

Fort Worth Small Business and Local Government Advisory Committee

Wednesday, April 4, 2007 from Noon to 2 PM
Compass Bank, 2601 S Hulen Street, Fort Worth, Texas
Minutes

Action Items from Previous Meetings

- Develop a tag line to better identify and showcase our committee
- 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 [**Complete**]
- 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
- Members email feedback to Tasha on the Commenting Tools (Example Letter, Quick Tips on Comment Making, and Where We are in the Process handouts)
- Draft Letter to comment on the Hazardous Household Waste rules

Information from Austin – Melinda Houlihan, SBLGA - Austin

MS4 Permit: We've received word since the meeting that the MS4 permit has not yet been scheduled on agenda. We will continue to monitor its scheduling and keep the committee updated.

Legislation: Melinda alerted members to pending legislation that may be of interest to small businesses, including two bills which address compliance history. To view archived or current senate committee hearings visit <http://www.senate.state.tx.us/bin/live.php>. To view archived or current house committee hearings visit <http://www.house.state.tx.us/media/welcome.php>. Specific information on bills can be found at <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/>.

Rules: Melinda also provided members with a list of rules that SBLGA staff are following. Contact Tasha if you need to speak to one of the staff members following rules.

The Texas Senate confirmed H.S. Buddy Garcia's appointment on March 13, 2007. His term will expire on August 31, 2011. Additionally, Chairman White's term is set to expire on August 31, 2007.

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

TERP (Texas Emission Reduction Program) is again accepting applications, and a workshop will be held in the DFW region. <http://www.tceq.org> Members were also given information on the previous TERP application period.

Commenting: Members were provided with **GI-355 eServices** to remind them of the online options TCEQ offers. Members were also provided with a "**Toolkit**" to comment on rules that were developed by SBLGA to assist the public with participating in the rulemaking process. Members are asked to email feedback to Tasha on these tools.

Hazardous Household Waste Update – Tasha Burns, SBLGA

Tasha updated members on the status of the HHW rules rewrite. Stakeholder meetings were held in Austin, Arlington and Houston prior to drafting the proposed rule changes. Written comments will be accepted by Joe Thomas until May 3, 2007. The new rules will then be drafted and the public will have a formal comment period following the proposed rule's approval on Agenda. Tag has also traveled to Austin previously to discuss the HHW rules with SBEA management. Tasha will continue to provide members with information as the process continues.

Environmental Trade Fair – Melinda Houlihan, SBLGA

The TCEQ's Environmental Trade Fair will be held May 1-3 at the Austin Convention Center. The EnviroMentor meeting and the Environmental Excellence Awards ceremony will be held during the Trade Fair. For more information, visit <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/events/etfc/etf.html>.

Next SBAC Meeting: July 25, 2007 at the Petroleum Club of Fort Worth, Texas