

West Silver Valley Citizen Advisory Meeting

December 4, 2014

The West Silver Valley Citizen Advisory Meeting met on Thursday December 4th at Kellogg Middle School. This meeting was rescheduled from November 20th. In attendance were 17 local residents. The meeting started off with a historical review, and question and answer period, then a walk-through of the air quality index, followed by a discussion of what information would be helpful in the newspaper, and ending on a request for another meeting to work on more ideas about information and reducing air emissions. Tasks for DEQ are highlighted.

Historical Review

- Monitoring since early 70's
- In 2012 EPA revised the PM_{2.5} standard to better protect public health
- Idaho reported 2010-2012 data to EPA and area met standard
- EPA reviewed 2011-2013 and area did not meet standard
- Final boundary decision this year (December)
- Developing citizen advisory group to identify potential reductions

General Q&A included:

- Wood stove change outs
 - Good program and DEQ would like to see another one
 - Visible emissions can be used by home owners to monitor their stove
- Additional monitors
 - Temporary monitor has been installed in Kellogg
- Impacts on industry
 - New industry would have to show it does not impact air quality
- Impacts of open burning (slash piles, prescribed burns)
 - Any approvals are based on forecasted conditions which may or may not develop
- Can the type of smoke/the source of smoke be determined?
 - ?
- Field burning impacts
 - Even from outside of the area, field burning was taken into account and contributions were negligible
- Do wildfires count against our air quality?
 - No. We can exclude events like wildfires. Prescribed burns do account toward the air quality, however.
- How can DEQ address Pinehurst PM₁₀ nonattainment area redesignation? Is it easy to get out of non-attainment area?
 - Maintenance plan is needed
 - Any emission reductions for PM_{2.5} would be used for PM₁₀ maintenance plan
 - DEQ committed to redesignation

- What if the community doesn't want to address the air quality?
 - Many community members want the air quality addressed and want work on a plan that the community can implement
- Is there an at-home test that community members can do to test the air quality from their stoves?

Yes. When burning, observe the smoke coming from the chimney. Make sure that it's not dark in color, and that it is lofting up, away from the residences.

Air Quality Index (AQI)

A presentation of the AQI was given. See presentational information below under, *Graph of annual data so far*.

The audience was made aware of the burn advisory that is sent out every afternoon with the AQI and the toll free burn hotline to media, schools, jurisdictions and others. Several in the audience asked if they could be added to this e-list. DEQ phoned the hotline during the meeting and guided the audience through the audio recording. No attendees had called the hotline prior to this demonstration.

Newspaper Information

The Shoshone News Press provides the AQI for the day, each day. The attendees were able to provide feedback to Eric Fink, Shoshone News Press reporter, on suggested improvements to the AQI published in the paper. Participants expressed interest in having the "burn hotline" number published in the paper. The audience said that they are interested in seeing both the quality of the air relating to population health and interested in knowing if it was a good day for outdoor fires or not, or a good day to use woodstoves if another heat source was available. They expressed a value in both health effects and burn recommendations.

Next Steps

There was a discussion about continuing the Citizens Advisory Meetings to find ways to inform the community and improve air quality. There are several ideas already generated to build on. The newspaper column is an example of one improvement that can be made.

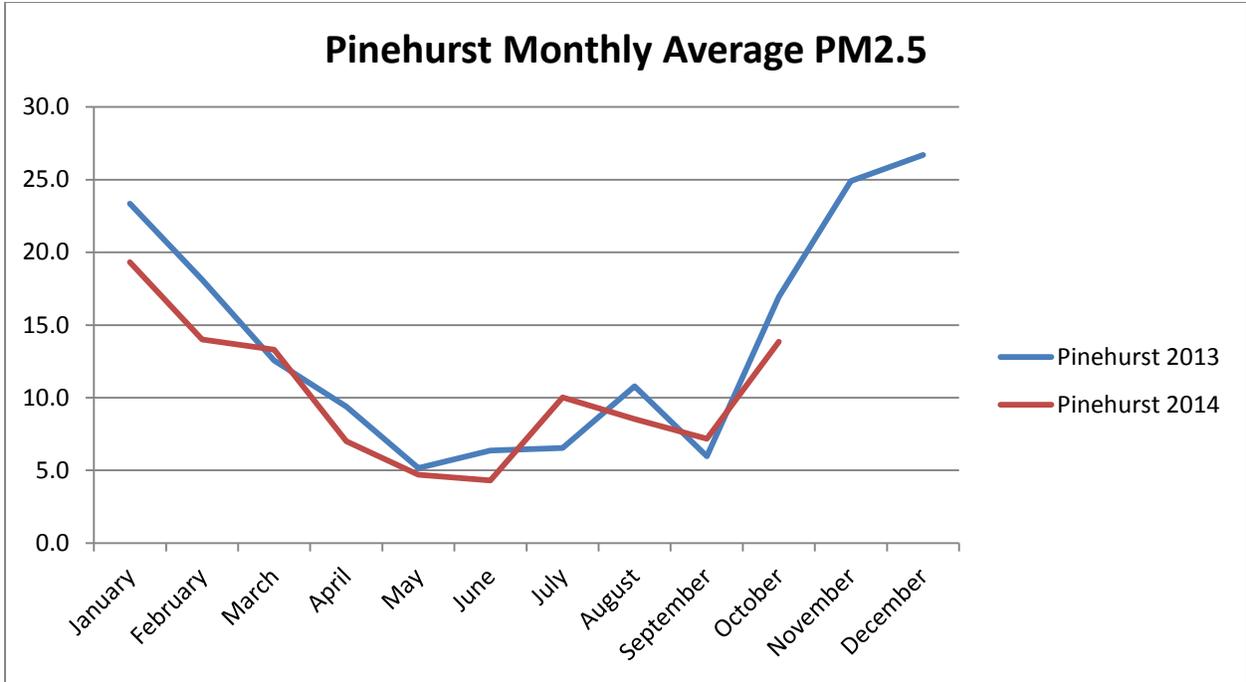
Final questions were about a smoke incident during Thanksgiving and how those instances can be addressed and prevented.

Because slash burning contributes to the community air quality, the group requested a presentation about the practice of prescribed burns and permit issuance.

One member remarked, "We're all in this together" and expressed interest to cross-educate each other and work together toward solutions.

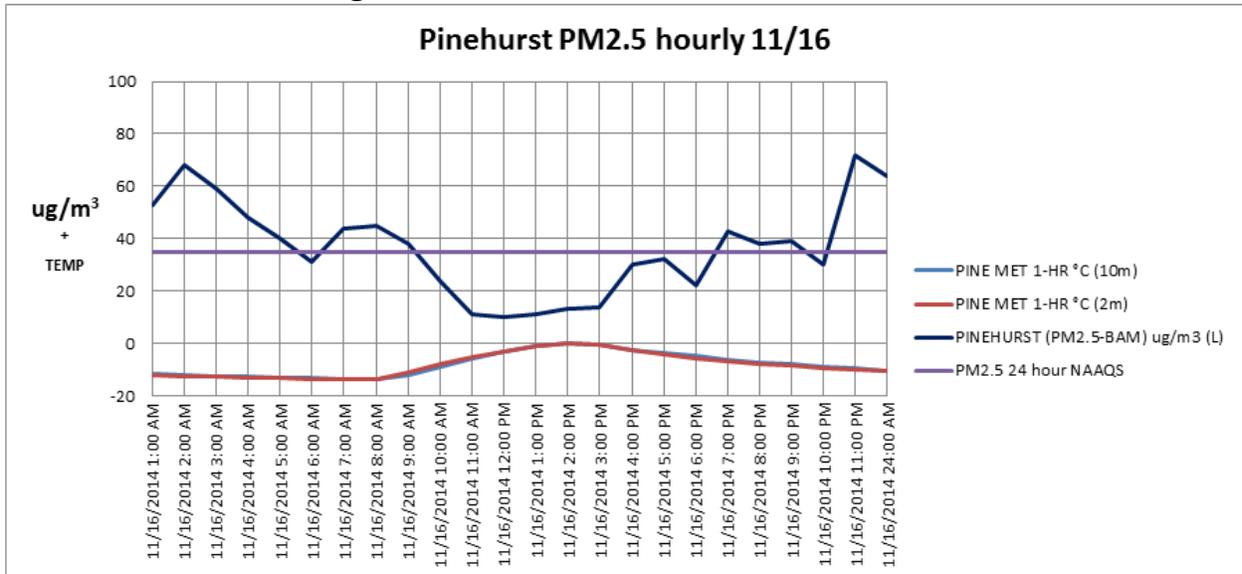
Information updates:

Graph of annual data so far:

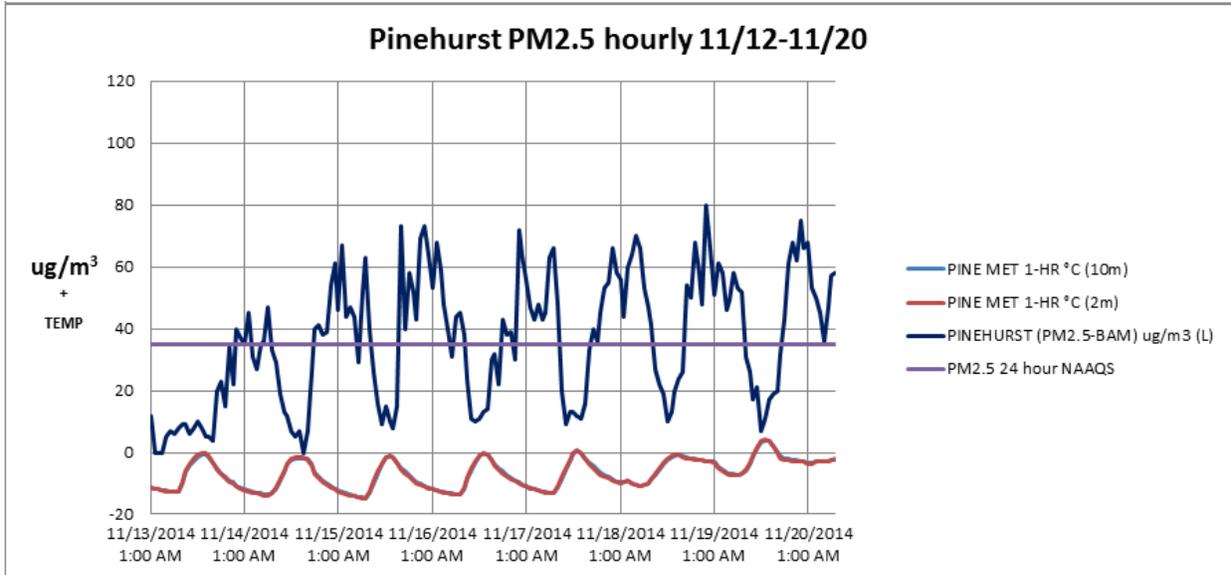


November Trends:

General 24 hour readings



Readings during the recent stagnation advisory



Preliminary monthly Trend

