

Hazardous Materials Commission

Draft Minutes Operations Committee

November 12, 2021

Members and Alternates

Present: Marielle Boortz, Fred Glueck, Steve Linsley, Treston Shull, Tim Bancroft (alternate), Terry Baldwin (alternate), Madeline Kronenberg (alternate), Heather Youngs (alternate)

Absent: Gabe Quinto, Sara Gurdian (represented by alternate)

Staff: Michael Kent, Susan Pasara

Members of the Public: none

1) Call to order, announcements:

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

Michael Kent made the following announcements:

- The next Hazardous Materials Commission meeting will be on the special date of December 2, 2021, but still at 4:00.
- The final annual County Supervisor meeting of the year will be with Supervisor Mitchoff on December 8, 2021 at 2:30 via Zoom.
- The Board of Supervisors Sustainability committee will meet at 1:00 on November 22nd.

2) Approval of Minutes:

Approval of the minutes from the October 8, 2021 meeting were moved by Commissioner Youngs and seconded by Commissioner Shull and approved by a vote of 6-0.

3) Public Comments: None

4) Old Business: None

5) New Business:

a) Conduct interviews for the open General Public Seat

The committee interviewed Tim Bancroft for the open General Public seat. Mr. Boster was unable to attend due to a last-minute unforeseen conflict. The committee agreed to interview him at the December 10, 2021 Operations committee meeting, and make a decision at that meeting as to whom to recommend to the full Commission to appoint to the seat.

b) Review the results of the sea level rise survey

The committee reviewed the results of the survey that were provided in the minutes.

Commissioner Glueck thought it was interesting that only 35% of the respondents said they wanted to engage with County government about addressing sea level rise in Question 6, but that a lot of businesses get upset with they are not asked to engage in important policy decisions.

Commissioner Boortz thought that the responses to Question 5, which asked who they thought should be responsible for addressing the impacts of sea level rise, showed a lot of interest in the State and Federal government taking the lead. She also thought that maybe the issue is too long down the road and that businesses have more pressing issues were reasons why more businesses didn't respond to the survey. She thought it was an underwhelming response and so the Board of Supervisors will have to do a lot of outreach to get the business community to engage.

Commissioner Glueck added that maybe with all the focus on the County updating the General Plan and the Climate Action Plan, the low response to this survey shows that sea level rise is not a main concern for the business community.

Commissioner Kronenberg thought that the low response rate and the reponses shows that maybe there needs to be a lot more education on this issue

The committee agreed to discuss this further at the next available full Commission meeting to decide how to frame the results to the Transportation, Water and Infrastructure committee of the Board of Supervisors.

c) Discuss alternatives to treated wood

Susan Psara, the County's Green Business Program manager, attend the meeting to help answer questions the committee had about alternatives to treated wood.

Commissioner Glueck began the discussion by asking what is known about threat that treated wood waste (TWW) poses to the environment when it is disposed of in a Class II solid waste landfill. Mr. Psara said that AB 332 put back in place the alternative management standards that allowed TWW to be disposed of in a Class II solid waste landfill, but she didn't know the actual risk this will pose to the environment. The alternatives to treated wood and their pros and cons are still being studied. Commissioner Glueck said it would be good to understand better the comparison of risks from TWW to the other alternatives, including the ability to recycle versus having to dispose of a product once it becomes waste.

Commissioner Bancroft noted that an arsenic blend used to be used in treated wood, and now it is mostly preserved with copper, which is very toxic in aquatic environments. He wanted to know if TWW is of source of contaminants getting into the environment or into the leachate in landfills.

Commissioner Youngs felt the alternative management standards that were put in place just kicks the problem down the road. She wanted to get a better understanding if the alternatives to treated wood are environmentally better that using treated wood and having the alternative

management standards for TWW. She wants the Commission to be informed of the alternatives proactively so that if there is an opportunity and the issue comes up, the Commission will be in a position to make recommendations.

Michael Kent said he would contact DTSC to find out information they have about the impacts of treated wood on the environment and what their long-term plans are for TWW. He said he would also reach out to the Master Gardeners and Sustainable Contra Costa to see if they recommend alternatives to treated wood.

- 6) **Plan Next Agenda:** The committee will conduct interview for the General Public seat and continue to learn more about the lithium-ion battery issue and alternatives to treated wood.
- 7) **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.