

# **Houston Small Business Advisory Committee (SBAC) Minutes**

**March 18, 2009**

Fiscal Year 2009 Priorities

Provide input on Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) rules and policies to represent small businesses and strengthen partnerships with local elected officials.

## **Welcome and introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM. Each of the participants introduced themselves and the business/organization they represented. Co-chair Jack Holmes welcomed the members and guest as he continued to presided over the meeting.

## **Review action items from December 17, 2008 meeting**

Clarence Gray discussed input from the Hurricane Ike Survey, a 7-item questionnaire, that was sent out to members and other interested parties. Eight responses were received at the time of the meeting. Attendees were encouraged to return the surveys as soon as possible so that responses could be compiled and ideas shared.

## **Special Guest - Clyde Smith, City of Houston Industrial Wastewater Division**

Clyde Smith provided handouts and addressed several issues related to industrial/commercial wastewater discharges to the City of Houston's Sanitary Sewer System. He explained current discharge limits, pretreatment requirements, permit compliance, monitoring and sampling of discharge requirements, and the importance of why businesses need to use correct analytical methods. He also discussed a new set of rules governing Total Toxic Organics (TTO) limits. Also, he discussed the form used to make a one-time discharge to the sewer. He closed his presentation by describing the City's Gold and Silver Awards Program for businesses that have a pretreatment program and reach a specified level of compliance.

## **Local program update**

Sarah Metzger, City of Pasadena, and Marilyn Christian, Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services (HCPHES), were present at the meeting. Sarah identifies compliance issues. One of her aims is to work with businesses to gain compliance. Only after compliance assistance measures have failed will the City issue enforcement notices followed by legal actions by the municipal courts. Roger Haseman, Harris County District Attorney's Office, offered to help with cases where State law is violated. HCPHES has launched a restaurant inspection program geared toward rewarding food establishments that excel.

## **Auastin update:**

Andy Gardner, Section Manager, Small Business Environmental Assistance (SBEA) Division - Andy discussed the recent legislative activity. He stated that the number of bills filed as of the March 12, 2009 deadline was 1200 plus, which is greater than the last session (2007). He mentioned that SBEA will be tracking the bills related to small businesses and local governments such as the Auto Salvage Bills, SB 16- air related, economic benefit and penalty policy. One of the new crucial bills proposed was to increase water program fees, the consolidated water program fee. The comment period began March 13, 2009 and will end April 13, 2009. A public meeting will be held on April 7, 2009.

**Recap action items and closing remarks:**

1. The Houston Small Business and Local Government Assistance (SBLGA) staff will continue to receive and compile data for the Hurricane Ike Survey and disseminate to the SBAC members and guest.
2. Provide air quality monitoring presentations to the SBAC members at the June 17, 2009 meeting. Donna Phillips, Houston Regional Director, will facilitate getting the presenters.
3. Andrew Gardner asked the members to provide input to any issue they would like to see addressed in FY 2010. To assist with this request, Houston SBLGA staff will formulate and distribute a survey document.

See the SBLGA Web site at [www.sblga.info](http://www.sblga.info) to find a full list of compliance tools or SBLGA's SBAC site at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/sblga/sbac.html> for membership lists, meeting dates and directions.

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Next SBAC Meeting: Wednesday, June 17, 2009