

Hazardous Materials Commission

Draft Minutes Operations Committee

August 13, 2021

Members and Alternates

Present: Marielle Boortz, Fred Glueck, Steve Linsley, Gabe Quinto, Tim Bancroft (alternate), Heather Youngs (alternate), Edi Bursan (alternate), Amy McTigue (alternate)

Absent: Sara Gurdian (represented by alternate), Audrey Comeaux (represented by alternate), Labor seat – vacant

Staff: Michael Kent; Maureen Toms, Jody London, Department of Conservation and Development

Members of the Public: None

- 1) **Call to order, announcements:** Commissioner Glueck called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

Michael Kent announced:

- AB 332 concerning the re-establishment of alternative management standards for treated wood waste has been placed on the Senate consent calendar.
- On August 9th he updated TWIC on the status of the Commission efforts to develop specific recommendations to TWIC concerning actions they should take to address the potential impacts of sea level rise.

- 2) **Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of the July 9, 2021 meeting were moved by Commissioner Boortz, seconded by Commissioner Quinto, and approved with corrections by a vote of 6 – 0.

- 3) **Public Comments:** None

- 4) **Old Business:**

- a) **Receive updates on implementing recommendations from student interns on school pipeline safety and lithium-ion battery recycling.**

Michael Kent said there was not change in the status of the state's review of their school siting guidelines in that they are still no longer pursuing a review.

Michael Kent then reported on a conversation he had with Jessica Dunn from UC Davis. She is staffing the Lithium-ion Car Battery Recycling Advisory Group for DTSC. He said they discussed her thought on what the barriers are to establishing a lithium-ion battery recycling facility in Contra Costa County or California. He said she thought there were several major barriers including the perception that the permitting process is too long, uncertainty about whether lithium-ion batteries will be designated as a hazardous waste in California, and whether it will be economical. Commission Glueck said he had a conversation with someone that had knowledge of the golf cart business who told him that important technical improvements being made to the lithium-ion batteries being used in golf carts.

Michael Kent said he will try to set up an interview with the new Economical Development Director for the Northern Waterfront Economic Development Initiative in the next month to find out if lithium-ion car battery recycling meets their criteria for the type of business they are trying to attract.

b) Receive an update on expiring Hazardous Material Commission seats

Michael Kent reported that the Labor Seat held by Rick Alcaraz has been officially vacated and was posted by the Clerk of the Board on July 13th. The Contra Costa Building and Construction Trades Council has nominated someone to fill this seat and the vacant alternate seat. These nominations will probably go to the Board of Supervisors Internal Operations Committee for approval on September 13th.

Michael Kent reported that Audrey Comeaux is stepping down due to personal reasons and that he will begin the process of vacating the seat. The committee reviewed the flyer for the General Public seat and made changes to the language concerning Environmental Justice. The committee set a date for applications being due of September 27th and anticipates interviewing candidates at the October 8th meeting.

Michael Kent reported that applications for the Environmental Engineer seat and the Commission intern positions will be due on August 26th and interviews are anticipated to be done on September 10th.

5) New Business:

a) Discuss and develop recommendations from the information collected from interviews with County staff on their efforts to address sea level rise.

The committee began by reviewing the summary of information collected by Michael Kent in his interviews of county staff.

Jody London, the County's Sustainability Coordinator, explained that the update to the County's Climate Action Plan is being done along with the update to the County's General Plan. The vulnerability assessment that was done for this effort is on the County's web page. She said that

things are evolving rapidly with climate change and the need to address is becoming more imminent. Items in the General Plan need to be implemented through the Climate Action Plan.

Maureen Toms said they are closely watching the state legislative process to see if any new requirements to address climate change are going to be required. She suspects there will be more requirements from the state in the future, but they would rather be proactive.

Commissioner Glueck said he thought the County should establish some benchmarks to trigger when certain types of actions need to be taken to address sea level rise. Ms. London said she feels that the BCDC Adapting to Rising Tides studies had done a good job of establishing the basic model of what the impacts will be and a range of things that need to be done to address them. She felt what is needed now is leadership, funding and buy-in from all the jurisdictions and property owners in the County to act. She said that DCD is asking for Measure X funds from the County to fund climate change work.

Commissioner Bortz asked what the role of the Restoration Authority is. Ms. London explained that the Restoration Authority oversees Measure AA funding, which is bond funding designated for Bay Restoration Projects. She said there have been some local projects funded through Measure AA and that Supervisor Gioia is on the Board of the Authority. Ms. Toms also mentioned that DCD worked with the Office of Emergency Services and four other County and the State to address a breach in a levee.

Ms. London explained that as part of updating the CAP they will do outreach around resilience measures, including sea level rise, but that they will not be focusing specifically on sea level rise. She also added that ongoing efforts to move away from fossil fuel production in the County and that the Commission should think about how their recommendations can support that effort.

Commissioner Bursan let the Committee know that the City of Concord is making decisions about land use issues for the former Concord Naval Weapons Station and wanted to know if this is something the committee would be interested in for this issue.

Commissioner Quinto said he would like to take this discussion to the Mayors Conference. Ms. Toms offered that BCDC previously made a presentation to them about the ART project. She thinks at their best, the General Plan and Climate Actions Plan updates can be a model for others to follow.

The committee then brainstormed specific recommendations they felt the Commission should make to TWIC concerning actions TWIC should take to address the potential impacts of sea level rise and came up with the following list.

- Set benchmarks as criteria for taking specific actions
- Ask TWIC to require the Departments to analyze the impacts of SLR on the things they have responsibility for (policies, practices and infrastructure).
- BOS should assist in pulling stakeholders together for a workshop to start planning for SLR (County-wide)
- Adequately fund staffing to support efforts around SLR (support DCD's recs for measure x funding for SLR).

- Make sure SLR is consider in LHMP and trans plans (CRIPP) or other plans (res authority) to make sure funding is available.
- Direct Departments to review Commodity flow study pinch point areas for potential actions.

6) **Plan Next Agenda:** Conduct interview for Environmental Engineer seat and Intern seats.

7) **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.