# **Small Business Compliance Assistance Advisory Council**

# **Annual Meeting Notes – December 17, 2019**

In Attendance:

* Wayne O’Brien, Council Member – in person
* Hoby Rash, Council Member – in person
* Earl Allen, Council Member – on phone
* Robyn Boyle, Council Participant – in person
* John Podolinsky, Council Secretary – in person

1. Meeting call to order, welcome, and introductions:

John called the meeting to order at 3:00pm and everyone in attendance introduced themselves. John reviewed some housekeeping items including Metcalf Building restroom location and emergency egress. Council member Keith Ouzts was not able to attend the meeting.

1. Statutes review:

The Council reviewed applicable statutes (Montana Code Annotated, MCA) of the Council, Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP) and Small Business Ombudsman (SBO):

1. MCA 2-15-2110, Small business compliance assistance advisory council.
2. MCA 75-2-106, Small business compliance assistance advisory council – duties – secretary - meetings.
3. MCA 75-2-107, Small business stationary source technical and environmental compliance assistance program – duties.
4. MCA 75-2-109, Small business stationary source representative – duties.
5. Appointments/Re-appointments/Appointments to be filled/Presiding Officer/Recognition:

John reviewed Council member appointment activities including his communication with Susan Fox of the Legislative Services Division, legislators, DEQ Director Shaun McGrath, and Stacey Otterstrom of the Governor’s Office. John mentioned the recent appointments of Wayne O’Brien and Earl Allen as representatives of stationary sources. Mr. O’Brien is with Allegra Printing and previously owned Montana Marketing. Mr. Allen is Marketing Director for Hi-Noon Petroleum. Keith Ouzts was re-appointed by Representative Schreiner earlier this year; Mr. Ouzts is Training and Safety Director for the Montana Contractors Association and represents stationary sources. Hoby Rash was re-appointed by DEQ Director Shaun McGrath earlier this year as DEQ’s representative to the Council. Mr. Rash is DEQ’s Air Quality Bureau’s Compliance Section Supervisor. We await additional Council appointments of three members including two representatives of the public and an additional representative of stationary sources. The Council discussed electing a Presiding Officer and discussions pointed to retaining Mr. Ouzts as Presiding Officer. John made special recognition of recent past Council members including Duane Mitchell, Diana Vanek, and Michelle Bryan.

1. Summary of 2019 SBEAP/SBO Activities:

John summarized 2019 activities of the SBEAP and SBO via a report he had drafted and provided to Council members – see attached.

1. Council Member Roundtable Reports:

* Mr. O’Brien mentioned that today’s meeting was a great way to learn about SBEAP/SBO and Council resources. He said many printers have updated their printing processes by using environmentally-friendly inks and protecting employees’ safety and health.
* Mr. Rash identified a number of big items in the air quality regulatory field including DEQ’s new air quality registration requirements for oil and gas facilities, crushers and screens, concrete batch plants, and asphalt plants. Previously those facilities were required to operate under an air permitting system; however, the new registration requirements ease the permit acquisition burden. Mr. Rash also reported on regional haze and DEQ’s plans to manage the program. A recent Executive Order from the Governor discusses climate change and how the state will go about addressing that issue. Mr. Rash reported that oil and gas development in Montana is not as big as in previous years, approximately 1200 oil and gas facilities exist across Montana, predominantly in the Bakken oil field of Eastern Montana.
* Mr. Allen reported he is keen on having direct, objective, and clear regulatory expectations governing petroleum storage tanks and their operation. He felt networking and sharing resources is important; he and John and he participate on the Petroleum Tanks Stakeholders Workgroup which is aimed at serving the gas station industry, 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. Mr. Allen mentioned upcoming items of aboveground storage tank regulations and future fuel supplies in rural Montana. He mentioned Hi Noon petroleum facilities are becoming more energy efficient and have taken advantage of energy efficiency rebate programs.
* Ms. Boyle reported that she’s with DEQ’s Energy Bureau and oversees the SMART Schools Challenge, energy performance contracting activities, and is working with John on the source reduction assistance grant at MT Craft Malt.

1. Future direction of SBEAP and Council:

By the time we got to this agenda topic Council members who had previous engagements had left the meeting. John reported he intends to continue marketing the SBEAP and SBO resources. Earlier he had reported he’s done much outreach and hopes to continue those efforts through 2020 - much of the outreach activities culminates in collaborations of resources available to small businesses. Mr. Allen mentioned he intends to continue participating in petroleum tank outreach and gas station energy efficiency opportunities.

1. Miscellaneous and next meeting:

Holding a Council meeting during the summer was discussed, assuming vacant Council spots are filled. Regular communications among Council members and John are appreciated by all.

1. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 5:02pm.

End of notes.

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