

# **Small Business Compliance Assistance Advisory Council**

## **Annual Meeting Notes – December 14, 2021**

In Attendance:

- Wayne O'Brien, Council Member
- Diana Hammer, Council Member
- Earl Allen, Council Member
- Bonnie Rouse, DEQ Energy Bureau Energy Efficiency & Compliance Assistance Section Supervisor
- John Podolinsky, Council Secretary, SBEAP representative and SBO

1. Meeting called to order, welcome and introductions:

John called the meeting to order at 10:00am, welcomed everyone, and reviewed housekeeping items. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves. Council members Hoby Rash, Keith Ouzts, and Robin Saha were not able to attend the meeting.

2. Appointments, re-appointments, and Presiding Officer election:

John mentioned all Council member terms expire in 2022, but after some discussion John needs to verify that information. (After the meeting John researched term duration confirming terms last 3 years per Montana Code Annotated 2-15-2110 (3). Messrs Ouzts, Rash, Allen, and O'Brien were appointed in 2019 thus their terms expire in 2022. Ms. Hammer and Dr. Saha were appointed in 2020 thus their terms expire in 2023.) The fourth stationary source representative is awaiting to be filled by Representative Brad Tschida.

It was decided Mr. Allen would continue being the Council's Presiding Officer.

3. Summary of 2021 SBEAP/SBO Activities:

John summarized highpoint activities of the SBEAP and SBO of 2021 including:

- Wrote two SBEAP newsletters. The first newsletter in August was dedicated to the SBEAP, SBO, and SBACAAC. The second newsletter in December was dedicated to drycleaners that use perchloroethylene as a cleaning solvent. The SBEAP has also drafted the 2022 compliance assistance calendar for drycleaning operations that use perchloroethylene, the calendar will be issued to drycleaners shortly.
- Attended, participated, and tabled at the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's SafetyFestMT events and spoke on radon and asbestos.
- Spoke on asbestos in schools rule with Montana State Fund and EPA.
- Conducted outreach to other small business assistance entities across Montana including the Small Business Development Centers, economic development corporations, other state, and federal agencies, etc.

- Worked on EPA-funded source reduction assistance efforts at food and beverage manufacturers across Montana including 406 Pasta, Zesty Booch Kombucha, Granite Water Works, MT Craft Malt, Bozeman Distillers, Big Sky Brewing, and Ghost Coffee Roasters. The Montana Manufacturing Extension Center was our contractor who assessed and assisted with reducing waste generation at each facility.
- Provided environmental regulatory compliance assistance to many small businesses.
- Radon inquiry assistance to homeowners and schools.

#### 4. Roundtable Reports of Council Members:

- Mr. O'Brien reported he's been involved with rental property management efforts over the past year. He said good communication skills and a consistent message assisted him in his activities.
- Ms. Hammer reported she's been busy this past year working on biomimicry activities including a project with the University of Minnesota Duluth and the ReGenerous Cities LLC.
- Mr. Allen reported he and John serve on the Petroleum Tanks Stakeholder Workgroup which is aimed at petroleum tank regulatory compliance and attending to petroleum release remediation work plan and cost reimbursement process improvement efforts. The workgroup is comprised of environmental consultants and contractors and the programs within DEQ that regulate petroleum storage tanks, release remediation, and reimbursement of corrective action and third-party damage costs. He said he's been working on Noons' efforts to comply with new EPA and DEQ UST regulations, convenience store LED lighting, light bulb and other electronics recycling, and other activities.

#### 5. Guest speaker, Bonnie Rouse, Energy Efficiency & Compliance Assistance Section Supervisor

- Ms. Rouse reported on DEQ's regulatory reform efforts, quarterly meetings among DEQ regulatory programs on business relations, and a host of potential funding opportunities from Congress, the Department of Energy, and the Volkswagen Settlement. Discussion ensued regarding the VW Settlement and placement of electric vehicle re-charging stations.

#### 6. Miscellaneous and next meeting:

John reported he intends to continue marketing SBEAP and SBO resources and working collaboratively with federal, state, associations, and local small business assistance entities and others who work with small businesses navigating environmental regulations. He plans on continuing small business compliance and radon assistance efforts in 2022.

The Council discussed holding a meeting in 2022 which would be dependent on Council member terms and availability.

7. Adjourn: After sharing pleasantries and holiday wishes, the 2021 annual meeting of the Council was adjourned at noon.

End of notes. [g/aem/en/10smallbusinessassistance/cap/cy21\\_12\\_14\\_2021sbcaacmeetingnotes](g/aem/en/10smallbusinessassistance/cap/cy21_12_14_2021sbcaacmeetingnotes)