

# Golden Triangle Small Business Advisory Committee

Small Business and Local Government Assistance Section  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Tuesday, November 4, 2008 - 11:30AM - 1:00PM  
Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission, Transportation Conference Room  
www.sblga.info

## Draft Minutes

### Attendees

Christine Bergren	John Fears	Georgie Volz
Candace Broucher	Lori Palmer	Karin Warren
Brian Christian	Jeff Rogers	
Bob Dickinson	Rob Rowell	

### Georgie Volz, TCEQ Beaumont Regional Director

Ms. Volz presented an overview of what TCEQ does and who the agency regulates. She showed pictures of different facilities and situations regulated by the agency. She also discussed how TCEQ has been involved in Hurricane Ike recovery efforts and showed pictures of some of the situations encountered during the recovery.

### Brian Christian, Division Director, Small Business and Environmental Assistance

Mr. Christian provided an update from Austin, beginning with changes within the Small Business and Environmental Assistance Division. Effective immediately, Brian Christian is the new Division Director for SBEA; Grace Montgomery Faulkner has moved to the Field Operations Division. Christine Bergren will be the acting Section Manager until a replacement is found. He also discussed the changes in upper management at the TCEQ. Mark Vickery is the new Executive Director of the TCEQ, replacing Glenn Shankle. Carlos Rubinstein was appointed Deputy Executive Director, and Zak Covar was appointed Assistant Deputy Executive Director. All of these new appointees are committed to the Small Business and Local Government Assistance Program.

Mr. Christian then discussed the proposal for Small Business Advisory Committees. One of the purposes of the SBAC is to provide TCEQ with input on policies and rules being developed by the agency. SBLGA staff will make the SBAC aware of upcoming rules with guidance on how to submit comments. If the SBAC chooses to make formal written comments, those comments must be made without input from TCEQ staff.

Ms. Broucher wanted to know how to get information on legislative activity during the next session. She would like to get information on bills before they are passed. Mr. Christian said that the SBLGA can identify legislation of interest and pass the information on to the SBAC [ACTION.] Ms. Broucher asked what environmental legislation was expected to be introduced during the next session. Mr. Christian said that upcoming bills would likely include standards for toxics, compliance history, and greenhouse gas issues. Ms. Broucher asked if there was a procedure to follow to write comments on legislation. Mr. Christian stated that the SBAC coordinators can meet to discuss the upcoming legislative session, and can provide information on how to make comments on legislation [ACTION.] SBLGA can also assist with clarification of legislation.

### Open Forum

Karin Warren of the City of Beaumont said that she appreciated TCEQ's help during Hurricane Ike recovery. Candace Broucher commended the City of Beaumont for their hurricane response activities.

Next Meeting scheduled for March 17, 2009.