

Small Business Compliance Assistance Advisory Council

March 22, 2022, Meeting Notes

In Attendance:

- Robin Saha, 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 3:00pm and welcomed everyone. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves. Council members Hoby Rash, Keith Ouzts, and Wayne O'Brien were not able to attend the meeting. The meeting loosely followed the agenda and was full of great discussion.

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

John opened the discussion of appointments needing to be made by Montana legislative leaders including all four of the stationary source representatives. John is communicating with Susan Fox of Legislative Services on this item. Mr. Allen indicated his interest in being re-appointed to the Council; Senator Cary Smith has indicated he may appoint Mr. Allen. Mr. Ouzts and Mr. O'Brien have decided not to be re-appointed. Ms. Hammer and Dr. Saha were appointed in 2020 and their 3-year terms expire in 2023. DEQ representative Mr. Rash's tenure expires in June 2022, and it is anticipated DEQ Director Chris Dorrington will appoint a DEQ representative to the Council. Mr. Allen was elected Presiding Officer in the December 14, 2021 Council meeting.

3. Summary of first quarter 2022 SBEAP/SBO Activities:

John summarized highpoint activities of the SBEAP and SBO of the first quarter of 2022 including:

- Traveled to eastern Montana and met with several economic and small business development council representatives.
- Participated in DEQ's Petroleum Tanks Consultants Day conference on February 8th.
- Issued air quality compliance assistance calendar for drycleaning operations that use perchloroethylene, also issued drycleaners newsletter.
- Continued participating in monthly petroleum tanks stakeholders work group meetings and asbestos work group meetings.
- 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.
- Completed 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.
- Provided radon inquiry assistance to homeowners and helped establish a second source of free radon test kits via Alpha Energy Labs.
- Completed annual reporting to EPA on SBEAP and radon activities.

4. Roundtable Reports of Council Members:

- Mr. Allen reported he is the Marketing Manager for Hi Noon Petroleum in Missoula. He and John serve on the Petroleum Tanks Stakeholder Workgroup which facilitates petroleum tank regulatory compliance, remedial workplan and related cost reimbursement process improvement procedures, Consultants Day conference, etc.
- Dr. Saha is a professor at the University of Montana in Missoula and teaches environmental policy, environmental justice, and climate change studies.
- Ms. Hammer reported she's a former EPA employee, has a property management business, and is working on biomimicry, or nature-inspired solutions for issues facing humans.
- Meeting participants discussed electric vehicles (EV) and re-charging infrastructure in Montana.
- We also discussed perspective Council member appointments including representatives in the construction, auto body repair, and brewery industries.

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

- Ms. Rouse reported on the ARPA infrastructure funding, EV discussions at today's Transportation Interim Committee meeting between MDT and DEQ, Justice 40 funding, Smart Schools project, DEQ's regulatory reform efforts, and others.

6. Miscellaneous and next meeting:

John reported he will be retiring on April 1st. He mentioned he's going to miss working with the Council and doing SBEAP/SBO work; meeting attendees corroborated.

Bonnie and the Council discussed holding monthly meetings in 2022 to discuss infrastructure funding, environmental justice activities, and other topics.

7. Adjourn: After sharing pleasantries the 2022 annual meeting of the Council was adjourned at 4:30pm.