

Clean Air Fund Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

May 17, 2007

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.
- II. Approve summary of the April 25, 2007 meeting: Ms. Neiswender moved and Mr. Poole seconded approval. The Committee approved the summary without any changes.
- III. Public Comment: There was no public comment.
- IV. Staff Report: There was no staff report.
- V. Old Business:

Mr. Cowen reported that on May 8, 2007, the Board approved both projects recommended by the Committee, including the new Neuton vendor for the Lawn Mower Trade-in Program, and the new Commercial Leaf Blower Trade-in Program. Several Board members expressed a concern about leaf blowers, and the potential for storm water pollution from debris being blown into the gutters. When we hold the two trade-in events for leaf blowers, we will address this concern by offering additional training on proper use and operation of this equipment.

Mr. Cowen also indicated that a new committee member, Manuel Ceja, was appointed by the Board at the May 8th meeting.

- VI. New Business:

Proposed Project: Conservation Tillage Tool for Agricultural Operations

Mr. Rakestraw presented information on a grant application to co-fund a conservation tillage tool manufactured by Wilcox out of Walnut Grove, California. The tool, called the Wilcox Eliminator, has a quoted price of \$71,655. The applicant is Steve Ishibashi of Ishibashi Farms, who has about 750 acres of strawberry in Oxnard. The big advantage of this conservation tool is that it is a more efficient way to till the farm prior to planting. Fewer passes are required and perhaps 20,000 gallons per year of diesel fuel could be saved (about a 40 percent reduction in fuel) assuming three crops planted per year. An additional advantage is that this tool reduces the fugitive dust emitted during tilling operations. Mr. Rakestraw showed a video demonstrating the Wilcox Eliminator in action.

Mr. Stubblefield indicated that if the fuel saving occurred, this would mean significant a reduction in NOx emissions since the county is currently non-attainment for ozone.

Ms. Neiswender indicated that funding a single demonstration project would not make as great an impact on air quality as funding numerous conservation tillage tools. She suggested a pilot program that would provide a rebate of a \$5,000 on each purchase by a large farmer. Mr. Rakestraw was asked how much of a rebate incentive he would need to sell this equipment. His response was that 25 percent or about \$18,000 would be a significant boost

to sale of this item. Mr. Ceja inquired as to other vendors in the county for conservation tillage tools. Mr Rakestraw indicated that Deere also had a similar product, but that he was the exclusive distributor for the Wilcox tool. Mr. Ceja was concerned about that the Clean Air Funds be used as efficiently as possible to get the most bang for the buck in improving air quality.

Since only \$35,000 was available for grants this year, Mr. Bayman proposed a small scale pilot program that would provide \$7,000 to the first five farmers who farmed at least 750 acres. Mr. Ishibashi would be the first applicant. After much discussion, the Committee agreed to Mr. Bayman’s proposal but extend the rebate to farmers who have at least 600 acres. The Committee would review the progress in October of this year when more funding would be available. Fuel records for three year would be required as part of condition of this grant. This proposal was moved by Mr. Bayman, seconded by Mr. Forsythe, and recommended by the Committee unanimously.

VII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m..
 Prepared by:
 Stan Cowen, Air Pollution Control District Staff

Date: May 17, 2007

		Pilot Grant Program for Conservation Tillage Tool								
Member	Attendance *	Moved	Second	Vote*	Moved	Second	Vote	Moved	Second	Vote
Bayman	P	X		Y						
Ceja	P			Y						
Forsythe	P		X	Y						
King	AE									
Kobayashi	AE									
Kromka	P			Y						
Montoya	AE									
Neiswender	P			Y						
Poole	P		X	Y						
Stubblefield	P			Y						

Attendance - P(present),A(absent),E(excused)

**Vote - Y(yes), N(no), A(abstain)

APCD Staff:
 Stan Cowen
 Chris Frank

Guests:
 Earl Rakestraw