

Small Business Compliance Assistance Advisory Council

Meeting Notes – December 22, 2015

In Attendance:

- Diana Vanek, Council Member – on phone
- Michelle Bryan, Council Member – on phone
- Duane Mitchell, Council Member – on phone
- Hoby Rash, Council Member – in person
- Matt Regier, Council Member – on phone
- Heather Higinbotham, Council Participant – on phone
- John Podolinsky, Council Secretary – in person

Small Business Compliance Assistance Advisory Council (Council) Members Terry Schultz and Keith Ouzts were not available to attend the meeting. Just earlier, Keith had been re-appointed to the Council by House of Representative Chuck Hunter.

John called the meeting to order at 10:00am and everyone in attendance introduced themselves. As part of her introduction Heather provided a brief explanation of a collaborative effort among her non-profit UnCommon Sense, the Montana Manufacturing Extension Center, and the DEQ Small Business Environmental Assistance Program. The team has approached breweries in Montana to become more sustainable in business practices, water use, and energy use. Hoby provided a brief explanation of the Clean Power Plan and recent challenges to the Plan. Duane mentioned economic concerns over the Plan since Montana relies on coal taxes.

The meeting continued per the agenda with John providing a summary of Small Business Environmental Assistance Program's/Small Business Ombudsman's (SBEAP/SBO) accomplishments from the past few months. We discussed a number of the accomplishments including:

1. Publications including an informative SBEAP/SBO brochure, a draft brochure for the DEQ's Radon Control Program, and a chemical use/inventory compliance assistance calendar for drycleaners that use perchloroethylene.
2. Continued oversight of the Radon Control Program including answering radon inquiries, providing free short term radon kits to homeowners, maintaining the Program's webpage, presenting radon information at the SafetyFestMT conference in Billings, semi-annual reporting to EPA, etc. Drafted a radon public service announcement for January 2016 as January is radon awareness month. The Radon Control Program hopes to host its 2nd annual radon conference in March or April 2016.
3. Training and Outreach conducted including hosting a day-long training in Sidney, Montana on open cut mining, air quality, and MDT road approach requirements to gravel pit owners/operators and consultants. John co-hosted and participated in a shale industry supply chain sustainability meeting in Sidney sponsored by the University of

Pennsylvania. Throughout the year John also manned booths at a number of conferences he attended and handed out information on DEQ regulatory programs and requirements.

4. Required Activities and Reporting performed including assisting small businesses with environmental regulatory items, attending Clean Air Act Advisory Committee (CAAAC) and Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) meetings, attending DEQ's Air Quality Compliance Section staff meetings, reporting SBEAP/SBO actions to EPA, working with the UnCommon Sense Program which teaches environmentally sustainable operations to businesses and other organizations, and being secretary to the Council.
5. Other Projects and Collaborations included working with a number of small business entities facing environmental regulatory compliance challenges, coordinating chemical and mercury device collection and disposal actions, participating on a SBEAP/SBO National Steering Committee, attending the SBEAP/SBO national conference in Raleigh, North Carolina, attending Small Business Administration and Department of Commerce business-related meetings, and others.
6. Ongoing and Future Activities discussed were continuing developing relationships with other State and Federal agencies who work with small businesses in Montana, i.e. Small Business Administration, Department of Commerce, Small Business Development Councils, and others. John expressed a continued effort to engage the various workgroups of DEQ and to better utilize the SBEAP/SBO office.
7. Environmental 101 Training – The Council discussed support of the SBEAP/SBO in hosting trainings throughout the state for a variety of regulated entities on a number of subjects including air and water quality, stormwater, open cut /gravel pit, solid waste, recycling, asbestos, enforcement, residential energy, compliance assistance, etc. The training could possibly be coordinated with the Montana Contractors Association (Keith Ouzts).

John introduced and reviewed the Council's creation and roles via the Federal and State Clean Air Acts and a number of statutes that govern the Council.

The Council discussed asking Keith Ouzts if he would consider continuing as the Council's Presiding Officer. John said he would contact Keith regarding this item.

Diana spoke about the University of Montana's annual high school health science symposium in which high school student collaboratively research real-world air pollution problems such as the human health effects of radon, carbon monoxide and particulate matter.

The Council discussed meeting in the future and using Doodle Poll to determine the best time and location to meet.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30am. End of notes.