



**Meeting Vita**

**Location:** Yakima County Courthouse  
 Commissioners Hearing Room, B33

**Time:** 2:00 p.m

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
 BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
 FEBRUARY 14, 2008**

1. **Tom Gasseling, Chair**, called the Meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.
2. **Clerk of Board – Roll Call** There was a quorum.

<b>PRESENT WERE:</b>	
<b>BOARD MEMBERS:</b> Tom Gasseling, Member-at-Large, Chair Bob Jones, Small Cities Rep., Vice-Chair Rand Elliott, County Commissioner Bill Lover, Large City Rep	<b>STAFF:</b> Gary Pruitt, YRCAA Director Patty Walker, Clerk of the Board Staff, Engineering Staff, Fiscal Manager Staff, Public Information Officer Staff, Monitoring Tech Staff, Information Tech
<b>LEGAL COUNSEL:</b> Gary Cuillier, Board Counsel	<b>VISITORS:</b> Larry Fendell, Citizen
<b>ABSENT:</b> Mike Leita, County Commissioner Allen Schmid, Alternate, Small Cities Rep Neil McClure, Alternate, Large City Rep Ron Gamache, Alternate, Co Commissioner	<b>MEDIA:</b> Mike Brown, YPAC

3. **Additions and Deletions to Agenda** – Chair asked if there were any additions or deletions to the Agenda. There were none.

4. **Public Comment**  
 Chair, Tom Gasseling asked if there were any public comments. There were none. Chair asked Charlie Stansel – YRCAA Planner to come up to the front and presented him with a plaque for his years of service to YRCAA. (attached) Mr. Stansel thanked the Board and offered that his time with YRCAA was rewarding and hoped he had contributed to Yakima County’s air quality.

Gary Pruitt, Director, presented Charlie with a hard hat signed by staff as a reminder of his time working with asbestos compliance, and appreciation for his contribution to YRCAA.

- 5.1 By consent, approve Minutes of January 10, 2007 Board Meeting.
- 5.2 By consent, accept and file YRCAA Calendar of Meetings.
- 5.3 By consent accept and file YRCAA January, 2008 Activities.
- 5.4 By consent, approve and file transmittal of February fiscal vouchers in the amount of \$131,769.26.
- 5.5 By consent, accept and file January Air Quality Data.
- 5.6 By consent, approve and file Local Assessment Status Report for 2007 and 2008.

Rand Elliott moved to approve Consent Agenda items 5.1 thru 5.6. Bob Jones seconded. Consent Agenda items were approved.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**6. Accept Report on State Auditor's Performance Audit of YRCAA**

Item was discussed during the Study Session. Gary Pruitt, Director, reported that during the State Performance Audit the Auditor had two exit interview items; failure to collect past due accounts, and contribution to American Lung Association. Controls have been implemented to prevent another occurrence. Staff continued about the finding, under billing of Title V, Air Operating Permit holders in 2006. Staff has begun an evaluation of the actual billing and a subsequent billing in August 2006. Staff will keep Board apprised of the in-house audit and meet with the Title V Permit Holders to discuss the results and correct the error. Staff has controls in place to ensure this error does not occur again.

Bill Lover suggested change wording of response to Auditor from "Staff believes" to "internal controls will be better", or something to that effect. Staff will forward a copy of official letter from the State Auditor, and bring results of internal audit by Staff to the March Board Meeting.

**7. Accept Public Information Report**

Dave Caprile, Public Information Officer, reported to Board that we have 25 wood stove change outs in the program. As of February 6<sup>th</sup>, change-out requests amount to \$18,520. So far the total dollar amount is \$37,806. Staff has received official word from the Department of Ecology has extended the Woodstove Change-Out Program to April 30<sup>th</sup>. Staff received 15 inquiries in January. Those not in the target area may be considered for this program as well.

Dave Caprile then introduced Carl Brookshire, Information Technician who presented the new YRCAA website to the Board of Directors. Mr. Brookshire took the Board on a short tour of the website. He informed the Board that the current website through Yakima County and the new website have the same basic information, just in a new format. Staff outlined the Website's features such as; a news page with news events, forms and registrations in PDF format that are downloadable and printable, a resource page with links, a section on Meet our Staff with a short bio and their position, frequently asked questions, and an event calendar. This website will help improve our image and information easier to obtain. Board was pleased with the presentation.

**8. Accept Engineering/Planning Division Report**

Hasan Tahat, Permitting and Planning Division Supervisor, reported to the Board on the final Wood Smoke Work Group report that had been submitted to the Governor's office and included with their Board Packet. Staff continued with the update on PM2.5 Strategy reduction. Staff reported that the PM2.5 data shows an improvement for 2007, as a result of the strategy plan and weather conditions.

Hasan Tahat then introduced Keith Hurley, Monitoring Technical Manager who gave a power point presentation on the monitors at the Comprehensive Mental Health. Mr. Hurley showed the monitors and explained which monitors are known as Federal Reference Monitors (FRM), and a description of their purpose and data collected. Staff continued with duties performed by Staff in maintaining the monitors, collecting data, and quality assurance of data collected by Ecology. Staff advised Board that burn bans are determined by real-time PM2.5 data gathered from the Nepholemeter. Board thanked Staff for the report.

**9. Accept Financial Report**

Fiscal Program Manager, Lyne Monroe, advised Board that the updated Budget Verification Accounting (BVA) has the Northwest Opacity Certification salaries and benefits separated from YRCAA, and will continue with this format monthly.

Staff reported that warrants are issued twice monthly, the beginning of each month, and mid-month. Transmittals will reflect this format. Staff also reported that Supplemental Income now reports monthly payments received, current balance and any past-due balances. Rand Elliott questioned why professional services were above budget. Ms. Monroe responded that it reflected the Woodstove Change-Out Program expenditures to suppliers.

**10. Accept Director's Report**

Gary Pruitt, Director, gave a Legislative update to Board on the following items:  
Woodstove Change-Out funding – YRCAA joined other local air authorities, hearth products industry, American Lung Association, realtors association, and Independent Business Association

to support funding for Woodstove Change-Outs for 2009. Staff thanked Bill Lover personally for his help in hand carrying letters to Legislators for YRCAA.

HB 2768/SB 6753 – Changing the burn ban triggers to accommodate the new PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard. Those mentioned previously were partnered on support for this vital legislation.

HB 3017 – Allow outdoor burning within urban growth areas. YRCAA is opposed to this legislation it could cause an exceedence of the PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard.

HB 2894 – Bill proposes to amend real estate disclosure statement to include disclosure of any wood burning device and whether it is certified or not. Staff supports, it would educate buyers and encourage changing out uncertified devices.

HB 6919 – Bill proposes to allow outdoor burning on tracts, lots and parcels which are larger than twenty acres, where reasonable alternatives exist. This is in response to Puget Sound Clean Air Agency's intent to ban outdoor burning in three of their counties. Staff opposes, it would create loopholes for burning in our county where it would otherwise be prohibited.

Staff reported on proposed legislation to pursue the Governor's climate change and greenhouse gas initiatives (GHGs) and their requirements of caps on trade programs and mandatory reporting of GHG, etc. Staff consulted with the City of Yakima and DSHS about the potential impacts of mandatory reporting of GHGs and with the County of Yakima / WSAC about local efforts that reduce GHGs. Staff supports GHG reduction efforts but, is concerned and opposed to mandatory efforts without a source of funding.

Wood Smoke Compliance – Overall there was good compliance with the 16 days of curtailment in January, none of which resulted in a measured exceedence of the federal PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard. Based on rising PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels on weekends, rate of compliance with burn bans is less during weekends. Weekend responses to complaints and patrols found several violations, all of which were addressed without enforcement action. Several applications for wood stove change-outs are a result of patrols.

Wellness Program – Staff participated in a Wellness Program in 2007. Staff secured a grant of \$1,178 from WCIF, our health insurance carrier. The purpose was to promote wellness through exercise and diet thus, improving the capacity of staff to perform at high levels, meeting customer expectations. Staff referred Board to summary of measurable achievements included in the attached memo from Patty Walker.

**11. Other Business**

Election of Officers – Board Chairman Tom Gasseling opened the floor for nominations for 2008 YRCAA Board Officers. Rand Elliott nominated Tom Gasseling as Chairman and Bob Jones as Vice-Chairman. Bill Lover seconded. Tom Gasseling offered his appreciation for their confidence but would be willing to allow another to have the position. Board was in agreement that Tom Gasseling should continue as Chair and Bob Jones as Vice-Chair.

**12. Adjournment**

Rand Elliott moved to adjourn. Bill Lover seconded. Meeting adjourned approximately at 3:00 p.m.

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Tom Gasseling, Chair

**Audio cd of this meeting is available at the YRCAA for review.**  
*Minutes submitted to Board for approval March 13, 2008.*

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Patty Walker, Clerk of the Board