



SPECIAL POLICY COMMITTEE

Council Chambers, City Hall, 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, AK

Meeting Minutes – January 4, 2017

1. Call to Order

Mayor Bryce Ward called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

2. Introduction of Members and Attendees

Attendee

*Bryce Ward, Chair
 *Karl Kassel, Vice Chair (absent)
 *Jim Matherly
 *Tim Woster for Ryan Anderson
 *Van Lawrence
 *Jerry Cleworth
 *Denise Koch (via telephone)
 **+Donna Gardino
 **Alicia Stevens
 **Deborah Todd
 **Margaret Carpenter
 +Judy Chapman
 +Jackson Fox
 Clark Milne
 Julia Laude
 Jeff Jacobson

Representative Organization

Mayor, City of North Pole
 Mayor, Fairbanks North Star Borough
 Mayor, City of Fairbanks
 Director, DOT&PF, Northern Region
 FNSB Assembly
 City Council, City of Fairbanks
 DEC, Division of Air Quality
 FMATS MPO Coordinator
 FMATS Transportation Planner
 FMATS Administrative Assistant
 DOT&PF Planning
 DOT&PF Planning
 City of Fairbanks
 DOWL Engineering
 News 13
 City of Fairbanks Public Works

**FMATS Policy Committee Members, **FMATS Staff Members, +FMATS Technical Committee Members*

3. Public Comment Period (3 minute limit)

No public comment.

4. Approval of the January 4, 2017 Agenda

Motion: To approve the January 4, 2017 Agenda. (Lawrence/Cleworth).

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Motion: None opposed. Approved.

5. New Business

a. Letter to EPA Regarding the Serious Non-Attainment Area Designation (Action Item)

Ms. Gardino stated that meeting packet contained a draft letter and the Federal Register proposed rule that designated four areas as Serious Non-Attainment Areas, one of those being the Fairbanks Area. Ms. Gardino stated that this was anticipated in 2015 and once the final rule became effective, DEC would have to submit a "Serious SIP" meaning that the SIP needed to be submitted by December 2017. Ms. Gardino stated that this gave the DEC a very short time frame and they had a process that they had to follow. Ms. Gardino stated that the letter requested a deferral of the time frame to 18 months from the effective date of the rule. Ms. Gardino asked Ms. Koch to provide further explanation.

Ms. Koch stated that she was very much in support of the FMATS letter and everything was accurate, so she would just add to it. Ms. Koch stated that they had been caught in between two rules. Ms. Koch stated that EPA had just finalized the PM_{2.5} implementation rule in 2016 and that implementation rule laid out what elements needed to be in the Serious SIP and when things were due. Ms. Koch stated that there was a proposed rule published by EPA with a public comment period, however that due date of two years prior to the attainment date was not included in that proposal. Ms. Koch stated that the SIP was an incredibly complex document that required extensive public involvement as well as interaction with the Borough and EPA. Ms. Koch stated that she had anticipated that EPA would reclassify them from moderate to serious based on the source monitors and EPA would have to have time to evaluate the comments they received and they would publish a final action in the Federal Register with a 30-day delay before the action was effective. Ms. Koch stated that it might be April, 2017 before the area was formally classified as "Serious" which would give DEC approximately eight months to write a plan that typically took them 18 months. Ms. Koch stated that the impact on FMATS and transportation planning would be the impact it had on the sanction clock which were started for planning failures. Ms. Koch stated that as EPA had moved that deadline up, it increased the liability that DEC might not submit the plan on time, which could start a sanction clock. Ms. Koch stated that the sanction clock gave the State who worked with the Borough time to submit the Serious SIP. Ms. Koch stated that writing a high quality SIP that went through a robust public process in this short a period of time lessened the chance that EPA would disapprove all or a portion of the SIP which would start a sanction clock. Ms. Koch stated that if the changes were not made to EPA satisfaction, then sanctions were imposed, which added additional risk and liability to DEC that had impacts on transportation planning for the area.

Ms. Gardino provided examples of six areas that had previously received sanctions. Mayor Matherly asked about the timeline for submittal of the designation. Mr. Lawrence asked Ms. Koch about the total amount of public comment time required for the SIP.

Ms. Koch stated that any changes made to regulations or to the chapters of the plan took a minimum of 45 days. Ms. Koch stated that the public comment period had been extended by DEC in the past if there was a high level of public interest. Ms. Koch stated that DEC then needed time to evaluate the comments received and make those changes.

Mr. Lawrence asked Ms. Koch if EPA had been classified Fairbanks as a Serious Non-Attainment Area rather than a Moderate Non-Attainment Area if was there any reason why DEC could not start working on the Serious SIP plan now rather than waiting until April 2017.

Ms. Koch stated that DEC had been working on some portions of the Serious SIP but there had been some challenges with that since the PM_{2.5} regulations had not been issued. Ms. Koch stated that once EPA finalized their action and the Fairbanks North Star Borough was classified as a Serious Non-Attainment Area, which would trigger requirements for stationary sources such as conducting emissions analysis. Ms. Koch stated that the DEC had alerted the stationary sources of that requirement and asked them to provide the analysis

to DEC in advance of that requirement but had not received any information from the stationary sources yet. Ms. Koch stated that they had conversations with those sources and they had not wanted to provide that information until it was required in April 2017.

Motion: To adopt the proposed letter to EPA. (Lawrence/Matherly).

Discussion: Mr. Cleworth asked whether they wanted to leave the last sentence open-ended.

Amendment to the Motion: To modify the last sentence to read: "We respectfully request that the Serious SIP be due 18 months after the effective date of the Serious Non-Attainment Area reclassification." (Koch/Matherly).

Discussion: Ms. Koch stated that the plan being due 18 months after the effective date was a standard date until this plan was published and she believed they were being more explicit in what it was that they were asking for and was, until recently, very standard for both EPA, the State, and the public.

Vote on Amendment to the Motion: None opposed. Approved.

Amendment to the Motion: To change "Fairbanks Area" to the "Fairbanks North Star Borough" in the first paragraph, second sentence, and to change "For Fairbanks" to "For the Fairbanks North Star Borough" in the second paragraph, second sentence. (Matherly/Cleworth).

Discussion: No further discussion

Vote on Amendment to the Motion: None opposed. Approved.

Amended Motion: To adopt the proposed letter to EPA, as amended.

Discussion: No further discussion.

Vote on Amended Motion: None opposed. Approved.

6. Public Comment Period

No public comment.

7. Other Issues

No other issues.

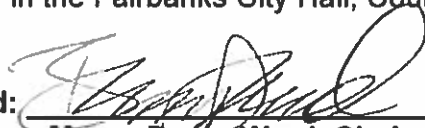
8. Policy Committee Comments

- Mayor Matherly wished everyone a happy new year.
- Ms. Koch thanked everyone for their efforts and wished them all a happy new year.

9. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn. (Matherly/Lawrence). The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m. The next Policy Committee Meeting is scheduled Wednesday, January 18 2017, at 12 p.m. in the Fairbanks City Hall, Council Chambers

Approved: _____



Mayor Bryce Ward, Chair
FMATS Policy Committee

Date: 1-18-17