

Fort Worth Small Business and Local Government Advisory Committee

Wednesday, July 26, 2006, 12:00PM to 2:00PM

Petroleum Club

Draft Meeting Minutes

Priorities for FY07

1. Interface with local legislative delegation.
2. Integrate representatives of local governments into membership and identify local government issues to discuss.
3. ~~Expand and enhance the committee membership~~ (Removed priority from FY06)
3. Act as an advocate for small businesses and local governments in Texas. (Added for FY07)

Welcome and Introductions and Food!

Tag, thank you for arranging for us to have the meeting at the Petroleum Club.

Thanks to the following members for their attendance and participation in the meeting:

J. R. "Tag" Coolidge	-	TALEM, Inc.
Mick Brennan	-	Carter and Burgess
Arnie Gachman	-	Gachman Metals Company
Jack Tyler	-	TDM Sales Company
Steve Baker	-	International Exterminating Company
Kevin Kell	-	Kell Cleaners
Jeannette Pennington	-	
Sarah Walls	-	Cantey and Hanger
Owen Daniel	-	Midland Manufacturing
Ginny Kamper	-	Reeder Distributors
Larry Martin	-	City of Hurst
Rick White	-	City of Azle
David Smith	-	City of Burleson
Lauren Clayton	-	Senator Harris Office
Rachel Work	-	Senator Harris Office

Thanks also to TCEQ attendees

Tony Walker	-	Region 4 Director
Tasha Burns	-	Region SBLGA Compliance Assistance Specialist
Tamra-Shae Oatman	-	Manager Small Business and Local Government Assistance Program

Action Items from Last Meeting: Tasha Burns, SBLGA

- Follow up with Event Coordination and Education section for consideration of TCEQ booth placement at next year's trade fair [Complete – TSO spoke with Ted Hazen of ECE]
- Increase outreach activities/invitations to meetings to small communities in the Fort Worth area [ongoing and a priority for FY07]
- Check availability of investigator's checklists to the public [Complete]
- Please email taburns@tceq.state.tx.us with any links you believe should be added to the SBLGA webpage [Complete]
- Send Ms. Burns the contact information for potential site visit candidates. [Complete]
- Provide high intensity checklist to select members to review [Complete]
- Draft a comment letter on the proposed permit [Complete]

Regional Update Tony Walker, TCEQ Region 4 DFW Regional Director

Tony Walker, DFW Region Director, updated members on the new management structure of the agency. He shared the DFW Regional Office Organization Chart, North Central Texas Area Organizational Chart, and the map which outlines the Regional Key areas. Frank Espino, former DFW regional director, is now the North Central Texas Area director over the DFW, Tyler, Waco, Austin and San Antonio regional offices. Mr. Walker also gave information on the risk based investigation strategy within the agency. We extend our thanks to Mr. Walker for attending our meeting and look forward to working with him in his new position.

Accomplishments from FY06 and Call for Certificate Nominations, Tag Coolidge

- Initiated adding a link from TCEQ homepage to the SBLGA website. Look for Small Business Assistance
- Composed a letter that is automatically sent to SBLGA callers to inform and invite them to the SBLGAC

- Sent a letter from the committee to local legislators asking them for recommendations of small business owners in specific industries to enhance membership of the SBLGAC
- Represented small businesses at the Penalty Policy Stakeholder meetings and submitted written and verbal comments.
- Submitted a comment letter addressing small business concerns identified in the proposed draft of the Multi Sector Industrial Storm Water General Permit

Please send any nominations for certificates to taburns@tceq.state.tx.us

Open Forum

Committee discussed the changing of the Division name from Small Business and Environmental Assistance Division (current) to Environmental Assistance Division (proposed). Voiced opinions objected to the name change. Asked Tag to communicate our concerns to Matt Baker, Division Director, at the CAP meeting on August 10th.

The recent dry cleaner's enforcement initiative was discussed, especially in terms of the role that the SBLGA Program should play in the rule making and implementation processes.

Tag agreed to follow up with Senator Harris' aides, who were called from the meeting shortly before it ended, about the processes involved in having input into the legislative process. He talked with them about the willingness of the committee to serve as a sounding board for the Senators and Representatives that represent Tarrant County. Their response was that we should communicate to them issues for which we had concern, as well as maintain a line of communications seeking information from them about the legislative process. They acknowledged that the Legislative Session is a fast-paced, rapidly changing environment that is very difficult to get one's arms around.

Adoption of Priorities for Fiscal Year 2007 – Tag Coolidge

Priorities 1) and 2) were renewed for FY06 and Priority 3) was replaced with: **Act as an advocate for small businesses and local governments in Texas.** (See above). Tasha Burns informed the committee that her regional counterparts will be referring statewide issues they have identified to the SBLGAC which can then evaluate the need for committee action.

Topic of the Day: Compliance Advisory Panel – Sarah Walls, Cantey & Hanger

Sarah Walls serves on the Compliance Advisory Panel for TCEQ. The CAP is a seven-member panel of appointed persons. Compliance Advisory Panel (CAP) members advise federal and state government officials about the effectiveness of the TCEQ's Small Business Assistance Program, including issues such as compliance, enforcement, rulemaking, and voluntary efforts. She discussed the CAP members' roles which 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.

FWSBLGAC should communicate issues and innovative ideas to the CAP. Tag Coolidge also attended the CAP meeting held on August 10, 2006.

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

- Tag Coolidge will be attending the CAP on August 10, 2006. Other members are also invited.
- Send minutes to all members and interested parties as well as legislative contacts.
- Seek from members ideas pertaining to how we can carry out the new priority of the committee, "Act as an advocate for small businesses and local governments in Texas."
- Follow up on TCEQ website development showcasing the SBLGA Program
- Follow up with Matt Baker regarding the possible name change of the Division, expressing our concerns.

Next Meeting: October 4, 2006

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