

MINUTES

Toxics Board
Eugene Emergency Services Center—2nd and Chambers
Eugene, Oregon

October 24, 2007
3 p.m.

PRESENT: Marylee Bowman, Chair; David Doll, Jennifer Olson-Morzenti, Jennifer Gleason, Steve Johnson, RueAnn Thomas, John Jordan-Cascade, members; Cynthia Kokis, member-designate; Glen Potter, Fire & Emergency Medical Services; Steve Chipman, Information Services Division; Ken Luse, Terry Connelly, guests.

Ms. Bowman called the meeting of the Toxics Board to order.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Those present introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/NEW ITEMS

Ms. Bowman requested approval of the agenda. The agenda was approved.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Terry Connelly, Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce, acknowledged the service of Ms. Bowman and Ms. Gleason and commended their commitment as citizen volunteers. He also commended Ms. Bowman's service as chair.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Bowman called for approval of the minutes of February 14, 2007.

Ms. Gleason, seconded by Ms. Thomas, moved to approve the minutes of February 14, 2007, as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

V. STAFF REPORT

Mr. Potter reported that all reporting businesses paid their fees and he anticipated no changes in the fee structure for the coming year. He noted that the Oregon Legislature had declined to change the fee cap, which remained in effect. Reports had been submitted and were available both on-line and at the Eugene Public Library. Audits were proceeding. He noted that the program was in its third cycle of audits and he was finding fewer discrepancies in the reports as businesses became more familiar with the program.

Ms. Thomas asked Mr. Potter if he found consistent mistakes in the reports. Mr. Potter said yes. He found discrepancies between year-end and beginning-year inventories for the same chemical, and had to follow up with the businesses in question. When that occurred, he asked businesses to reconcile the inventories. Sometimes inputs and outputs did not balance, or a number was in the wrong column.

Ms. Bowman said she attended a recent conference at the University of Oregon on nanotechnology and found it very interesting. Ms. Olson-Morzenti, who had also attended, agreed the conference was valuable and it was well-attended. Ms. Bowman noted the “Science Pub” held at Luna’s every second Tuesday of the month, during which a different speaker came and lectured on different subjects.

Mr. Johnson arrived at the meeting.

VI. FURTHER AUTOMATION OF PROGRAM

Mr. Chipman joined the board and reported on some minor changes he proposed to make to the data entry system for businesses for the coming years to ease data entry, improve report submittal, and save staff time. Members asked questions clarifying the information presented.

Ms. Thomas suggested that the system return an e-mail confirmation when a report was submitted. Mr. Chipman agreed.

Mr. Luse encouraged the City to retain two methods of reporting for at least two years.

VII. REPORTING OF OXYGEN

Mr. Potter said he received an e-mail from Brian Allen of Hynix about a change in the federal language defining an oxidizer. Mr. Allen had suggested that because of the new definition, which was included in the meeting packet, the board delist oxygen. The City Council would make the final decision if the board decided to recommend that. He called attention to the copies of the reports that had been submitted.

Mr. Johnson said that the definition was just that, a definition; he questioned whether oxygen was delisted. He said the board should continue to have it as characteristic and he did not support that

it be delisted. He noted the oxygen in question was used as an oxidizer and acknowledged that oxygen itself was not a toxic substance.

Mr. Johnson suggested that such requests to the council be bundled together.

Ms. Gleason suggested that any board member who believed the substance should be delisted should get their arguments to Mr. Potter prior to the next meeting. Mr. Potter noted that only eight or nine companies reported oxygen. He said he would contact Mr. Allen with the board's decision, and Mr. Allen could opt to appear before the board at a future meeting.

VIII. CHANGES IN BOARD MEMBERSHIP

On behalf of the City of Eugene, Mr. Potter thanked Ms. Bowman and Ms. Gleason for their six years of service on the board. He thanked Mr. Doll for reapplying, and introduced Cynthia Kokis, who had been appointed to the board on October 22.

Mr. Potter reminded the board that it needed to appoint a seventh member. He said that four members must express support for the successful candidate. He solicited suggestions. Mr. Potter anticipated that the board would consider the issue at its February meeting. He noted that Mr. Johnson would be the new chair.

Ms. Gleason said she had been really impressed by her experience on the board and how well the members had worked together. She said it had been a great experience and wished the board "good luck."

Ms. Bowman thanked the board and recalled it had taken her some time to understand the program. She had enjoyed her experience on the board. She said it had been nice working with all the members.

IX. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Potter previewed the agenda for the next meeting. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for February 20, 2008, at 3 p.m. at the Singer Room at the Eugene Public Library.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

(Recorded by Kimberly Young)