

# COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

TO FLINT HILLS RESOURCES PINE BEND REFINERY

**CAC Meeting  
September 14, 2020  
6:00 – 8:30 PM**

**Anna Brenna, Chair of the Development Committee opened the meeting.**

## **Facilitator Updates**

- Reminder for members to check their contact information on the 2020 – 2021 CAC member roster which she emailed. Let her know if you have changes.
- The members approved the proposed topics for 2020 – 2021.

## **FHR Updates**

### **Process Safety – Geoff Glasrud**

- One event was an overflow of a rail car with acid. No injury, no impact ... but we take it seriously. Opportunity to leverage technology to improve performance.
- The refinery has adapted to remote work while ensuring safe responsible operation – includes process hazard analysis (PHA) remotely, conducted emergency drills with on-site and remote support. The use of Microsoft Teams has been connecting people more quickly to support those on site. It has worked out well.

### **Personal Safety – Bryan Kotaska**

- 1 recordable injury, a hand pinch/cut. We did a learning team and are currently looking for solutions.
- Possible COVID-19 transmission, not sure whether transfer happened at work. Four employees sick, two we know were from outside the refinery. The other two are unclear.
- No contractor recordable injuries this year to date.
- FHR was recertified for MN OSHA VPP Star Certification for safety. MN OSHA has used our example to help other sites. It is a testament to our people.

### **Environmental – Geoff Glasrud**

- 2 flaring events. Total of 10 hours.
  - External 60% voltage sag from lightning bolt, sag in power supply.

- Sags happening more frequently, and we are working on ways to reduce the impact.
    - Trip Sulfur Recovery Unit (“SRU”) due to false low flow meter.
- Trip #3 SRU on wrong HMI screen while starting up ATS unit.
- Trip of #5 SRU while working on instrumentation.
- No impacts from the trips, however reportable “C” level events.
- Highlight: We increased flare gas capacity by redeploying idled equipment.

### **Development Committee Report**

Development Committee (“DC”), Anna Brenna, Mike Cahn and Michael Deeny met over the summer. The Committee also appreciated the help from CAC member Kevin Green.

The DC was created (extended the work of the Membership Selection Committee) at the May 2020 retreat to improve community outreach, enhance meetings and member experience, and recruit more members.

#### **Improve Community Outreach**

- Inver Grove Quarterly Newsletter will have a half-page informational article going to 15,500 households in Inver Grove Heights the first week of October.
- Hoping for similar opportunities – looking for CAC members who are willing to help. Mike Cahn will be looking into it for Rosemount. CAC members are requested to volunteer to reach out to their cities.
- Mass mailing.
  - It has been many years since we have done one.
  - We want to get the word out to the community.
    - CAC guideline – mass mailing triggered by 5+ open CAC seats.
    - FHR working with us on it.
- Social Media.
  - Working to increase our visibility, considering Facebook and possibly LinkedIn.
  - FHR supports increasing social media and wants to jointly develop guidelines for what is posted, how, what gets responses so that everyone is on the same page.
- Presence at fairs, festivals, etc. hopefully next summer.
- Meeting locations – put on hold for now because meetings are virtual, still planning to investigate location.
- Improve CAC Website.

#### **Meeting Enhancements**

- CAC set topics, agenda, and invites speakers in collaboration with FHR.
  - Spring survey results guided topic selection.

- Work with FHR to finalize the agenda each month.
- Change meeting structure.
  - More member involvement.
  - Shorter devoted timeslot for general or minor incident updates from refinery.
- Open items will be reviewed at each meeting.
- Food will be provided at future in person meetings – gift ban rules apply.
  - Heather explained that state, federal, municipal employees cannot take gifts, including food, so members of the public or lobbyists could not be influenced by gifts. FHR takes a conservative interpretation. We will need to be sure that no CAC member or spouse is covered by the gift ban then the CAC can have food together before meetings (when we meet in person). Members are responsible to police themselves. FHR will not offer food to outside speakers; they are often from public agencies.

### **New Member Recruitment**

- Mass mailing and social media.
- Blurbs in town newsletters.
- CAC member assistance – reach out to friends and neighbors not just over email and social media, but in person.
- Bring a friend or a neighbor to a meeting.
  - Currently contact Aimee for the Zoom link to attend.

### **What CAC Members Can Do**

- Volunteer to reach out to your town or city to find out if there is a newsletter where there could be a blurb.
- Volunteer to enhance website.
- Volunteer to be at an information booth next summer.
- Speak up at meetings.
- Email the Development Committee with your ideas and desires to be more involved.

### **Presentation: Mariann Johnson, CAC Facilitator**

- In 1998 several public officials met with FHR to create the CAC.
- Based on Community Advisory Panels that the American Chemistry Council initiated “responsible care.” Asked chemical facilities to improve health, safety, and environmental performance and to communicate openly with neighbors and other member of the public about the facilities’ performance.
- Facilities/industries have no formal obligations, unlike government agencies, to consult with the public.

- CAC members were selected by the League of Women Voters, an impartial entity. Over 200 applications in the fall of 1998 for new members. Similar criteria are being used by the CAC today.
- CAC original purpose has remained the same, have been periodically amended or expanded.
- Community Advisory Panel.
  - Builds trust relationships between industry and community.
  - Educates community members.
  - Informs the facility about community concerns.
  - Informs environmental improvements at the facility and to a lesser degree, plant operations.
  - Challenge over time – after the immediate issue for which the CAP was formed gets resolved, it can be more difficult to maintain community interest.
- CAC Mission.
  - 1998 poll of community members created the mission.
  - Safety and environment were the keys.
  - Guiding principles – ground CAC members in a mutual set of values.
  - There are many other CAPs around the country. Information on the web ... search “Community Advisory Panel.”

### **CAC Discussion About Future, Engagement**

- Members appreciated the work of the CAC over the summer.
- Kevin Green volunteered to check with the City of Hastings about putting a blurb in the newsletter.
- CAC is important. Lots goes on at the refinery that people do not notice. People underestimate and undervalue what it adds to the community. They do not know what goes into safety.
- Getting engagement from the larger public is the challenge. We want to attract people who are actively engaged.
- Even as you look for more CAC members, FHR values this smaller group of truly engaged people. The in-depth conversation and back and forth is valued.
- DC wants to partner with FHR, values respectful communication.
- CAC member questioned the cost.
  - In the past members were recruited by current members, also local newspaper ads.
  - Getting turnout for organizations is a challenge in general.
  - Mailing can be costly. FHR is willing to target some resources to update method of reaching people – affordable way to target people. DC feels strongly a mailing is needed.

- Goals for Social media. (This was discussed at the end of the meeting ... included here for continuity.)
  - Get the word out that we exist, what we are and what we do.
  - Continue to be a bridge to FHR for the community
  - Get feedback from the neighbors.
- Discussion about social media comments ... does FHR approve, do they meet the goals of the Development Committee? Are you/we willing to do the work to curate comments?

### **Ongoing Pandemic Management – Geoff Glasrud**

See [ww.pinebendrefinery.com](http://ww.pinebendrefinery.com) and click on COVID-19 response for full information in the *COVID-19 Pandemic Safe Work Playbook*.

- FHR point of view for COVID-19 Plan.
  - The Playbook will be in place until vaccine or effective treatments are available.
    - Likely 12 – 18 months.
  - Administrative controls will work for a while, but we recognize that they are difficult to sustain. Putting engineered controls in place.
  - The risk of infecting multiple employees could threaten continuity.
- We have risk management protocols in place, more info on the website
- We also have social/physical distancing. Created individual workstations, used lots of plexiglass.
- Facemask use.
- Enhanced cleaning protocols.
- Visitor & contractor protocols.
- Communications plan, on website.
- Question about financial impact of COVID-19 on market
  - Gasoline has rebounded. One area still lower is air travel. Jet fuel is now going into diesel, which is over saturated. This is market information – not private information.
  - On the expense side there was some cost in reacting to COVID-19, not great impact.

### **Fertilizer Plant Safety – Geoff Glasrud**

- West Texas and Beirut (from news) explosions were Ammonium Nitrate. FHR makes Ammonium Thiosulfate. Ammonium Nitrate is not stable at high temperatures. Ammonium Thiosulfate is stable liquid product, low toxicity, no emissions. Ammonia and Sulphur need management at the plant, however not explosive.

- Chemical Safety Board (csb.gov) has information on the West Texas explosion. You can look up the details – materials and video available.
- Question – what does Mosaic fertilizer plant in the community make? Not sure. FHR CAC members will try to find out.

### **Next Steps**

- Ask for volunteers from the CAC for all opportunities. (Aimee)
- Mailing by City of Rosemount (Mike Cahn)
- Kevin Green will check with Hastings about getting the CAC in the newsletter
- Finalize social media process – Heather (Aimee will set up meeting after getting responses from volunteers)
- Mass Mailing - Heather