



Pollution Prevention Advisory Committee

Texas Commission on Environmental
12100 Park 35 Circle, Austin, Texas 78753
Building E, Room 201
Tuesday, April 15, 2008 from 10 AM to 3 PM

Meeting Minutes

The following PPAC members participated in the April 15, 2008 meeting: Robert Gill, Fred Kelly, Cindy Morphew, Lynne Nava, Catrennia Williamson, and Daryl Wilmeth. Veronica Corella-Barud and Bee Moorhead watched via webcast. The following TCEQ staff were on hand for the meeting: Grace Montgomery Faulkner, Ted Hazen, Mike Lindner, Joe Thomas, and Karley Eaves.

Welcome

Grace Montgomery Faulkner open the meeting by welcoming everyone and introducing herself as the Small Business and Environmental Assistance Division Director.

Introductions

Ted Hazen introduced the TCEQ staff and asked the committee to also introduce themselves.

Approvals

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes from the previous meeting were approved without comment.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved without comment.

Approval of Meeting Dates through December 2008

The meeting dates through December 2008 were approved.

Mission of the Committee

Grace Montgomery Faulkner and Ted Hazen explained to the committee that the TCEQ staff was available for assistance, but the meetings and direction of the committee belongs to the committee itself. Daryl Wilmeth stated that it might be helpful to know the organizational structure of the TCEQ in order to understand where the committee fits into the bigger picture. Ms. Montgomery Faulkner gave a brief overview of the organizational structure with Ted Hazen highlighting the Pollution Prevention and Education Section.

11:00 PAC Mandates

Karley Eaves reiterated what Ms. Montgomery Faulkner and Mr. Hazen had previously stated about the committee taking control of their projects, but encouraged the committee to pay close attention to their mandates to insure they work towards the appropriate goal.

Mr. Wilmeth asked staff to send examples of programs that correlate with the PPAC's charges so the committee could review the programs and discuss at the next meeting which direction they would like to take the committee.

Fred Kelly suggested encouraging home and workplace recycling in the public. Ted Hazen said that might be a good focus for the committee. Lynne Nava asked if there was a list of recyclers within the state. Mike Lindner said that the agency does have a list, but it is not complete because recyclers are not required to report to us in this way. Cindy Morphew suggested that while encouraging the public to recycle it is important to show consumers the full circle. Ms. Morphew also asked if the state registers recyclers.

Mr. Lindner answered that some recyclers are registered; it depends on the level of recycling. Catrennia Williamson asked about the vendor list of recyclers. Mr. Lindner mentioned www.recycletexasonline.org. Mr. Hazen commented that Recycle Texas Online can include communities and businesses. Also, the companion site, www.renewtx.org, is more for the exchange of industrial materials. Mr. Hazen mentioned the annual Recycling Summit held by the Recycling Alliance of Texas. Mr. Kelly stated that the infrastructure for recycling is there, but monetary incentives help to encourage people. He would like to discuss ways to help bridge that gap.

Mr. Wilmeth again suggested sending a list of the top pollution issues for the committee to work towards. Robert Gill suggested making sure what the committee decides on falls into the PPAC's mandates. Ms. Montgomery Faulkner said this list would be sent to the PPAC in mid-May.

Ms. Morphew asked the committee if there were travel challenges to come to Austin for all PPAC meetings. She also suggested traveling to other cities for meetings. Mr. Hazen can budget travel funding for the July meeting. Ms. Montgomery Faulkner said it would be hard to hold the meeting outside of Austin because the meetings must now be web-cast. Mr. Wilmeth agreed that in person meetings have more interaction. Ms. Nava said in person would allow the committee to break into sub-committees in the future. Ms. Montgomery Faulkner agreed to host the July meeting at the TCEQ headquarters in Austin.

Appointment of Co-Chairs

Mr. Wilmeth asked if the committee should postpone chair appointments until the next meeting in hopes of greater attendance. Ms. Nava suggested to go forward with appointments since quorum was reached. Fred Kelly and Catrennia Williamson were elected as permanent co-chairs.

Recess

Karley Eaves informed the committee that Veronica Corella-Barud and Bee Moorhead were viewing the meeting via web-cast and agreed that it was working well. Their suggestion is to allow teleconferencing with the web-cast in the future. Ms. Eaves also informed the committee that the conference room was not available for the July meeting

date. Monday, July 21, Wednesday, July 23, and Thursday, July 24 were given as backup dates. Mr. Wilmeth suggested voting over email.

Green Purchasing

Mike Lindner briefed the committee on Green Purchasing recommendations to add products to the First Choice list. Mr. Wilmeth asked about price preference. Mr. Lindner agreed that there is a price preference, but there is also a value preference. Mr. Lindner explained that if a state agency does not go with a preference they must submit a letter from the agency's Executive Director stating why they did not go with preference. Ms. Williamson asked what is considered recycled content. Mr. Lindner said the TCEQ goes by EPA's definition which is 25% or more post consumer recycled content for paper.

Mr. Lindner stated that previously the PPAC had discussed recommending adding fuel efficient vehicles and Energy Star equipment to the First Choice list. Mr. Morphey suggested that in regards to recommending fuel efficient vehicles to be added to consider the lifespan price of fuel efficient vehicles. Mr. Lindner stated that due to HB 3693 all state agencies must purchase Energy Star equipment. He is not sure if a PPAC recommendation for Energy Star to be added to the First Choice list would be redundant.

Mr. Wilmeth stated that it doesn't seem necessary to include Energy Star on the list since HB 3693 already covers it. Suggests that the committee knows more about what is considered fuel efficient before making a recommendation. Ms. Morphey says to remember to marry the goal/mission of the TCEQ and the Comptroller's Office in recommendation. Mr. Gill wonders if fuel efficiency is too debatable for the PPAC to recommend. Mr. Wilmeth agrees that to add to the list it needs to not have a lot of debate. Ms. Williamson asks if the TCEQ has guidelines for fleet management. Mr. Hazen says the agency is required to look at hybrids first before purchasing a vehicle. Ms. Williamson suggests working off TCEQ's policy.

Household Hazardous Waste Rule Update

Joe Thomas briefs the committee on the HHW Rules. The commission proposed the rule on January 30, 2008 and it is back for adoption in June of 2008. Mr. Hazen includes that the previous rules are from 1988 so it is time for an update. Fred Kelly asks if TCEQ works with Texas AgriLife Extension. Mr. Thomas says LCRA holds events at Tx DOT. Mr. Hazen says the agency hold Ag/Waste collections for rural areas. Mr. Kelly asks if the TCEQ encourages areas that do not have HHW collection events to start. Mr. Hazen explained that funding is available through the Councils of Governments. TCEQ's Ag/Waste collections try to cover the state. There will be a guidance document for the HHW rules and Mr. Hazen suggests the PPAC consider helping with it.

Ms. Nava asks about medical waste. Mr. Thomas replies that very little medical waste is considered hazardous. Mr. Kelly asks if there is anything that needs to be done with medical dumping issues. Mr. Thomas says that is a law issue, but something that could be included in the guidance document.

1:30 Computer Recycling Rule Update

Mike Lindner briefs the committee on HB 2714. This rule is scheduled to be adopted on May 21. The rule places the responsibility of computer recycling on manufacturers. Mr. Wilmeth asked why the rule is limited to home and home-business computers. Mr. Lindner responded that the rules are limited to the Legislature and he is unsure why the Legislature limited it in this way. The rule should go into effect on September 21, 2009.

2:00 Public Outreach Initiatives for Pollution Prevention

Mike Lindner briefed the committee on the upcoming analog-to-digital television switch on February 17, 2009. He assured the committee that the need to recycle old televisions is not as big as originally thought. There are several options:

- 1) the FCC will give two \$40 coupons for an analog-to-digital converter box;
- 2) it will be a non issue for cable or satellite television; and
- 3) cable and satellite television will be required to offer analog broadcasting until 2012.

Ted Hazen briefed the committee on the AirCheckTexas—Drive a Clean Machine program. The program is experiencing a good response with the local programs being somewhat overwhelmed with the number of inquiries. The intention of the program is to take vehicles off the road. This program is running smoothly. Mr. Wilmeth asked about the timeline of funding and Mr. Hazen responded that funding will be available until August 2009. Mr. Kelly asked if there were any other tax incentives within the state for electric or hybrid vehicles. Mr. Hazen said there was on a federal level, but the only other program on the state level that he is aware of is the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP).

2:45 Public Comment

None

3:00 Meeting Adjourns

Next PPAC Meeting

Thursday, July 10, 2008
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This meeting was webcast at <http://texasadmin.com/cgi-bin/tnrcc.cgi>