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Meeting Vita

Location: Yakima County Courthouse
 Commissioners Hearing Room, B33

Time: 2:00 p.m

1. **Tom Gasseling, Chair**, called the Meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.
2. **Clerk of Board – Roll Call** *There was a quorum.*

PRESENT WERE:	
BOARD MEMBERS: Tom Gasseling, Member-at-Large, Chair Bob Jones, Small Cities Rep., Vice-Chair Rand Elliott, County Commissioner Bill Lover, Large City Representative Dick Camp, County Representative LEGAL COUNSEL: Gary Cuillier, Board Counsel ABSENT: Mike Leita, Alternate County Commissioner Allen Schmid, Alternate, Small Cities Rep Neil McClure, Alternate, Large City Rep Ron Gamache, Alternate, Co Commissioner	STAFF: Gary W. Pruitt, YRCAA Director Patty Walker, Clerk of the Board Staff, Engineering/Planning Division Staff, Fiscal Manager Staff, Compliance/Monitoring Division VISITORS: Larry Fendell, Citizen Jim Dyjak, Citizen Linda Dyjak, Citizen Kevin Bouchey, Elect County Commissioner Joe Walsh, CWHBA MEDIA: Mike Brown, YPAC

3. **Additions and Deletions to Agenda** – Tom Gasseling, Chair asked if there were any additions or deletions to the Agenda. There were none.
4. **Public Comment** – Tom Gasseling asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 5.1 By consent, approve Minutes of September 11, 2008 Board.
- 5.2 By consent, accept and file YRCAA Calendar of Meetings.
- 5.3 By consent accept and file YRCAA September and October, 2008 Activities.

Dick Camp moved to approve Consent Agenda items 5.1 thru 5.3. Bob Jones seconded. Consent Agenda items were approved.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. **Director’s Report – Refer to report for detail**
 Gary reported to Board on the following items:
Federal Base Grant
 Staff reported to Board at the Air Quality Mangers Group’s meeting earlier this week he learned that the base grant for Region 10 will be reduce by about 20% for FY 2010. YRCAA currently receives \$199,012, there may be a reduction of about \$39,802. The base grant funds programs which benefit the general public, and requires a 40% local match. Puget Sound, the largest local agency, and Ecology promised to minimize the harm to smaller agencies like Benton and Yakima by taking the brunt of reduction in Washington State.

Legislative Update:
State

Ecology is proposing legislation to the Governor's Office regarding "Changing the fees for certain types of agricultural burning." The revision RCW 70.94.650 will raise the statutory cap on ag burning fees from \$2.50 per acre to \$6.00 per acre, and will change the fee basis for pile burning from a "per acre" to a "per ton" basis and set a cap on the fee for those types of burns at \$1.00 per ton. This legislation could restore funding of ag fees to the 2005 level, this should be accomplished by 2011.

Rand Elliott inquired as to the change in fees? Staff gave a brief description of how the program was prior to the change in 2006 with State Law and that the Agency has been subsidizing the agricultural burn permit program since that time. Tom Gasseling questioned how staff would estimate tonnage? Staff responded that it is similar to the way the Forest Service does by converting pile size to tonnage by determining size and density of pile. Staff will keep Board informed.

Federal

Staff provided Board with the latest information about Greenhouse Gasses and EPA's Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Mary Nichols, Chairman of the California Air Resources Board testified that the Clean air Act "can be a valuable component of the United States' response to climate change."

Budget

Staff has conducted the first quarter budget review and found revenues up about 6% over expectations, and expenditures also up about 6%. Increased revenue was due mostly to an unexpected one-time base grant award of \$24, 793, and increased expenditure was due mostly to increasing one administrative staff from .5 FTE to a full FTE. The next mid-year budget review will be conducted in January 09.

Staffing

Staff reported that Dave Lenington has left YRCAA to take a position with the State of Alaska. Recruitment for his replacement closes tomorrow, 11/14/08. This office offers its sincere appreciate for Dave's dedication to the agency and his exemplary work ethic. He will be missed.

Bill Lover asked if staff should consider putting the position on hold until staff sees how the funding is in light of the decrease in Base grant. Staff responded that we will be considering that.

ACTION ITEMS

7. Permit Fee Adjustments per Resolution 2008-12

Gary Pruitt asked Board to consider the CY 2009 Permit Fee Schedule. Staff continued that with our current record keeping, it better shows base operations and how the permit program costs are tallied. A fee increase is necessary in all of the permit fees that we access. Staff explained the Permit Program cost and revenue analysis for FY 2008 which shows its share of the total base operations costs.

Fee calculations were based on the number of permit transactions expected in 2008, using the proposed fees, an increase in revenue of \$34,369 is expected. Staff reminded Board that agricultural burning fees cannot be increased, and are waiting on legislation to increase agricultural burning fees.

Joe Walsh, Central Washington Home Builders Association spoke in favor of the permit fee adjustments proposed by staff for CY 2009. He felt that staff had done a good job in laying out the proposal to the Board. He inquired about dust permits for this year? Gary responded that we have had seven Master Plans, and we will be seeing more Site Notifications. Each Master Plan comes with a Site Notification. That Site Notification is included in the cost of the Master Plan. The majority of the fee covers the cost of inspecting that site.

Joe Walsh continued that he felt it was a reasonable permit fee schedule. Staff added that the fee will take effect January 1, 2009. Dick Camp questioned what is a minor source? Staff explained the registration program to Mr. Camp explaining it is an annual fee for registered sources. It is a set fee. Registrations cannot be calculated the same as for a New Source Review, which reflects actual staff time to develop and issue the permit, or the Air Operating Permit fees which are based on tonnage emissions. Staff continued that Notifications of Demolition and Renovation are based on quantity of asbestos removed.

Tom thanked Joe for his comments and asked if there was a motion?

Bob Jones moved to approve the 2009 Permit Fee Schedule. Bill Lover seconded. Tom asked if there was any discussion. Dick Camp asked if they could have more time to review it. Bob Jones withdrew his motion in order to bring it back to the December Board Meeting. Staff asked if they needed to have a Study Session on it in December. Board responded no.

DIVISION/PROGRAM REPORTS

Gary Pruitt, Executive Director, began the Division and Program Reports:

Refer to written reports for clarity.

7. Accept Public Information Report

Dave Caprile, Public Information Officer, gave an update on Public Education and Outreach as follows:

September 17th staff met with representatives of the upper and lower valley emergency 911 call centers and Yakima county fire departments to develop a protocol to lessen the impact of air quality complaints. The plan offered was reasonable to the call centers and fire departments. Agriculturalists were to call dispatch and let them know of a controlled burn. A final draft agreement with them is close at hand. Gary Pruitt reported to Board that on November 1st he responded to his first outdoor burn call from dispatch which resulted in two violations, an illegal burn and a person using a woodstove during a curtailment.

YRCAA's new sign is complete. The 2009 Woodstove Change-Out Program, scheduled to begin September 18th was delayed, but is now well underway. Several members of YRCAA staff participated in the Blow the Whistle on Asthma Walk. Staff raised \$697 in funds toward the total of approximately \$55,000. YRCAA participated in the YVCC Health Fair on October 15th with a display booth for the event, and October 22nd as a presenter in the American Lung Association sponsored Home Environmentalist program.

Staff concluded that the Residential Outdoor Burning season ended October 15th. Permits issued in 2008 are no longer valid. 2009 Residential Permits will begin March 15, 2009.

8. Accept Engineering and Planning Division Report

Hasan Tahat, Engineering and Planning Division Supervisor reported that staff has received data analysis for the speciation monitor for the first season (Nov. 10, 2008 to Apr. 30, 2008). Results of the analysis will be presented at the December Board Meeting. Staff continued that the State Agricultural Task Force met in Spokane. Staff attended and felt the meeting was positive and fruitful. Ecology is proposing to revise the agricultural burn permit fees soon to meet the RCW requirements.

On November 12th YRCAA held a local Agricultural Burning Task Force meeting to discuss the local program and to simplify the process of agricultural burn permits and discuss future changes. Staff reported that in keeping with our goal to stay in attainment for PM2.5, a burn ban was called for three days in October, which almost became an exceedence. Staff was happy to report that there were no exceedences in September or October.

9. Accept Fiscal Reports and Approve Vouchers

Lyne Monroe, Fiscal Program Manager, gave the fiscal report. Staff requested Board to approve the Accounts Payable for September 25th, October 3rd and October 26th, 2008 and October, 2008 payroll. Board is asked to ratify fiscal vouchers and September, 2008 payroll. Rand Elliott moved to approve. Bob Jones seconded. Board approved transmittals and payroll.

Staff continued that only Toppenish, Wapato and Harrah had not paid their Supplemental Income. Budget Verification Analysis (BVA) and the BVA for September and October were presented to Board, and that the State Auditor began our semi-annual audit this week. Staff asked if there were any questions. There were none.

10. Accept Compliance and Air Monitoring Division Report

Keith Hurley, Compliance and Air Monitoring Division Supervisor, reported on the Enterprise, Northwest Opacity Certification (NOC) season which ended October 17th in Washington and Oregon. Staff has conducted its 12th NOC season. Certifications are done every six months. Staff will be reducing the number of training locations by eliminating lesser attended venues. Staff will evaluate on a season-to-season basis.

With the completion of the NOC fall season the compliance staff will be in full force conducting investigations and inspections that have been put on hold. Work goals for the remainder of the year are to complete remaining Minor Source Inspections, start Annual Title V Site Visits, implement the Winter Wood Smoke Compliance Program and identify unregistered Confined Animal Feeding Operations and Surface Coating Operations, and continue monitor duties. Gary offered that Confined Animal Feeding Operations are for heifer and beef cattle.

11. Other Business

Tom asked if there was any other business. There was none. He then offered that he had to bail a staff member out of jail (staff participated in the March of Dimes Jail 'n Bail) program.

12. Adjournment

Bob Jones called for adjournment. Bill Lover seconded. Board adjourned at approximately 2:50 p.m.

Tom Gasseling, Board Chair

Audio CD of this meeting is not available at the YRCAA due to technical problems.

Minutes submitted to Board for approval December 11, 2008.

Patty Walker, Clerk of the Board