

# **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality**

## **Pollution Prevention Advisory Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes** February 27, 2007

The following PPAC members participated in the February 27, 2007 meeting: Sharla Hotchkiss, A.W. Armstrong, Catrennia Williamson, Veronica Corella Barud, Luke Metzger, Bee Moorehead, Cindy Morphew, Debbie Boyle, Robert Gill, Berna Dette Williams, and Paula Littles. The following TCEQ were on hand for the meeting: Ted Hazen, Michael Lindner, Larissa Peter, Joe Thomas, Alan Watts, Daphne McMurrer, and James Voelker.

#### **Introductions**

Ted Hazen opened the meeting and introduced himself as the manager for the newly formed Pollution Prevention and Education Section.

#### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

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

#### **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved with an understanding that identifying clear objectives for the next year would be a priority.

#### **Introduction to the *Take Care of Texas* Campaign**

TCEQ staff introduced some of the basic elements of the proposed *Take Care of Texas* campaign. Staff noted that it would be a public education campaign focused on providing individuals with information regarding some of the simple steps they can take to reduce their impact on the environment. Staff discussed some of the tips and strategies that would be included in the campaign, and provided a brief overview of how they planned to launch the new campaign at the TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair.

Staff also suggested that the *Take Care of Texas* campaign would fall in line with goals previously identified by the PPAC, specifically to enhance public education efforts at the agency.

PPAC members encouraged staff not to limit the strategies to only the most simple strategies, and also to ensure that the information is made available in Spanish as well. Staff noted the suggestions and assured the committee that they will incorporate those suggestions.

#### **Introduction of the “70 in ’07” CLEAN TEXAS Recruiting Effort**

Larissa Peter introduced the agency’s “70 in ’07” effort which is focused on recruiting an additional 70 members into the *Clean Texas* program. Ms. Peter provided a brief overview of the program, encouraged PPAC members to assist in recruiting businesses and facilities in their respective communities, and suggested that PPAC members could make use of the various print and digital materials that the agency has prepared.

#### **Summary of SBEA’s Current Recycling Programs**

Mike Lindner and Alan Watts provided a summary of the agency’s efforts related to encouraging recycling in Texas. They suggested that the agency is looking to initiate a comprehensive approach to encouraging recycling that would provide a central point for information and resources related to recycling efforts in Texas.

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### **Hazardous Household Waste Rules**

Joe Thomas provided a brief summary of existing efforts aimed at revising the hazardous household waste rules at the TCEQ. Mr. Thomas provided a brief discussion of what would be included in HHW, and also provided a brief overview of the process and timeline for revising the HHW rules.

Staff suggested that the agency would appreciate feedback and recommendations from the PPAC throughout the rulemaking process. Committee members agreed that these rules would provide a good opportunity for the PPAC to provide input and feedback. However, they suggested that it would be more productive for the committee to provide feedback once the new rules are proposed.

Staff suggested that the draft rules may be prepared as early as June, and they also committed to keeping the PPAC updated throughout the rulemaking process.

### **Agency Green Purchasing and State Facility Energy Efficiency**

Mike Lindner from the TCEQ and Thomas Shook from the Texas Building and Procurement Commission provided a brief summary of existing provisions requiring state agencies to purchase “environmentally preferable” products and services, with a specific focus on the “First Choice List” for state agencies.

Mr. Lindner noted that recent legislation eliminated the Recycling Market Development Board while maintaining the board’s objectives in a related program. He suggested that in the past, the board was responsible for reviewing products and services and recommending which of them should be included on the First Choice List, also noting that under the current structure, no such mechanism has been established.

Mr. Lindner did note that the legislation mandated that efforts related to Recycling Market Development should be coordinated with the PPAC. He suggested that as a result, the PPAC could be a good mechanism for reviewing and recommending potential products and services.

As a follow-up to discussions at previous PPAC meetings, Mr. Lindner reported that staff had identified two areas where new products and services might be added to the first choice list: energy efficient vehicles and energy efficient building and construction. He noted that the Environmental Protection Agency has created “Bin” classifications for gauging a vehicle’s fuel efficiency. He also noted that the federal government has established the Energy Star certification for energy efficient buildings, and they have initiated a new program to increase the efficiency of federal buildings. He also noted that the U.S. Green Building Council has also created a separate protocol to measure the total environmental impact of new construction. Mr. Lindner suggested that both standards could be used to formulate requirements for the First Choice List.

The PPAC agreed that they could make a recommendation to include those standards on the First Choice List, but they asked that staff prepare a formal recommendation that the committee could review and discuss prior to taking any action on the issue.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.