

## MINUTES

Eugene Toxics Board  
Saul Conference Room—The Atrium Building—99 West 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue

September 27, 2001  
11:15 a.m.

PRESENT: Steve Morgan, Steve Johnson, Clyde Carson, Mary O'Brien, Madronna Holden, members; Glen Potter, Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department; Ken Luse, guest.

ABSENT: Brian Allen, Cathy Verrét, members.

Mr. Morgan called the meeting of the Toxics Board to order at 11:15 a.m.

### **I. INTERVIEW APPLICANT FOR TOXICS BOARD**

Mr. Potter called the board's attention to the application packets distributed at members' places. He noted there was one application each for the right-to-know and business positions, and two applications for Position 7. One of the Position 7 applicants was unable to attend the meeting, but the other, Marylee Bowman, would be arriving at 11:30. Mr. Potter reminded the board that four members must nominate an appointee for Position 7. The nomination would be forwarded to the City Council by October 15.

Mr. Potter requested and received confirmation that the right-to-know applicant, Jennifer Gleason, and the business applicant, Paula Holloway, were supported by their respective constituent groups on the board, and he could forward their recommendations to the council.

The board was joined by Marylee Bowman. Mr. Morgan thanked Ms. Bowman for applying for the position. Board members introduced themselves to Ms. Bowman.

Ms. O'Brien asked Ms. Bowman why she would be a neutral voice on the board. Ms. Bowman discussed her professional background and said while she had worked in the chemical industry for 20 years she had always considered herself to be an environmentalist. She was a member of both the Sierra Club and The Nature Conservancy. She thought she could understand the problems experienced by industry as well as the environmental aspects of board issues. Ms. Bowman acknowledged the difficulty of being a swing vote.

In response to a question from Mr. Carson, Ms. Bowman elaborated on her professional duties when employed in the chemical industry, which included environmental testing of effluent and wastewater, cooking resins, and purchasing for the laboratory she worked in. In her latter years of employment, she was in technical services and had done wood products testing and reporting.

Ms. O'Brien determined that Ms. Bowman had read the handbook in part; she had not reviewed the list of chemicals.

Ms. Holden asked Ms. Bowman about her motivation for applying for the position. Ms. Bowman responded that she was retired and had been volunteering at the library. She had time because she was retired and thought the Toxics Board a good fit because of her background.

Mr. Morgan asked Ms. Bowman to react to a hypothetical situation in which she faced a 3:3 vote. Ms. Bowman said that she would have to weigh both sides of the issue in question before making a decision. She understood both the costs of the program to business as well as the hazard of chemical emissions to the community. She would try to be neutral. Ms. O'Brien observed that there had been few such votes in the history of the board.

Ms. Holden asked if Ms. Bowman thought she could contribute to the board's dialogue in a way that helped create consensus. Ms. Bowman said yes; she would first study the issues on her own to reach her own conclusions but would be open to dialogue and persuasive logic.

Mr. Morgan asked Ms. Bowman to explain what she meant when she referred to herself as an avowed environmentalist. Ms. Bowman said that she was an environmentalist interested in keeping the environment as stable as possible.

Ms. Holden asked if Ms. Bowman foresaw any difficulties with serving on the board. Ms. Bowman said that the relationships between the board's work and the issues facing the community related to growth and PeaceHealth, for example, were not precisely clear in her mind. She noted the criticism directed at the Toxics Right-to-Know law in a recent business survey and said she had wondered about the potential for controversy.

Mr. Morgan confirmed Ms. Bowman's general availability for board meetings.

Ms. O'Brien inquired into Ms. Bowman's experience in working on committees or groups where members held strong opposing viewpoints. Ms. Bowman shared her experiences working as a school board member and school board budget committee member.

Members of the board briefly described some of the board's work activities to Ms.

Bowman. Members thanked Ms. Bowman for participating in the interview.

Ms. Bowman left the meeting.

The board shared impressions of Ms. Bowman's interview.

The board agreed to schedule an interview with the second applicant for Position 7, Matthew Hane, the following week on October 4, 2001, at 4:30 p.m. Ms. O'Brien indicated she would participate by telephone if possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

(Recorded by Kimberly Young)

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