

West Silver Valley Citizens Advisory Committee
April 16th

The West Silver Valley Citizen Advisory Committee met on Thursday April 16th at the Pinehurst City Hall in Pinehurst. In attendance were 11 local residents. The meeting opened with introductions then moved to a discussion regarding the 'Letter to the Editor'. There was agreement that the letter was acceptable and a contact name should be added then the letter could be sent on to the Shoshone News press. Discussions then moved on to the proposed logo and Facebook page. Some changes were suggested for the logo and Facebook page and these would be worked on and emailed to the group for comment. Chief Mark Aamodt spoke briefly to the group regarding the Fire District's permitting of residential open burning.

1. Introductions

Attending the April 16th meeting were; Bob Launhardt, Rona Liller, Cathleen Sanborn, Andy Helkey, Carol Young, Rodney Cochrane, Commissioner Jay Huber, Bradley Kucera, Maureen Gilbert, Rex Gettman, Chief Mark Aamodt, DEQ Staff; Mark Boyle, Ralph Paul.

2. Committee Business

- **Group Participation** – The working groups appeared to be an acceptable way to get additional items completed between meetings.
- **Communication** - The group exchanged emails regarding the logo and the letter to the editor, which appeared to work well.

3. Action Items

- **Letter to the Editor**- The group reviewed the letter and the only suggestion was to add a contact name at the end of the letter. A contact name/information was added (Ralph Paul) and the letter was submitted to the Shoshone News Press on Monday 4/20.
- **Sub-group reports** – The logo was discussed and the group decided on the addition of a river or stream to the design to depict the interconnection of all the resource improvement work occurring in the Silver Valley area.
Ralph Paul reported that he had contacted Yesco for billboard pricing information, but that his call had not yet been returned. It was noted by Commissioner Huber that billboards would probably not be the way to advertise since many of the billboards in the valley were going to be removed due to remediation work.
The Facebook page was discussed and Carol Young requested feedback on some introductory remarks for the page. The introduction will be emailed out for comments. Bob Launhardt indicated that he had spoken with the Shoshone Medical Center regarding participation in the group. Bob also discussed the importance of addressing other health impacts within this group such as radon and smoking. The group suggested that if possible after the immediate SIP needs were addressed and completed the group could continue to address other health concerns such as those Bob suggested. Jim

Vannoy, Health and Welfare, will contact Bob to discuss other options to address this health concern in the meantime.

Mark Boyle brought to the group's attention an EPA grant possibility. He explained that it was a targeted grant for PM2.5 and ozone nonattainment areas for up to \$3 million and the West Silver Valley area was qualified to apply for the grant. He indicated that DEQ was going to apply for it and asked for backing from the County, WSVAC, and any other interested parties. The grant application must be submitted by June 1, 2015.

4. Topic Discussion

- Outdoor open burning
 - Backyard/slash/prescribed – Chief Mark Aamodt, Shoshone County Fire Protection District No. 2, attended the meeting and presented the fire district's outlook on permitting. He pointed out that they were only required for part of the year under IDL's rules and only addressed fire danger. Group members felt a year round permitting process was needed and asked that Commissioner Huber look into developing a county-wide ordinance requiring year-round permitting and he agreed.
- Outreach and education
 - Continue discussion – Members agreed to continue with the review and production of the logo and Facebook page between meetings.
Additional ideas put forth regarding open burning awareness were:
 - the use of reverse 911 type calling Some concerns were voiced suggesting a reverse 911 type message for burning would not be appreciated by the general public, however the idea was received overall as a good idea worth exploring further
 - Small signs at public places indicating the burn status or a “call before you burn” campaign. Several places were suggested and further investigation would be needed to secure the use of some areas.
 - The idea of a “fire danger” type reader board was also suggested. Further development will be needed.
 - The group was reminded that an 800 number was already available and perhaps more messaging for this tool was needed.
 - The group discussed magnet messaging such as the IDL uses for their vehicles during fire danger season. This is another topic that will need to be further researched.
 - The group also discussed participation in upcoming events such as Pinehurst Days to help with getting the message out, making contacts, and encouraging participation.
 - Next Steps – These areas will need further discussion at future meetings:
 1. Reverse 911 calling
 2. Signage for “call before you burn”
 3. Fire danger type reader boards
 4. Magnet messaging
 5. Upcoming events
 6. Next speaker?

Comments – No additional comments were received.

5. Next meeting – May 21st 6 - 7 PM

Panhandle Health District Office, 114 W. Riverside Ave. Kellogg

Adjourn

Letter to The Editor

The West Silver Valley Citizens Advisory Committee extends our thanks to the Shoshone News Press for publishing daily air quality information for our communities! This important information helps determine if it is a good day to burn and if air quality may be a health issue for some people.

This Committee is a group of citizens working to identify steps that our community can take to bring our air quality back into compliance with national standards. One of the first ways the committee sought to reduce emissions was through education and cooperation in the communities. The West Silver Valley is now a nonattainment area for particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 microns (PM2.5). Particulate matter of this size primarily includes smoke particles. We usually see high particulate matter readings in the winter especially when we have an inversion. Days when we have a high PM 2.5 reading can be pretty difficult for those with heart or lung disease.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality holds monthly public meetings for the West Silver Valley Citizens Advisory Committee. The Committee is learning more about air quality and is generating ideas to improve it so that the community may lift the non-attainment designation.

The West Silver Valley Citizens Advisory Committee wishes to thank the Shoshone News Press for their commitment to the community to be part of the solution!

To contact the group contact Ralph Paul at (208)666-4609 or ralph.paul@deq.idaho.gov.

Logo 1



Logo 2



Logo 3 (selected with modifications)

