

Minutes

Bi-State Region Air Quality Task Force

Wednesday, May 6, 2026, 1:30 p.m.
Bi-State Regional Commission
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Members Present:

Larry Burns, Rock Island County
Reed Duyvejonck, MetroLINK
Sam Evans, Liferaft Biochar
Matthew Johnson, IA DNR
Raymond Miller, Scott County Health
Department
Lisa Perry, City of Rock Island
Alan Silas, MetroLINK
Tim Smith, SSAB
Bryce Stalcup, Waste Commission of Scott
County
Elizabeth Tanner, QC Chamber

Others Present:

Lisa Ahern, Bi-State Regional Commission
Gena McCullough, Bi-State Regional
Commission
Natalie Murphy, Bi-State Regional Commission
Oakley Thompson, Bi-State Regional
Commission

1. Introductions and Consideration of December 11, 2025 Meeting Minutes – Alan Silas moved to approve the Minutes, and Tim Smith seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by consensus.
2. Update from Resource Agencies on Current Air Quality Status/Issues – Matthew Johnson from Iowa DNR provided updates for Iowa. The state is still waiting for a decision from the Washington D.C. Circuit Court on if the PM2.5 annual standard will remain at 9.0 micrograms per cubic meter or revert back to 12.0 micrograms per cubic meter. Mr. Johnson shared information on the upcoming 2025 design value data, which will be shared online in the near future. Monitors on the Iowa side of the Bi-State region are at 70 ppb for ozone, with 70 ppb as the maximum level for attainment – meaning the region is still within attainment. Due to the design value being a three-year average, this value was heavily influenced by the Canadian wildfires in 2023 and will no longer impact the values after this year.
3. Local Status Report and Air Quality Issues – Natalie Murphy reviewed the status report provided in the agenda packet. As the summer approaches, the region is more likely to see exceedances in ozone. Ms. Murphy said she would contact the task force as needed in the event of exceedances.
4. Presentations – The task force heard presentations from three individuals across the region, both public and private, on technology that is actively supporting cleaner air, among other positive benefits.

- a. Bryce Stalcup (Waste Commission of Scott County) – Mr. Stalcup, the Executive Director for the Waste Commission of Scott County, presented on the Waste Commission of Scott County’s new technology at the landfill. The technology helps capture gas at the landfill, which was previously burned off for safety reasons. It is now turned into renewable natural gas that goes back into a local pipeline.
 - b. Lisa Perry (City of Rock Island) – Ms. Perry, the Rock Island Wastewater Supervisor & Industrial Pretreatment Coordinator, presented on the City of Rock Island’s wastewater treatment plant’s biogas generator. The generator, via anaerobic digestion, is able to catch methane in the process of breaking down sludge at the plant. The energy that is produced helps support up to 80% of the energy used at the plant itself, with the opportunity to serve the grid in the future.
 - c. Sam Evans (Liferaft Biochar) – Mr. Evans, Vice President at Liferaft Biochar, gave a presentation on the new facility in Muscatine County that will produce biochar. Biochar takes organic waste, such as storm damaged trees and agricultural excess products, transforming it into a purer carbon substance that is used to enhance agricultural soil. The process does not emit any excess methane, but it is captured and helps fuel the process.
5. Task Force Member Updates – In the interest of time, Ms. Murphy asked that members send updates via email to be shared out with the group.
 6. Grant and Funding Opportunities – Gena McCullough provided information on the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) and eligible projects.
 7. Other Business – No other business was mentioned. The next meeting will take place in November 2026.
 8. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:42 p.m.