

MEETING NOTICE & AGENDA

AIR QUALITY FORUM

December 10, 2024

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

MARC Virtual Room (Zoom)

Members Present:

Rollin Sachs, Johnson County DHE (Co-Chair)
Andy Savastino, City Of Kansas City, Mo. (Co-Chair)
Kelly Gilbert, Metro Energy Center
Danny Williams, City of Kansas City, Mo.
Josh Wood, City of Olathe, Ks.
Richard Rocha, Bayer
Juan Yin, MoDOT
Carol Adams,
Allison Smith, KDOT
Jennifer Stewart, Unified Government
Michael Park, Lee's Summit
Sarah Monson, Unified Government

Other Attendees:

Chris Brame, Weather or Not
Sullivan Brown, Weather or Not
Leena Divakar, Kansas State PPI
Tiffany Le, KCBPU
Jim Starcev, KC Digital Drive
Blake Butler, City of Kansas City, Mo.

MARC Staff:

Karen Clawson
Doug Norsby
Ron Achelpohl
Tom Jacobs
Kate Ludwig
Faith Eberhart
Bridget Koan

1. Introductions and Determination of Quorum

2. Approval of October Meeting Summary*

The meeting minutes were APPROVED.

3. Air Quality Updates

a. 2024 Ozone Season Review

Chris Brame, Deputy Operations Manager from Weather or Not, shared about the 2024 Ozone Season Summary. The 2024 ozone season (Mar-Oct) was an average season but was significantly lower than 2023 with 16 exceedances. Brame stated that the region experienced a total of 6 exceedances in 2024 which occurred on:

- April 14th
- June 23rd
- July 25th
- August 5th
- August 27th
- October 12th

Brame also shared that the MARC region experienced 69 yellow (moderate) days and experienced the 7th warmest and driest Ozone season on record since 1995.

Comments/Questions:

Doug Norsby, MARC, asked about making up for the dry months experienced in August, September, and October. Brame stated it is expected we will start to make up for the dry months as we move through winter and spring.

Richard Rocha stated how the EPA may reduce exceedance regulations in St Louis, Missouri and how we might be able to learn how to keep our levels down using St Louis as an example.

Norsby followed up by noting the wide distribution of the exceedance days in 2024 and how this might affect public engagement and awareness.

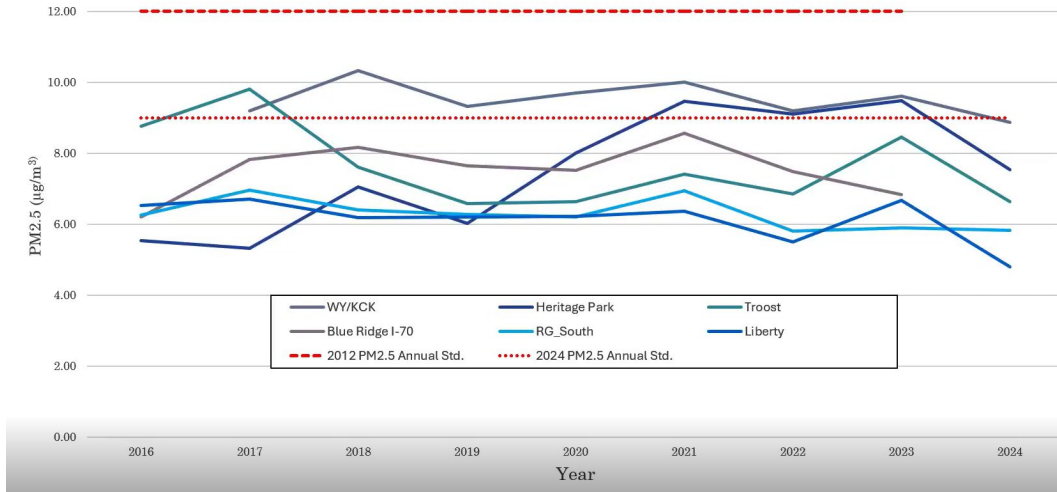
Rocha explained that in 2023, the wildfires in Canada may have contributed to the 2023 high exceedances in late May and early July. Brame agreed, stating a wide region was affected by the 2023 Canada wildfires.

b. PM2.5 Update

Doug Norsby presented the annual PM2.5 averages within the different areas of the MARC region. The region is very close to a non-attainment designation on PM2.5 particularly at the Downtown monitor in KCK but needs to keep a close eye on the Heritage Park monitor.

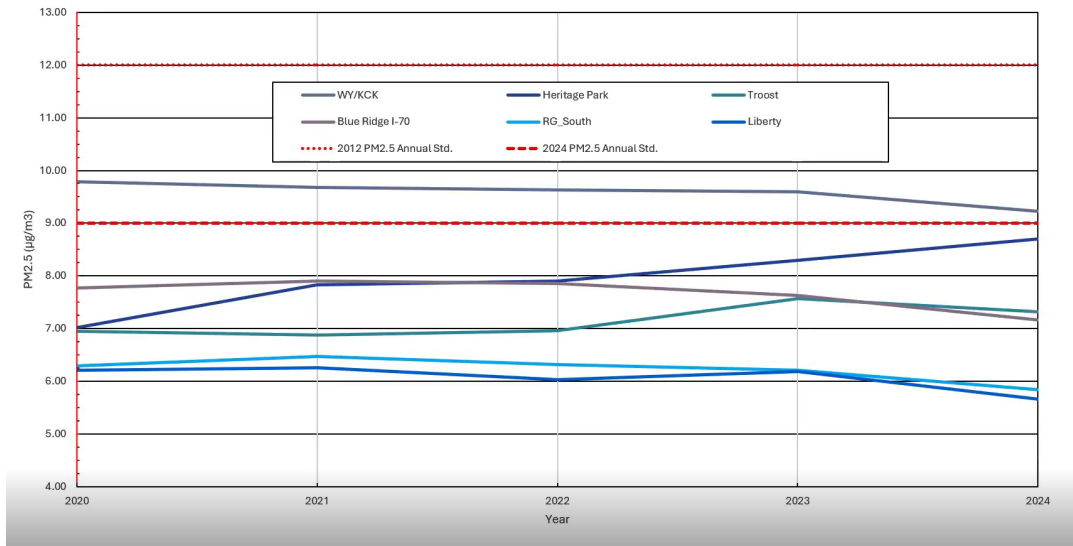
The below graph represents the annual numbers for 6 of the PM2.5 sensors in the region. The dotted red lines represent 2012 and 2024 annual standards. The downtown monitor in KCK is the highest in exceedances while the Heritage Park monitor is second highest.

Annual PM2.5 Averages by monitor



The below graph represents the 3-year average of the annual values. This graph determines if the region is in attainment of the air quality standards. Norsby emphasizes how some sensors do not have complete data after six or seven years. Norsby explains that with averaging it looks like the KCK monitor will be just above the new standard and the Heritage Park monitor is slightly below.

PM2.5 Design Value for MARC Region



Comments/Questions:

Karen Clawson, MARC, recommends Mark Leath, MDNR, and Doug Watson, KDHE, provide updates from the state perspective regarding the boundary designation process and when public comments will be open.

Leath proceeds by stating Missouri is planning to post their proposed boundary recommendations for public notice/comment, aiming to post this on their website and open public comment on December 30th. They will be discussing the proposed recommendations/ open the public hearing at the Missouri Air Conservation Commission meeting on January 30th. After public comment, the finalized proposal will be submitted to the commission in

March prior to being submitted to the EPA.

Watson follows by stating Kansas hopes to be within the same time frame as Missouri regarding posting for public comment. Kansas is in discussion with the governor about what recommendations they are going to make based on the issues seen with the monitor and the biases that monitor has shown. He states they fear the monitor may not be recording the correct values therefore they are probably going to recommend being unclassifiable for the three monitoring locations that show above the new standard. They are currently doing the analysis to show the EPA the issues with the monitor recordings.

4. Programming Updates

a. Air Quality Sensor Network

Clawson presented MARC's low-cost sensor program. This program came about in collaboration with KC Digital Drive and US Ignite. KC Digital Drive was provided with around 50 sensors, which several are already deployed along the KC Avenue corridor and other places.

Clawson stated the benefits of the program:

- Accessibility to air quality data, particularly in LIDACs.
- Community engagement tool.
- Supports policy development.
- Localized info for making decisions about personal health.

Clawson shares that MARC was able to purchase 24 of the pictured Tellus AirI Pro sensors. Starcev states that KC Digital Drive deployed around 35 sensors and around 15 of them are still working. These sensors were deployed at houses and connected to the home Wi-Fi. They also deployed 3 with the KC Public Library. Starcev is happy to see that MARC is expanding and continuing to progress this program.

Norsby reiterates the sensors are not monitors but sensors. The monitors are maintained by the state and recalibrated frequently. Norsby states the sensor network aims to decrease the level of error by increasing the volume of the sensors in the region. Norsby also states that this information can be used for news outlets to give public notice.

Norsby continues by introducing Faith Eberhart at MARC who will also be working on the network program.

Clawson asks the forum members if anyone would be interested in forming a work group around the sensor network.

Andy Savastino, KCMO, and Rollin Sachs, Johnson Co., want their names to be added to the list.

Comments/Questions:

Rollin Sachs asked how we can avoid pit falls or errors with the sensor network to improve that quality assurance/control. He also asked if a historical use of the data would be altered by the algorithms and calibrations on the sensor.

Starcev responds stating they receive both the raw and factor data. He also states it is a challenge. Starcev also mentions how historical data would need thought on how we could use it.

Norsby adds the calibration factors that are being used are more refinements. Overtime, we will continue with the help of Tellus. But there is a limit to what we can do with the sensors. We will be able to pick out individual monitors once they start to fail. We will be able to look at the whole network rather than critical

individual sensors.

Starcev also added that the deployed sensors are near homes and are mounted only about 10 feet or less from the ground, therefore, human activity can cause error, such as smoking or grilling. Technical challenges were also faced with Wi-Fi, especially public Wi-Fi.

Andy Savastino also adds that the city of KC is very interested in working with the health department to deploy Mesonet air monitors around seven stations throughout the city. Starcev states that this KC Mesonet system could potentially be incorporated into the Tellus map.

Clawson adds by stating MARC is in the process of updating the AirQ KC website, and wants to include these air quality maps front and center of the website.

b. Idle-free Zones

Clawson presents the Idle-Free Zone signage program, which was started back in 2009-2010. With funding from 2024, MARC purchased more signs. MARC has received inquiries about these signs in school zones and other areas of the region. There are two different versions of the sign available:



Along with this, there are toolkits that businesses and schools can use for educational purposes. Clawson asks the forum members if anybody knows where a sign may be needed.

Comments/Questions

Rollin Sachs asked Clawson if MARC is looking for any partnerships for the sign program. He adds by noting retail stores, such as grocery stores, are doing more curbside pickup and could benefit from using these signs as they wait for their merchandise.

Clawson states that they will be looking out for prospects and build partnerships particularly with schools. MARC recently worked with Prairie Elementary and Indian Hills Middle School. At Prairie, the MARC team worked with the school's green team and provided education about air quality generally and gave them the tools to implement their own idle-free program.

5. State Rules in Progress/ Partner Updates
6. Other Business
 - a. [Whistle Blower](#) & [Conflict of Interest](#) Policies
7. Next Meeting – Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
8. Adjourn

**Action item*