



Approved
Community Advisory Council (CAC)
To Flint Hills Resources
February 12, 2007
Veterans Memorial Community Center
Inver Grove Heights, MN

Present:

David Andrews, Andrew Balgobin, Kristen Engelmann, Edward Florez, Robert Golla, Michael Griffith, Michelle Kelly, Becky Kenow, David King, Frank Knoll, Eric Mahler, Fred Mitchell, Steven Nielsen, Steve Orne, Scott Parr, Roger Tippett, Jeff Wilkes, Dennis Wippermann

Not Present: Margaret Flower, Velita Frandrup (excused), Zac Lagen (excused), Vern Meier (excused), Kenneth Parker, Harvey Radke (excused)

Visitors – Lucinda Legel (FHR Environmental Director), Laura Villa (Dakota County Environmental), Mayor Bill Droste (Rosemount)

Meeting facilitated by: Mariann Johnson
Documentation provided by: Jackie Smith

CAC MEETING BUSINESS

The facilitator suggested a redesign of the CAC meeting agenda format to accommodate the needs of the new Council members and the public. The changes would include moving the committee meetings to the end of the meeting and beginning with CAC business, the Flint Hills update and the public comment.

Action/Decision:

CAC members approved the CAC meeting agenda redesign.

CAC MEMBER/COMMUNITY UPDATES

Member comment:

Rosemount Elementary is interested in applying for the SEP grant for an outdoor classroom. What procedures do they need to follow?

The facilitator gave an overview of SEP grants. All applicants must complete and submit a CAC SEP grant application. The application can be downloaded from the CAC website.

Member comment:

The MN Dept. of Natural Resources has information and funds available for school forests and outdoor classrooms. The phone number for that division is 651-259-5272 and their website is www.DNR.State.MN.US/schoolforests.

Member question:

How much money has been given out? What happens when all the money has been distributed?

Facilitator response:

This is the last of the SEP funds. To date, over \$250,000 CAC SEP funds have been awarded. Approximately \$60,000 remains to be awarded. Grants will be reviewed by the CAC's Community Outreach Committee. Grants awarded this year will range from \$1000 to \$10,000. The full CAC votes on the final grant awards.

Member comment:

The donation of land by FHR to the city of Rosemount was very exciting to hear about. When did FHR acquire the land and what is currently on it?

Jeff Wilkes/FHR response:

Land surrounding the refinery was purchased in the mid 1990's as a buffer zone to the refinery. The donated land was also part of the buffer and has always been agricultural. The win-win around this is that we don't want this buffer area to be residential but still would like to see it as a community resource. The press conference announcing the donation was very successful, with about 60 people in attendance.

Member question:

Is Flint Hills still in a state of land acquisition?

Jeff Wilkes/FHR response:

The last land we acquired was a parcel southwest of the refinery. Rosemount is growing along the County Road 42 corridor. We have some flare stacks on the south side of the refinery so we acquired that land as a buffer. We are currently not considering any new land purchases.

REVIEWAL AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND JANUARY MEETING NOTES:

Action/Decision:

The Facilitator introduced a revised agenda to accommodate tonight's presenter. The revised agenda and January meeting notes were approved as is.

Member question:

Are we not mailing the meeting notes out?

Facilitator Response:

The CAC used to have meeting agendas and notes mailed and emailed to members and others. Members made a decision several months ago to not mail out the meeting notes and agenda unless requested. For environmental reasons, the CAC agreed to email agendas and minutes. A few extra copies of the agenda and meeting notes will be available at all CAC meetings for those who need them.

UPDATE ON THE WEBSITE AND MEMBER ACCESS/EMAILS

The CAC Administrator gave a summary of the member zone access for new members. The member zone directions will be emailed to all members. An update on the email changes to the website was also provided.

Action/Decision:

It was agreed that emails directed to individual CAC members would be directed to the admin@flinhillscac.org first and then routed to the appropriate CAC member.

AGENDA TOPICS AND DESIRED OUTCOMES FOR RETREAT

The CAC annual planning retreat will be on Saturday, March 24 at the Southview Country Club. The facilitator asked members for topics they would like covered at the retreat. Facilitator suggestions included:

1. Background of the CAC - questions/answers
2. Opportunities and challenges
3. Long range vision (including FHR and members visions for the CAC)
4. Annual goals and meeting priorities
5. Committee leadership assignments

Members agreed to revisit this list at the end of the meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

Roger Tippett from the Environmental Committee introduced Lucinda Legel, FHR Environmental Director. One of the objectives of the Environmental Committee this past year was to request a presentation by FHR to review its ultra low sulfur diesel (ULSD) air emissions.

Lucinda Legel delivered a PowerPoint presentation. (A copy of this PowerPoint presentation can be found on the CAC website).

Member question:

To accommodate ULSD fuel, do vehicles have to be modified?

Lucinda Legel/FHR response:

Cleaner fuel means that engines have to be efficient. It will take time to make this conversion. That's why the new rules are being phased in during 2006 - 2010.

Becky Kenow/FHR response:

We have talked about Project Green Fleet before, but for newer members, it is a project that retrofits MN's school buses with pollution control equipment for emission reduction. With this equipment on the buses, Minnesota can begin to further realize the benefits from the ULSD fuel. FHR is one of the partners in the Project Green Fleet. (For more information on Project Greenfleet progress, check the website at www.projectgreenfleet.com).

Member question:

Is it harder to run ULSD fuel in the cold temperatures?

Jeff Wilkes/FHR response:

ULSD is not affected by the cold temperatures. However, the state requires that we blend 2% biodiesel to the low sulfur fuel. The biodiesel is affected by the cold temperatures and tends to gel.

Member question:

Are all new trucks converted to run the ULSD?

Jeff Wilkes/FHR response:

Yes, all the new trucks are converted. If you would try to run regular diesel, your catalyst would be disabled.

Member question:

In the past, diesel fuel included lead. We have had issues with liner scoring due to the ULSD that was run with certain lube oil. The lube oil needs to be compatible with the diesel generators.

Jeff Wilkes/FHR response:

The lead was an added lubricant. Sulfur is a contaminant.

Lucinda Legel/FHR response:

We run our generators at FHR with the ULSD. We have not had that trouble.

Member question:

Do you get credit for being below the permitted emissions level?

Lucinda Legel/FHR response:

We don't get credit from the MPCA. However, we view being below the permitted emissions level as creditability with the Council and Community.

Member question:

Are there other opportunities for you to improve emissions?

Lucinda Legel/FHR response:

We are well below the red line (see PowerPoint page 9) for permitted emissions. We have reduced a lot of the ERI, but there are always opportunities.

Jeff Wilkes/FHR response:

We took possibilities from throughout the refinery and prioritized them. We came up with similar lists of items that the west coast refineries use. We visited their refineries and benchmarked what they are doing. We are at the point that we would be looking at high budget items to make more changes. However, we never say never to opportunities. For instance, the ERI project pushed us to recycle our waste products.

Scott Parr, MPCA response:

The refinery is always looking for ways to reduce. I wish more companies were as conscientious.

Member question:

Where do these numbers come from?

Lucinda Legel/FHR response:

FHR tests emissions. Emissions are put on an analyzer which measures continuously. There are emission factors approved that you can use for reporting purposes. At FHR, 70% comes from actual measurements and 30% comes from factor literature.

Member question:

What drove FHR to use actual measurements?

Lucinda Legel/FHR response:

When we get a permit, we need to know our baseline initiatives. Some of the improved emissions data that we have seen could be the result of getting better measurements.

Member question:

What is the object of reducing benzene in the fuel?

Lucinda Legel/FHR response:

Benzene is a hazardous chemical pollutant. FHR has increased its efforts to lower hazardous chemical emissions.

Member question:

What is the total percent of harmful emissions in the area and of that total what percent does FHR contribute? I think that would be beneficial information for the Council.

Jeff Wilkes/FHR response:

That data is available because everyone has to report their levels to the government. I'm not sure about the specific percentages.

Member comment:

There is a map that shows the emission concentrations.

PUBLIC PORTION OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

The facilitator introduced Myron Napper as a regular CAC meeting participant and neighbor to FHR on 145th Street. He has been a welcome and vocal person that is credited in part with helping to establish the Council. She also introduced Laura Villa from the Dakota County Environmental Department and Mayor Bill Droste from Rosemount.

The facilitator asked for public comment.

Myron Napper comment:

I represent the Concerned Citizens of Dakota County. Our group formed in December 1997, one year prior to the formation of the CAC. There are over 75 members in our group and we are registered with the state of MN as a nonprofit organization.

What is so secretive that we could not be invited to tonight's presentation? There is no need to have this Council if you are going to keep it behind closed doors. Amy Sherman (St. Paul Pioneer Press) stated in a 1998 article that there are 300+ organizations like the CAC in MN. These groups last only 5-10 years and then were abandoned because you can't get people to come to the meetings, especially if you are going to keep such a big part of the meeting a secret.

Facilitator response:

It is important that you feel that our meetings are accessible. We made the decision earlier this evening to change the agenda times to meet our speaker's last minute scheduling needs. Earlier this evening, CAC members also approved to have their committees meet at the end instead of the beginning of the meeting. We want the meetings to be very accessible for our public guests.

Jeff Wilkes/FHR comment:

Myron and I met earlier this month. Myron realized we were drilling another well after we had been reporting we would not be drilling again. We had to abandon a well with a bad casing so we needed to drill a new one. Our communication failed and we didn't let the public know and Myron called us on it.

Myron Napper comment:

We have a person on our Concerned Citizens Committee that has never been called to serve on this Council. He has filled out 2 applications but never been invited to participate. It seems that when you have someone so interested you would take advantage of it.

Facilitator comment:

Thank you for your input Myron. You are an excellent example of the kind of feedback that we need to get. Our membership selection process follows procedures originally developed by the League of Women Voters. Your friend should contact the CAC's Membership and Operations Committee with any concerns.

FHR UPDATE

Jeff Wilkes reported that FHR has been working to keep all of their instrumentation functioning with the cold weather. A major machine went offline and went on flare recently. Also, on Sunday we went on flare.

Member question:

Does that mean you have to burn off product?

Jeff Wilkes/FHR response:

If the machine goes down, you lose the circulation flow, so relief valves open and it goes on flare.

Two years ago, there was a major explosion at a BP facility in Texas City, resulting in some deaths. Following that, OSHA requested BP to have an investigation of what happened that led up to the disaster. A high ranking person, Mr. Baker, provided a summary report. If you web search the Baker Report, you'll see it is about 375 pages long. It is a well written report that documents what led up to the explosion. There is an excellent summary at the end. The report was accumulated over a few years and is deep with information, including senior management culture and buying into safety. There are many different safety elements within the refinery business. Much of the information coming out of this report could be safety measures for the future of the industry.

Member question:

Could the Council review the Safety Committee focus with regards to or in alignment with the Baker Report?

Jeff Wilkes response:

There would be a good opportunity to do that at the retreat.

Member comment:

There is a Chemical Safety Board appointed by the President to do investigations on things that happen involving chemical spills, etc. This board does not have enforcement authority but it does make recommendations to OSHA.

Myron Napper question:

Did you engage the EPN system when you had the hydrogen leak at FHR?

Jeff Wilkes response:

We wouldn't use the EPN system unless we thought the public was in danger. We did call to let folks know that we were going on the flare. If there is a possibility there will be noises, odors, etc. we do start calling. The seriousness of the situation governs our response.

Member comment:

I think it would be beneficial to have more details about the EPN system.

Member comment:

I think an FHR presentation on safety measures within the facility would be beneficial to the Council.

Member question:

Was the Alaska Flint Hills fined due to their EPN reporting practices? (Refers to an article).

Jeff Wilkes/FHR response:

I'm not aware that there were fines, but please forward the article to me.

Becky Kenow continued the FHR update by discussing other FHR community initiatives. She commented about the press conference held earlier this month regarding the land donation. She also discussed FHR's partnership with the Science Museum that includes a tour and an overnight camp for elementary schools. Last weekend was the start of the camps and they had over 500 participants. Mobile labs go to the schools for those students that cannot attend the overnights.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Facilitator gave an overview/purpose of each CAC Committee. The Council asks that each member join a committee. The chair role will be discussed and determined at the March retreat. Signup sheets for the various committees were posted. Previous committee members were also given the opportunity to change committees.

Community Outreach Committee

The purpose of the Community Outreach Committee is to serve as a liaison between the CAC and the area communities to facilitate discussion on current CAC initiatives. In addition, the Committee promotes the CAC through its website and other communication tools, and annually allocates Supplemental Environmental Project Grants (SEP) to community schools and nonprofit groups.

Membership and Operations Committee

The purpose of the Membership and Operations Committee is to manage full CAC membership, operational and planning standards. Membership and operations includes membership policies and selection recommendations, and other issues pertaining to the successful operation of the CAC (annual reviews, CAC evaluation, facilitator evaluation, CAC planning, etc.).

Safety Committee

The purpose of the Safety Committee is to assure appropriate safety programs are in place at FHR to protect the community and FHR employees. The Safety Committee will also research and recommend enhanced safety programs to FHR. Safety issues include emergency notification plans and procedures, health risk assessments, operating issues (turnarounds, etc.) and worker safety.

Environmental Committee

The purpose of the Environmental Committee is to review, prioritize, study and make recommendations (as necessary) to the full CAC, and ultimately FHR, on issues and concerns related to air, water, solid waste, and other environmental issues from both a community and a regulatory perspective. The committee works with independent consultants to collect and review data and to assist it in making its recommendations.

Individual committees met and were given the following tasks:

1. Prepare/assign a brief presentation on your Committee's activities for the retreat
2. Identify retreat priorities/objectives

Members revisited the retreat objectives and added the following:

- Everyone up to speed on SEP grant, revised copies distributed
- More community participation in our meetings – discuss strategies
- Safety Committee possible role: Explore what FHR is doing to influence safety practices based on Baker Report, learn about plan that came out of the emergency drill last fall, risk management plan review
- Monitor facilities expansion – air and water impact, frequent and type of information – what now?
- Annual objectives for the committees and meeting topics

The meeting adjourned shortly after 9:00 pm.

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CAC WILL NOT BE HELD IN MARCH.

We will not be holding our regular scheduled CAC meeting on Monday, March 12th. During March, we will instead be holding our annual planning retreat to identify priorities and objectives for the coming year. Results of the planning retreat will be discussed at our next regularly scheduled meeting on April 9th.

MEMBER PLANNING RETREAT

Date: Saturday, 24 March 2007
Location: Southview Country Club
Topics: CAC Annual Planning Retreat