Kittitas County Public Health Department Air Quality Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday August 13, 2014
10:00 a.m.

In attendance: Roger Parker, Patty Johnson, Jake Armstrong, Sue Billings, Holly Myers, Debbie DeSoer, Dr. Mark Larson, Rich Elliott, Anne Johansen, Andrew Lyons, Erin Moore, Amy Fuller

Holly Myers began the meeting by discussing the health department’s activities during the fires. She talked about our daily smoke forecasting conference call that would help us determine what our messaging would be every 24 hours. Based on the information we received from the experts on the conference call, we would send daily press releases regarding the air quality and any restrictions on activities due to the smoke. We have been getting information out to people via our list serves as well, which include daycares, schools, etc.

There was also brief discussion amongst the committee members about requesting a permanent air quality monitor for Upper County from Ecology.

Amy reviewed a summary of the key findings from the Community Air Quality Survey. She reviewed findings in the following areas:

- Beliefs & Attitudes regarding air quality
- General knowledge around air quality & clean burning practices
- Prevalence of outdoor burning behaviors that contribute to PM2.5
- Prevalence of residential wood burning appliances & indoor burning practices
- Fuel Burning Profiles
- Motivation for adherence to cleaner burning practices
- Effective avenues for education and outreach

Ms. Fuller also went over the themes from the 10 key informant interviews she conducted:

- People do not link their burning behaviors to poor air quality
- People love their wood stoves
- People’s primary reason for large pile outdoor burning is efficiency
- People don’t trust that government agencies have their best interest in mind
- People don’t know about nonattainment or PM2.5
- The newspaper is a very effective way to get information out in Kittitas County
- Access to “good wood” is a challenge
- Finance was the main reasons for primary burners
- The most effective incentives would be financial in nature
- Education would be most effective if paired with wood retailers or permit sources
Roger Parker and Sue Billings talked about the Wood Smoke Conference they attended in Montana. Roger Parker said that he presented to about 90-100 people about the Community Air Quality Survey and was well received. Roger said that some people would like to use our survey in their communities. Mr. Parker also mentioned that they discussed EPA funding programs and also the Robert Wood Johnson grant opportunities for education and assessment. All of the PowerPoints from the conference will be posted and a link will be sent out to the AQAC members so they can view them.

The group briefly talked about the logistics of the woodstove buy back event on Saturday, August 16, 2014 at the Ellensburg Transfer Station.

The next meeting with be on September 12, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the Morris Sorenson building conference room.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.