

Dallas Small Business Advisory Committee
Wednesday, February 25, 2009 from 10 AM to 12 PM
North Dallas Chamber of Commerce, 10707 Preston Road, Dallas, TX 75230

www.sblga.info

<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/sblga/dallas.html>

FY09 Priorities

1. Ensure a variety of small businesses are represented on the SBAC/recruited for membership.
2. Develop relationships with elected officials to ensure they are informed on small business environmental issues.
3. Provide SBAC input on rules and major issues facing the agency.

Attendees

DSBAC Members: Meredith Armstrong, Eliza Alvarado Rep Carol Kent, Ken Benson, Linda Campbell, Vincent Garcia, Sarah Hauser Rep Allen Vaught, Sam Jones Rep Robert Miklos, Joni Keach, John Larkin, Kim Millette, Gerald Roehrig, Mark Shelton, Stacy Wright.

TCEQ: Lori Rose, Amy Lukens, Tasha Burns, Andrew Gardner, Brian Christian, Tinicha McKinney

Action Items from Previous Meetings – Lori Rose, SBLGA

Ken Benson invited Dallas Chambers and state elected officials to the meeting.

Stacy Wright invited all Chambers in DFW to the meeting.

Joe Polanco invited targeted industry trade associations to the meeting.

Information from Austin – Brian Christian, Small Business Environmental Assistance Division Director, and Andrew Gardner, SBLGA Section Manager

Brian Christian is now the Director of Small Business and Environmental Assistance, overseeing Small Business and Pollution Prevention. Andrew Gardner is now the Section Manager of Small Business and Local Government Assistance. SBEA and SBLGA priorities will focus on programs with an environmental benefit, and increased focus on water quality in addition to air.

Updates and new issues:

Air quality report:

- Texas air quality is improving against a backdrop of growth. DFW met the 1997 Standard (85PPB) that was set by EPA. A plan or program will be submitted to EPA outlining that the standard was met.
- New ozone standard: The EPA passed a new eight hour ozone standard of 75 PPB. On March 12, 2010 the EPA will designate new non-attainment areas. TCEQ recommendations: Cities- Austin, San Antonio, Tyler, Longview, Marshall; Counties – Collin, Dallas, Denton, Hood, Johnson, Parker, Rockwall, and Tarrant. Across the country compliance deadlines will range between 2013 and 2030 depending on each city's current air quality.
- The "low hanging fruit" (big polluters) have been addressed, and focus will now be on area (minor) sources of air contaminants. Tracking of rules will be even more important for the SBAC now that new rules will be increasingly affecting small business.

Water report:

- There are new proposed increases in water fees.

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- Areas that will experience fee increase: Consolidated Water fees (Wastewater), Public Health Services (Water Supply), and Water use fees (Water rights).
- Reasons for increase of water fees: Due to reduction of funds in the state's general revenue there is a reduction in funding to support water service expenses, which results in the increase of fees.
- Small communities may see a higher proportionate increase in fees since there is cap of \$75,000.00 and some large cities are already paying the maximum amount (i.e. Houston). There is legislation to remove or increase this cap in the future. There is not a cap on how much of the increased fees can be passed onto clients.
- The comment period is March 13th to April 13th <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/agency/waterfees.html>. You may attend the **public hearing in Austin on April 7, 2009**, at 10:00 a.m. at the TCEQ, 12100 Park 35 Circle, Building E, Room 201S.

Legislative update:

- Enhances to TERP (Texas Emission Reduction Program) through Senate Bill (SB) 16. The new bill covers not only mobile but stationary sources.
- House Bill (HB) 1560 removes Extra Territorial Jurisdiction requirements for landscaping irrigation license or permit responsibilities for cities with populations of 20,000 or more.
- SB 1095 (related to auto salvage) moves licensing requirements to a new agency and requires proof of a storm water MSGP permit to obtain a license. Also requires electronic database recordkeeping.

SBLGAC Report to CAP – SBLGAC Members

Members did not have any issues to share with CAP representative at this time. Next meeting will be June 4th, 2009 10:30am to 3:00pm.

Open Forum – Ken Benson, Co-Chairs

Ken inquired about the carbon emissions cap and trade programs. Suggested a speaker give an update on Cap and Trade and how it would impact area. Brian mentioned SB136, which addresses global warming and might initiate a Cap and Trade in DFW.

Ken inquired about the Dallas area obtaining additional water reservoirs from East Texas, and requested information be sent to the committee. Meredith Armstrong mentioned she had some information about the issue.

Brian Christian mentioned that Environmental Trade Fair is taking place May 12-14, 2009.

Topic of the Day – Emergency Power Initiative, Minor Source NOx, & PST Super Guide: Amy Lukens and Lori Rose

- SBLGA is currently working with regional Field Operation Division (FOD) to reach out to public water systems and waste water treatment facilities that do not have emergency power. (Amy Lukens)
- SB 221 and SB 361 are 2 of 4 bills related to emergency power requirements, and both require an engineer to approve the emergency power plan.(Andrew Gardner)
- Minor Source NOx rules went into effect for the Dallas Fort Worth Metroplex March 1, 2009. Check to see if your stationary engine is regulated with our guidance document: <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/sblga/nox-dfw.html> (Amy Lukens)
- A new PST Super Guide will be coming out to increase compliance with above and below ground petroleum storage tanks. (Lori Rose)

Review of Action Items and Closing Comments- Ken Benson, Co-Chair

- Provide members with a draft of the new SBAC charter for electronic approval. – Lori Rose

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- Ask the NCTCOG to publish an SBAC outreach article in newsletters. – Ken Benson
- Fill Task Master and Outreach Coordinator officer positions as action items arise. – SBAC members
- Email Minor Source NOx outreach letter to state reps that attended meeting. – Lori Rose
- Inquire about a speaker regarding Cap and Trade. – Lori Rose
- Provide members with information about the Dallas-reservoir issue. – Lori Rose

Meetings for Fiscal Year 2009

Wednesday, May 27, 2009 @ 10 am

Wednesday, August 5, 2009 @ 10 am