

Fort Worth Small Business and Local Government Advisory Committee

Wednesday, January 24, 2007 from Noon to 2 PM
TCEQ Regional Office

FY07 Priorities

1. Interface with local legislative delegation.
2. Integrate representatives of local governments into membership and identify local government issues to discuss.
3. Act as an advocate for small businesses and local governments in Texas.

Draft Minutes

Welcome and Introductions – Tag Coolidge, Co – Chair

Action Items from Previous Meetings – Tasha Burns, SBLGA

- Develop a tag line to better identify and showcase our committee
- Establish communication channels with other TCEQ regions to offer our services to them to assist small businesses and local governments as well as to get input from them on the issues they face. [Complete]
- Develop strategies for publication options/ Establish protocols to interact with news media
- Email ideas regarding Chairman White's request for a small business issue she can champion.
- Email ideas for the upcoming legislative session to Tag Coolidge
- Draft letter to Commissioner Garcia introducing the SBLGAC and include past comments on penalty policy and compliance history
- Draft letter to Chairman White and Commissioner Soward and Executive Director to refresh the concerns of the FWSBLGAC.

Small Business and Local Government Assistance Update – Tasha Burns, SBLGA

- Commissioner Hubert left the TCEQ to work as Deputy Comptroller.
- On January 25, 2007, Governor Rick Perry announced the appointment of H.S. Buddy Garcia of Austin as the third commissioner with his term to expire on August 31, 2011. The Senate must first approve the appointment.
- Charlie Adams in the Beaumont office was recently promoted to a Technical Specialist position within SBLGA. Charlie's work was also featured as a cover story in the Natural Outlook at www.tceq.com.
- The Small Business and Environmental Division has been reorganized. The Pollution Prevention and Industry Assistance Section (PPIA) has been merged with the Event Coordination and Education Section (ECE) into Pollution Prevention and Education Section (PPE) managed by Ted Hazen. Brian Christian, who used to manage PPIA, is the new section manager for SBLGA.

Information from Austin – Brian Christian, SBLGA Section Manager

- Brian spoke to the future of SBLGA which includes building the section's relationship with other groups within the agency. Brian assured the committee that Dan Eden, Deputy Director of the Office of Permitting, Remediation and Registration is committed to getting SBLGA involved early in standard and general permit development. Brian is also meeting with Air Permits Division, Regional Directors, etc to explore ways to work with the rest of the agency toward the same goals. Brian assured members that the confidential nature of the program would be preserved. Brian also spoke to the SBAC's role as a way to get feedback from the regulated community.
- Brian also went over the bills potentially of interest to small businesses and local governments.

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- Members were also informed of opportunities to comment on the proposed DFW State Implementation Plan. Especially of interest is the minor source NOx component which directly affects small businesses and local governments.

Open Forum – Tag Coolidge, Co-Chair

- Members expressed concerns with the Hazardous Household Waste (HHW) plan submittal process. Brian informed members that the HHW program is one of SBEA's top 3 priorities. The executive director has given staff permission to proceed with rule making to revise the HHW rules. The agency will be sending out letters and other communication soon to local HHW coordinators and other interested parties inviting them to be part of the stakeholder process.
- Brian explained legislative steps. He also reminded the committee that the TCEQ cannot, by law, influence the passage or defeat of a legislative measure and that committees be clear in any comments made that while you are an advisory committee to the TCEQ, the TCEQ does not sanction or approve the position the committee takes on pending legislation. SBLGA staff should also be separate from these comments.
- Members inquired about the status of the C2 program. The program was reviewed and is still being promoted. Members expressed concerns about the rest of the agency's lack of knowledge of the program.
- Members inquired about the status of the Stormwater Phase II permit. The permit is in the process of getting on the Agenda for the Commissioner's consideration.

Clean Texas – Brian Christian, SBLGA Manager, Kevin Overton Pollution Prevention & Education

- Brian Christian and Kevin Overton (817-588-5827) informed members of the Clean Texas program which is a voluntary environmental leadership program to protect air, water, and land resources in Texas. There are four levels of membership in the program: Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum. Benefits include recognition, Clean Texas Logo use (flag), reduced fees on some trainings and at higher levels even expedited review of state permits! Check out www.cleantexas.org or contact Kevin for your membership application!

Review of Action Items and Closing Comments- Tag Coolidge, Co-Chair

- Committee will draft letter of introduction to Mr. Garcia if he is approved.

Next SBAC Meeting: April 4, 2007

Commission Work Sessions and Agenda (Austin)

Agendas

February 7, 2007

February 21, 2007

March 7, 2007

March 28, 2007

The commissioners' work sessions are informal meetings of the agency leadership where potential rules, policy issues, national issues, and other issues of interest to the commission are discussed. Tentative schedule 9:30 to noon on:

February 23, 2007

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