

MINUTES

Eugene Toxics Board
1st Floor Conference Room — Public Works Building — 858 Pearl Street

November 7, 2000
3 p.m.

PRESENT: Cathy Verrét, Steve Morgan, Mary O'Brien, Michael Friese, Madronna Holden, Steve Johnson, members; Glen Potter, Fire & Emergency Medical Services Department; Chuck Solin, Environmental Manager, Human Resources & Risk Services Department; Steve Chipman, Information Services Division; Brian Allen, Terry Connolly, Ken Luse, guests.

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. O'Brien asked for an update on the suggestion to improve the application process for membership on the Toxics Board. Mr. Potter said that someone from the City Manager's Office would attend an upcoming Toxics Board meeting to discuss this.

The board determined that there was consensus to approve the agenda, as written.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA

No public comment was offered.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The board approved the minutes of the October 11, 2000, meeting without any revisions.

IV. STAFF REPORT

A. City Council/Administrative Rule

Mr. Potter reported that the Administrative Rule adding persistent and extremely persistent bioaccumulative toxins to Eugene's list -- or reducing their reporting thresholds -- was being announced in The Register-Guard legal section during this week. There is a 15-day public comment period, and then the order can be executed, unless the comments received persuade the City Manager to take some other action. In response to a request from Ms. O'Brien, Mr. Potter said that he would email the notification to board members.

B. Appointments to the Toxics Board

Mr. Potter reported that the City Council received the board's recommendations for membership and that the council had interviewed four candidates for membership. He said that the council would act on the appointments on Monday, November 13, 2000. He added that he was optimistic that the board's recommendations would be approved.

C. Fire Marshal's Office

Mr. Potter reported that there was the possibility that the Fire Marshal's Office would move to 2nd Avenue and Chambers Street where the new Emergency Services Center was located.

D. FY02 Program Budget

Mr. Potter reviewed a proposed FY02 budget worksheet included in members' packets. In response to questions he noted that 75 to 80 percent of his time was spent on Toxics Board work. He also explained that the item for contractual services had increased because he had included a 4 percent contingency in this item. He said that there was no line item for contingency and therefore he had included it with contractual services. Mr. Johnson recommended that the board consider the FY02 budget further in January 2001. Members agreed by consensus.

E. 2001 Handbook

Mr. Potter reported that the 2001 handbook would be printed soon, and would include both an alphabetical and a CAS-number-ordered list of reportable chemicals.

V. CITY OF EUGENE REPORTING

Mr. Solin reported that a subcommittee of the Toxics Board had been meeting with City staff to create an initial group of categories of chemicals to be reported by the City. He distributed a draft memorandum listing these.

Ms. O'Brien asked about reporting on the de-icer used at the airport. Mr. Solin said that he was investigating whether the City or the airlines use the de-icer.

Ms. Holden pointed out that paint was being used in her area to mark utilities in preparation for street work. Mr. Solin said that the subcommittee agreed to focus on the City's biggest single use of paint that created VOC emissions and that was street line, curb, and crosswalk painting. Ms. Holden explained that she was concerned about the paint used to mark the sewer systems because it was aerosol paint. Mr. Solin said that aerosol paint would be difficult to track because it was used in so many different departments in so many different ways.

In response to a question from Ms. O'Brien, Mr. Solin said that all the large painting jobs on buildings were contracted out and that the Environment Committee was studying these operations.

Mr. Solin explained that the Eugene Water and Electric Board controlled the drinking water and that Lane County controlled the landfill. He added that at this time stormwater was not moni-

tored except for samples at points where it was suspected that there might be illegal discharges to the stormwater system.

Ms. O'Brien wondered about the degreasers and solvents used by the City in the auto repair and maintenance departments. Mr. Solin said that a portion of that work was contracted out and that these solvents were not tracked at this time.

Mr. Solin noted that there would be more monitoring of stormwater, primarily as a result of the Endangered Species Act. He said that the DEQ staff was shifting its emphasis to water quality.

Ms. O'Brien suggested that the final report to the City Manager mention some key items that would not be reported and explain why, in order to show that the items had been considered but rejected for reporting for various reasons.

In response to a question from Ms. O'Brien, Mr. Solin said that the City was only required to report those pesticides applied by mechanical means. He said that municipalities were not required to report hand-applied pesticides. He added that the City did keep track of all pesticide use, however.

Mr. Friese asked if the subcommittee had considered sulfur dioxide. Members discussed this and agreed that sulfur dioxide should be reported.

Members discussed with Mr. Solin the issue of treatment chemicals bought and used by the City and chemicals that are present in waste streams treated by the City. Members agreed that the key at this time was to get the voluntary reporting started and to begin with chemicals bought and used by the City. They agreed that other reporting could be addressed in future years. Mr. Solin pointed out that information about chemicals in wastewater was available in an existing report.

Mr. Solin pointed out that it was important to get started with the program so that initial inventories could begin in January, 2001. Members agreed.

Ms. O'Brien moved to accept the outline presented by Mr. Solin with the understanding that accounting would be in the same categories as presented and that it would start January 1, 2001.

Ms. O'Brien amended the motion by adding that other wastewater chemicals used, such as sulfur dioxide, and inquiries would be made concerning the de-icer.

Ms. Holden seconded the motion.

Ms. O'Brien said that the understanding was that swimming pool chemicals other than the sodium hypochlorite listed on the draft memorandum would also be included.

Mr. Morgan said that he would like to see the metals in the wastewater reported. Members discussed this suggestion and agreed that it would be good information but that it did not necessarily fit this format of reporting. Ms. O'Brien noted that the purpose of voluntary reporting was for accountability for what the City was adding or using. Mr. Solin said that he could provide information regarding the metals.

The motion passed, 5:1, with Mr. Morgan voting in opposition.

VI. REPORTING SOFTWARE UPDATES

Mr. Chipman distributed copies of a proposed data screen providing information about an individual chemical. The screen included boxes to indicate if the chemical was a persistent bioaccumulative toxin (PBT) or an extremely persistent bioaccumulative toxin (EPBT). He noted that EHS (extremely hazardous substance), PBT, and EPBT would have to be separate fields.

Mr. Chipman said that he would be adding new chemicals that were reported for 1999 with CAS numbers to the 2001 list of reportable substances. He said that he would also be doing some minor cleanup to the website.

Ms. O'Brien asked Mr. Potter if there were still any TX numbers being used. Mr. Potter replied that some chemicals with TX numbers were still on the database because that is how they were reported for 1998, but that, for 1999 and future years, chemicals whose identities are not known would be reported generically as unknowns, but with their characteristic(s) specified.

Mr. Chipman then distributed a series of bar graphs that could be created on the website. Members discussed different graphs and information that could be useful, but agreed that explanations would be helpful.

VII. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING(S)/AGENDA ITEMS

The board agreed to reconvene at 3 p.m. on January 11, 2001.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m..

(Recorded by Elise Self)
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