

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Dallas Small Business Advisory Committee (SBAC)

Draft Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, October 30, 2007
North Dallas Chamber of Commerce, 10707 Preston Road, Dallas, TX 75230

Attendees

SBAC Members

- Penny Baccus
- Ken Benson
- Cathy Dougherty
- Russell Howerton
- Kelly-Morgan Jones
- Jeff Murriel
- Jeannette Pennington
- Marcus Reed
- Mark Shelton
- Stacy Wright

SBEA Staff

- Tasha Burns,
- Brian Christian
- Chris Meeks

Action Items

- Add standing item to agendas to report issues to the Compliance Advisory Panel [Complete]
- Keep updated on effect Phase II stormwater permit may have on Small Businesses
- Ensure lead time on agency considerations
- Chairs ensure that letters are sent to appropriate people.
- Develop a “Theme” for our meetings to attempt to increase turnout

Compliance Advisory Panel (CAP) Update

Mark Shelton, CAP Chair and Brian Christian, Small Business and Local Government Assistance (SBLGA) Section Manager

The CAP is a seven-member panel of appointees from the governor, the lieutenant governor and speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, and the TCEQ chairman.

CAP members' roles include:

- Advise the TCEQ's Small Business Assistance Program on improving its effectiveness.
- Submit periodic progress reports and recommendations to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's small business ombudsman.
- Assess compliance and enforcement trends encountered by specific small business sectors and recommend improvements to the TCEQ.
- Ensure that information and regulations affecting small businesses are written in plain language.

The SBAC will now have a standing item on each agenda to report to Mark Shelton information that should go to the CAP. Minutes and more information can be found at this website: www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/sblga/cap.html.

Information from Austin

Brian Christian, SBLGA Manager

Members were alerted that the agency is going to take action on the compliance history rules and penalty policy early in 2008. Follow the link below to the marked work session agenda including discussion and consideration of Enforcement Review Implementation status, including the status of the Penalty Policy and Compliance History. Clicking on the Item 2 link will take you to the back up documentation.

www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/comm_exec/agendas/worksess/marked/2007/070907.pdf

Members were provided with a biography of the new SBEA division director and small business ombudsman, Grace Montgomery Faulkner. See the linked organization map to view the management changes that included the change in SBEA:

www.tceq.state.tx.us/about/organization/

The third commissioner, Bryan W. Shaw, PhD, was appointed on November 1, 2007. Commissioner biographies are available here:

www.tceq.state.tx.us/about/organization/commissioner.html

Members were also informed that Air topics are still high on agency priority and that AirCheckTexas: Drive a Clean Machine, and the Texas Emissions Reduction Program (TERP) are issues that SBEA is involved in. Members were asked and committed to promote these programs.

Adoption of Priorities for Fiscal Year 2008

Ken Benson, Co-Chair

Members readopted the priorities from FY07 for FY08, listed below.

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

Topic of the Day: Take Care of Texas

Chris Meeks, Pollution Prevention and Education Section

“Take Care of Texas is a statewide campaign designed to involve all Texans in lifestyle and habit changes that will help improve air and water quality, conserve water and energy, reduce waste, and save individuals a little money in the process. This campaign raises awareness of how each of us can make our state a better place to live, work, and play,” <www.takecareoftexas.com>. Members were provided with litter bags, bumper stickers, book marks, and brochures, which they were asked to give to other people to help spread the word about the new program.