

**Contra Costa County**  
**HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMISSION**

**Draft Minutes**  
January 22, 2015

**Members and Alternates Present:** Don Bristol, Frank Gordon, Fred Glueck, Ralph Sattler, George Smith, Leslie Stewart, Jack Bean (alternate), Usha Vedagiri (alternate)

**Absent:** Rick Alcaraz, Henry Clark, Lara DeLaney, Jim Payne, Don Tatzin, Matt Buell (represented by alternate), Steve Linsley, (represented by alternate)

**Staff:** Michael Kent, Randy Sawyer

**Members of the Public:**

**1. Call to Order:** Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

**Announcements and Introductions:**

Michael Kent announced:

- On March 9<sup>th</sup> April Rovero will speak on the dangers of prescription drug abuse at the Soroptimist club at 6:30 at the IBEW Local 302 union hall.
- A crude oil pipeline break near the Yellowstone River in Montana caused a leak of 50,000 gallons of oil and resulted in people in the nearby town of Glendive being told not to use the municipal water supply.
- Two new members of the Commission are being appointed. Paul Seffrood is going to be Fred Glueck's alternate representing the West County Council of Industries and Wade Harper, Mayor of Antioch, is going to be Lara DeLaney's alternate representing the Mayors Conference.

Commissioner Stewart announced that the Office of Health Hazard Assessment will be holding a workshop in Bakersfield on February 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6 -8 pm on the risks of fracking.

Commissioner Smith announced that Shell refinery has announced that there will be a delay in their Greenhouse Gas Reduction project because of the downturn in the price of crude oil.

**2. Approval of the Minutes:**

The minutes of the October 23, 2014 meeting were moved by Commissioner Gordon, seconded by Commissioner Glueck, and approved by a vote of 7 – 0. Commissioner Bristol was not present for the vote.

**3. Public Comments:** None

#### **4. Hazardous Materials Programs Report:**

Randy Sawyer reported the following:

- The final draft report of the Chemical Safety Board of their investigation of the August, 2012 Chevron fire will be presented to their Board for adoption on January 28<sup>th</sup> at the Richmond City Council Chambers. There are lots of recommendations to the American Petroleum Institute, Chevron, the City of Richmond and the County. One new recommendation the County hasn't considered yet is to require facilities to implement 3<sup>rd</sup> party safety culture surveys overseen by a committee consisting of the Unions, community members, governmental agencies and the facility. This would be slightly different than the safety culture assessments the County has required previously for Tesoro and General Chemical in that a survey is not as detailed or expensive. The way it would work is that the County would hire a contractor with assistance from the oversight committee. The survey would include an action plan for problems that were identified. It would also have to include metrics for measuring success. The format of the meeting will be a staff presentation followed by a panel of Mike Wilson from DIR, Bill Linsey the City Manager, and Randy Sawyer. Following the panel will be public comment and then the Board will decide whether or not to adopt the report.
- The Board of Supervisors Ad-hoc committee on the ISO and CWS will meet on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Supervisor Gioia has asked for information on how much staff it will take to implement the recommendations by the Chemical Safety Board. They will also take a look at the County's Notification Policy for chemical releases. It was last updated in 2004. Changes proposed include clearer definitions of the different CWS levels.
- On December 18, 2014 Chevron had an upset in their solvent deasphalting plant. As a result there was lots of flaring of pentane and other gases from their flare system. Chevron is required to do a root cause analysis under Bay Area Air Quality Management District rules, (but not the ISO because it was only a level 1 incident). Chevron asked the County to oversee the implementation of the root cause analysis.
- He is hiring four more Hazardous Materials Specialists, 2 Accident Prevention Engineers, and one Pollution Prevention Specialist.
- He is still participating in the State effort to update the CalARP regulations and the Cal OSHA PMS regulations. The goal is to make these two rules line up as much as possible. It may be one more year till this effort is completed.
- He has received one report from the State with Crude by Rail data but it didn't contain much.
- He participated in the State Refinery Safety Task Force Public Forum in Richmond on December 11, 2014. About 50 people attended. There were presentations on Air monitoring around refineries, the Community Warning System, and Crude by Rail. Another forum is being considered for Crockett or Martinez in March or April.
- He is participating in a panel discussion on industrial safety in Charleston West Virginia via the web tomorrow. Commissioner Clark is also participating, but in person.

## **5. Operations Committee Report:**

The Operations Committee discussed their work plan priorities for the year which will be discussed as item 8.b.

## **6. Planning and Policy Development Committee Report:**

The Planning and Policy Development Committee discussed their work plan priorities for the year which will be discussed as item 8.b.

## **7. Old Business:**

None

## **8. New Business:**

### **a) Election of Commission Chairperson and vice Chairperson**

Commissioner Gordon nominated Commissioner Smith to continue as Chairperson of the Commission for another year. Commissioner Bristol seconded the nomination. Commissioner Smith accepted the nomination. The motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Bristol nominated Commissioner Gordon to continue as Vice Chairperson of the Commission for another year. Commissioner Glueck seconded the nomination. Commissioner Gordon accepted the nomination. The motion passed 8-0.

### **b) Discuss and set Commission priorities for 2015**

The Commission first heard reports from the Operations and Planning & Policy committees on the priority setting they did at their last committee meetings.

The Operations committee recommended they should continue to work on the pharmaceutical disposal issue and County implementation of the Environmental Justice issue.

New ideas proposed for consideration included:

- Addressing the need to assess the aging pipeline infrastructure in the County, including the reuse of old pipelines by projects like WesPac
- Looking at the rules for what type of chemicals people could put on their lawn
- Understanding the vulnerability of industrial facilities to chemical accidents or releases due to hacking of their computer systems.
- Educating the public about how to understand and interpret fenceline monitoring data

The committee thought they should investigate the topics of computer vulnerability and fenceline monitoring in addition to the topics on which they are already working. They also felt it was

valuable to continue to meet with each County Supervisors annually to update them on the Commission's work and to receive their input on issues of importance to them.

The Planning and Policy Development committee recommended they continue to track crude by rail issues and pipeline issues.

Some of the other topics commissioners thought might be worth looking at this year were:

- progress of the State's Green Chemistry program,
- continued involvement in the Northern Shoreline Revitalization effort,
- and ways to spur the development of brownfield sites in the County.

Commissioner Gordon also thought the committee should try to get more public attendance at committee meetings. They also felt it was valuable to continue to meet with each County Supervisors annually to update them on the Commission's work and to receive their input on issues of importance to them.

The Commission considered the recommendations from the two committees and agreed that these should be their priorities for the year.

#### **9. Reports From Commissioners On Matters of Commission Interest:**

None

#### **10. Plan Next Agenda:**

The Commission suggested several potential issues for consideration:

The Commission asked staff to work with the Chair to develop a presentation.

**11. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.