

Hazardous Materials Commission

Draft Minutes Operations Committee

July 14, 2023

Members and Alternates

Present: Tim Bancroft, Marielle Boortz, Fred Glueck, Julian Vinatieri, Kevin Ruano Hernandez (alternate), Madeline Kronenberg

Absent: Antony Tave, Maureen Brennan (represented by Alternate), Environmental Org seat (vacant)

Staff: Michael Kent; Tim Kraus, Environmental Health

Members of the Public: None

1) Call to order, announcements:

Commissioner Boortz called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

Michael Kent announced:

- The August 24th full Commission meeting will be cancelled due to vacations.
- The annual meeting with Supervisor Gioia on June 26th went well.
- The next meeting of the Board Ad Hoc committee on the ISO/CWS will be on July 27th at 10:30.
- The County will be hosting a public meeting to discuss the consultant review of the Chevron Root Cause analysis of their long-wharf spill on July 17 at 6:30 at the Richmond Auditorium.
- The next CAER Safety Summit will be on August 17th at 8:00 at the Shell Clubhouse in Martinez.

2) Approval of Minutes:

Approval of the minutes from the June 9, 2023 meeting were moved by Commissioner Vinatieri, seconded by Commissioner Glueck and approved by a vote of 4-0-1 with Commissioner Hernandez abstaining.

3) Public Comments: None

4) Old Business: None

5) New Business:

a) Presentation on the status of the Unused Pharmaceutical Collection Ordinance

Tim Kraus, Solid Waste/Medical Waste Supervisor in the Environmental Health Department gave the presentation (ppt attached). He discussed the requirements of the program, the amount of waste collected through 2022, the distribution of the collection kiosks, the mail back program, and the incidents reported to them. Mr. Kraus said that he felt the Ordinance was working well and that the plans required by the manufactures were being submitted on time.

Michael Kent asked him if there was coordination with the State-wide program that was created after Contra Costa adopted its ordinance. Mr. Kraus said that there are State-wide coordination meetings every other month with other local programs, CalRecycle and other States that have programs to ensure consistency between programs. So far, no problems have come up.

Commissioner Glueck noted that now Walgreens is going to centralize their distribution of drugs and so many people are going to be getting their drugs through the mail and will not be going into pharmacies, making the pharmacies the place to dispose of unused drugs less convenient. He wanted to know if the ordinance can require the pharmacies to give people mail-back envelopes as an alternate due to this change of practice. Mr. Kraus said that the program is the responsibility of the manufactures, not the pharmacies, and they do have a mail-back program.

Commissioner Boortz noted that the Household Hazardous waste facilities also collect unused pharmaceuticals. She wanted to know if this data is also compiled by him. Mr. Kraus said that he only compiled the data from the programs that are part of the Ordinance.

Commissioner Boortz also expressed her concern that the County web site doesn't link to the Med Project web site, and that it is only in English. Mr. Kraus said that the web site is being revised.

Commissioners asked staff to ask the County PIO how the HMC can provide input into the re-design of the website.

b) Presentation on the status of Household Hazardous Waste collection in Contra Costa County.

The committee reviewed the annual reports from RecycleMore, Central Contra Costa Sanitation District and Delta Diablo Sanitation District, that run the three regional HHW collection facilities. They noted that all three collect household batteries, including lithium-ion batteries, and this is an issue that needs further investigation related to the education that is done about the risk of fires from lithium-ion batteries.

c) Review and approve the recruitment flyers and distribution plan for advertising for the vacant Environmental Organization Alternate seat and the vacant General Public Alternate seat.

The committee reviewed the recruitment flyers and made minor edits to them, including a new deadline for applying of August 31, 2023 for both seats. The committee also decided they would conduct interviews for both seats at their September 8, 2023 committee meeting.

The committee also reviewed the outreach plan developed by staff and Supervisor Burgis' staff and recommended that outreach be done to the following organizations:

East County Chambers of Commerce

Los Medanos College

The Northern Waterfront Economic Development Initiative distribution list

Threads

d) Review and approve the announcement and application for the Hazardous Materials Commission Interns for 2023/2024.

The committee reviewed the current announcement and made minor edits. The committee also looked at the scoring criteria used last year and decided to convert these to questions to ask in an application.

The questions they proposed putting into the application are:

- What school do you attend and what grade are you in?
- What science classes have you taken or are taking?
- What is your experience with environmental issues. What is your involvement with clubs, projects, research assignments, volunteer events, coursework, etc. that address environmental issues
- Have you worked on or studied topics that the Hazardous Materials Commission addresses? Add web page link. If yes, provide examples
- Are you currently studying or planning to pursue a career on environmental topics?
- What is your current area of study or interest?
- Please share an environmental issue or topic that is important to you or that may be affecting your community.
- Is there anything else about you that you would like to share?

The committee decided to interview applicants at their October meeting and directed staff to set the application due date accordingly after consulting with the Health Career Pathways program.

e) Draft Letter of Support for Brownfield Clean-up grant application by the County

The committee came up with the following bullet points to go into a letter of support for any grants that the County's Economic Development programs applies for related to brownfield clean-up and assessment in the Northern Waterfront Economic Development Initiative area. They

directed staff to present a draft letter at the next Operations committee meeting based on these bullet points.

- Businesses that would like to locate in Contra Costa would benefit from the County having an inventory of potential contaminated sites and basic information about them (contamination levels) so they can determine what sites might be cost-effective site.
 - This will expedite re-use of sites
 - This will help EJ communities by encouraging repurposing of contaminated, unproductive sites.
 - Could facilitate future grants to remediate.
 - Puts sites back in economic use – taxes, jobs, construction
 - Helps develop infrastructure and community benefits (sidewalks, bike paths, green space)
 - Prevents potential off-site contamination from site.
- 6) **Plan Next Agenda:** The committee decided they would continue drafting a letter of support for brownfield grants, receive a presentation from Healthy Contra Costa about brownfield Community Engagement, discuss battery education programs in the County, and begin a discussion of priorities for 2024.
- 7) **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 pm.