lansdell	Fern Paterson
Jeff Baker	Aaron Levy			

Air Quality Commission Members Absent

Jamie Watts	Rosa Mustafa	Brian Magi
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Mecklenburg County Air Quality Staff Present

Leslie Rhodes	Ieshishua Pierce	Megan Green	Jason Rayfield	Aaron Matijow
Sarah Fortner	Sheldon Turner	Kelly Grass	Tania McClary	

Guests

Elliot Tardiff, NC Department of Environmental Quality (Division of Air Quality, Meteorologist)
Bradley McLamb, NC Department of Environmental Quality (Division of Air Quality, Meteorologist)

1. Call to Order

Chair Peter McGrath called the meeting to order at 11:36 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chair McGrath opened the floor for the approval of the May and June AQC meeting minutes.

Action Taken:

Motion: A motion was made to approve the May and June AQC meeting minutes as written.

Made: The motion was made by Gordon Miller and seconded by Marcus Hackler.

Vote: The motion was adopted unanimously.

3. Public Comments to the Air Quality Commission (AQC)

Action Required: Open Public Comment Period

Members of the public wishing to speak during the meeting should sign in with the Air Quality Commission secretary prior to the meeting.

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):

Facility Name	Facility Address	Action Type
Daumar Industries Corporation	13265 Reese Boulevard E, Huntersville, NC 28078	Open Public Comment
Johnson Bros. Corp. (Portable CBP No. 1)	228 W. 23 rd St., Charlotte, NC 28206	Open Public Comment
7-Eleven # 38617	4800 N Graham St, Charlotte, NC 28269	Open Public Comment
Mallard Creek Polymers	2800 Morehead Road, Charlotte, NC 28262	Alternative Notice

Jason Rayfield, Permitting & Enforcement Program Manager, was available to answer questions.

B. General Comments to the Commission

None

4. Ozone Forecasting

Sarah Fortner, Environmental Specialist, introduced Meteorologists, Elliot Tardif and Bradley McLamb from NC Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) – Division of Air Quality (DAQ), to give a presentation about forecasting air quality in the Charlotte region. Elliot recognized and thanked the MCAQ staff for the working relationship with the meteorologists at DAQ. Elliot provided an overview of what they do and how they predict ozone values. The meteorologists forecast ozone and particle pollution for seven forecast regions around the state using the Air Quality Index (AQI) to translate the expected air quality to potential human health impacts. The air quality forecasts are issued by 3PM the day before, and updated the following morning as needed. Some factors considered for the forecast values are meteorology (i.e, temperature, wind velocity, cloud cover, precipitation) and emissions/air pollution (i.e, geography, upwind pollution, day of week, special events).

AQI Information Provided

- The AQI is used to convey the forecast to the general public.
- The AQI does not change linearly with a change in ppb.
- The AQI changes at different rates within each color code. The ozone is only reported to the nearest ppb.
- For grading an ozone forecast similar to a temperature forecast, the proper metric to use is ppb, not the AQI.
- A 5° temperature error would be roughly equivalent to a 10 ppb error in ozone, or as many as 35 AQI “points”, depending on the category
- Ozone forecast AQI values represent the absolute peak 8-hour ozone concentration expected at any point within a given forecast region.
- The monitoring network is designed to detect the peak fourth highest 8-hour ozone value within a region to track compliance with the ozone standard.

- The monitoring network will not necessarily detect the peak 8-hour ozone concentration throughout the entire forecast region on all days. Ozone that forms over an urban core often can bow towards gaps between the monitors.

Ozone trends have improved steadily over the years. A Forecast Season 2018 Charlotte Ozone Concentration Graph showed a lot of good or moderate days with some borderline Code Yellow/Code Orange days. There was a chart presented that highlighted 2018 ozone season code orange forecast or observed data for 18 days in the Charlotte region. Here's the summary for the 18 days:

- 9 Code Orange Forecasts verified at a monitor
- 4 not verified at a monitor but Code Orange could have occurred somewhere in the Charlotte MSA
- 1 questionable
- 4 misses, including 3 days where a Code Orange was forecast and did not verify, and 1 day where a Code Yellow was forecast and a Code Orange verified at a monitor.

Bradley provided information on the ozone design value predictor which is a web-based mapping tool that displays maximum 8 hr. ozone and design value information using current year ozone data for all ozone monitors in the U.S. It provides an up-to-date snapshot of ozone monitor attainment status based on current year ozone data. MCAQ staff will email a link to the "Ozone Design Value Predictor" webpage. [PowerPoint Presentation: Forecasting and Mapping Ambient Air Quality Data (July 22, 2019)]

5. Ozone Update

Jeff Francis, Air Monitoring Program Manager, provided the AQC members with an ozone update. The AQC members were given a handout that provided an ozone season update. The ozone season update showed a current ozone compliance value of 68 ppb. There have been three exceedance days in Mecklenburg County and five in the region year to date. The AQC members were provided with a handout of Charlotte, Gastonia, Concord Metropolitan Statistical Area Ozone Sites that included the start date for each site.

[Written handouts: Ozone Season Update (dated July 22, 2019); Charlotte-Gastonia-Concord Metropolitan Statistical Area Ozone Sites]

6. Request for AQC Action on Breathing Room-Path Forward

Megan Green, Mobile Source Program Manager, gave a presentation to the AQC members providing an update on Breathing Room-Path Forward. The Breathing Room Initiative started in January 2018 with Mobile Source staff reviewing past stakeholder input from Livable Meck, Connect Our Future, and the AQC Air Quality Review to gather ideas on ways to create Breathing Room. It was from this process that 15 strategies were identified and over the next eleven months staff hosted strategy sessions with nearly 500 community members to receive input for creating the Breathing Room -Path Forward. The Path Forward ranks 10 of the 15 strategies that help improve local air quality into 3 categories "now (Fy20-

FY21)," next (FY22)" and "future (FY23+)". It was stated that existing programs such as GRADE, industrial source permitting and compliance, air awareness education and outreach services, smoking vehicles program, and idle reduction resources will continue.

Action Taken:

Motion: A motion was made that the AQC recommend that the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners endorse the Breathing Room Path Forward.

Made: The motion was made by Gordon Miller and seconded by Jeff Baker.

Vote: The motion was adopted unanimously.

Next steps

1. Develop implementation plans for "Now" strategies – Ongoing
2. Report to Environmental Stewardship Committee – September 10, 2019
3. Present to BOCC – September 17, 2019
4. Submit annual progress report to EPA – September 2019

There was a suggestion to have a few AQC members to attend the September 10th BOCC Environmental Stewardship Committee in support of the Breathing Room presentation. Terry Lansdell and Jeff Baker volunteered.

[PowerPoint Presentation: Breathing Room (Improving Air Quality Beyond the Ozone Health Standard)]

7. Updates and Presentations

Chair McGrath opened the floor to receive announcements.

A. Announcements

ACE Awards

The AQC members were informed that the Air Compliance Excellence (ACE) awards would be issued in August. The ACE award is a special recognition program designed to recognize local industry's efforts in achieving ongoing compliance with their air quality permits. The total number of recipients for this award will be announced at the August AQC meeting.

AQ Personnel

Megan Green introduced Sheldon Turner as the new Environmental Specialist in the Mobile Source Program.

MYEP Intern

Leslie Rhodes recognized Tania McClary who has been working with MCAQ as an intern through the Mayor's Youth Employment Program (MYEP) this summer.

B. MCAQ Service Requests

This action item was tabled until the August AQC meeting.

8. Next Meeting

August 26, 2019

9. Adjournment

12:54 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.