

MINUTES

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

June 21, 1999
3 p.m.

PRESENT: Cathy Verret, Chair; Mary O'Brien, Steve Morgan, Madrona Holden, Mike Friese, Steve Johnson, Don Upson, members; Glen Potter, Fire Department; Jerry Lidz, City Attorney's Office; guests.

I. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Ms. Verret determined there was consensus to approve the agenda, as written.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA

There was no public comment.

III. STAFF REPORT

Mr. Potter distributed copies of the version of House Bill 2431 which had passed the Senate Public Affairs Committee a few days earlier. He indicated that there was some likelihood that the bill would be adopted by the Legislature and signed by the Governor in this form.

Mr. Potter and Mr. Lidz responded to several questions concerning provisions of the bill and its potential effects on Eugene's Toxics Right-to-Know Program. Members agreed to study the bill further and await developments at the Legislature.

IV. DEVELOPMENT OF OPTIONS TO RESPOND TO APPEALS COURT DECISION

Mr. Potter noted that a brief analysis of the options developed by the board at the June 9 meeting was attached to the agenda packet for this meeting. He distributed copies of a list of pros and cons for each option, except for the option of a local vehicle registration surcharge, which the City Attorney had determined could not be used to fund this program.

There was extensive discussion, resulting in the following new list of options:

1. Assess a flat per-FTE fee, with no base fee, on Eugene manufacturers with 10 or more full time equivalent employees, level of hazardous substance use notwithstanding.
 - 1a. Assess a flat per-FTE fee, with no base fee, on Eugene manufacturers meeting an FTE threshold of some number less than 10. For this option, Mr. Potter was instructed to estimate the threshold at which it would not be cost-effective to collect fees.
2. Fund the program entirely from the City General Fund.
3. Combine options 1 and 2 above. For this option, members were asked to suggest an appropriate percentage split and provide a rationale.

Members also discussed the option of adding SIC codes to the range of covered businesses, but decided to defer this matter pending further study, in part because it is a complex issue and there is a need to be even-handed in deciding which businesses the program should cover, and in part because it was felt by at least some members that broadening the program may not be an appropriate means of addressing current funding issues.

The board requested that Mr. Potter estimate the per-employee fee that would be required under option 1 for a range of potential total employee numbers, and meanwhile seek more precise information regarding what the total employee number might be under options 1 and 1a.

Referring to the aforementioned memorandum, members reviewed the draft "pros" and "cons" related to each option. Following further discussion, members agreed to forward suggested additional "pros" and "cons" to Mr. Potter to include in a draft memo to the City Council that would be included in the agenda packet for the next board meeting.

V. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Toxics Board was scheduled for 4 p.m. on July 6.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

(Recorded by Kim Kunkel)

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