

Minutes
SBO/SBAP
National Steering Committee
November 12, 2003

Attending: Region 1-Ron Dyer; Region 2-Jim Coyle, Jasmine Blyden; Region 3 – Richard Rasmussen; Region 4 – Willie Morgan, Tony Pendola; Region 5 – Phyllis Strong, Rene Bachel; Region 6 – Larry Lashley; Region 7 – Dan Nickey; Region 8 – Dan Clark; Region 9 – absent; Region 10 – Sally Tarowski, Linda Hayes Gorman; NCAP – Reimar von Kalben; USEPA – Elsa Bishop, Danielle Meumier, Dan Eddinger; chair – Mark Shanahan; guests – Audrey Zelanko, Kenya Stump.

1. Control technologies home page: Kenya Stump and Audrey Zelanko described the development of the new Environmental Control Technologies section of the small business environmental web page. Working draft can be found at: <http://www.smallbiz-enviroweb.org/pollution/technologies.html>

The basic idea was to develop a place program staff could find compiled information on various environmental control technologies as well as tools to help provide assistance. This would include checklists, troubleshooting guides, various technologies, etc.

The key to a successful page is state program participation. Every state program should take a look at the resources on the page and add to the library. Both Kenya and Audrey stressed that more state specific information was needed. They ask that you forward possible material as well as comments to them. Audrey reminded folks not to worry about the formatting challenges—that’s what she does but she needs material.

A brief discussion suggested possible links to training (e.g. APTI schedule) as well as the addition to the web site of NSC subcommittee reports, updates and resources.

Kudos from all around to both Kenya and Audrey for this great resource!

2. Site for 2005 Annual Conference: The votes were still being tallied but three regions had yet to cast their votes. A brief discussion to clarify the Wisconsin proposal: is the proposed site Milwaukee or Madison? Rene said either would work and the state was flexible; if chosen, Wisconsin would pick the site with the best combination of facilities and prices.

3. Discussion about the joint NPPR/Compliance Assistance Providers Forum: The conference is titled “The National Environmental Assistance Summit: An Alliance to Prevent Pollution, Achieve Compliance, and Innovate for Environmental Results” and is scheduled for April 19-22, 2004 in Baltimore.

There has been a call for papers (deadline Dec 5) and some folks had seen information about the event. Concern was expressed about SBO/SBAP program involvement; Ron Dyer who is also a member of the NPPR board offered to try to help with coordination.

4. 2004 Annual Meeting: Ron Dyer and Reimar von Kalben reported on the meeting of the 2004 conference planning committee in Sacramento. The facilities and location are

excellent and the local hosts are doing a tremendous job. The committee developed a working agenda for the conference based on the results of last year's interest surveys. One of the major changes in this conference will be a much heavier emphasis on getting small businesses to attend; the committee has set a goal of 30% of attendance being small business. In addition, there will be a clear policy developed on travel assistance and that policy will be disseminated throughout the network. The goal is to help as many folks as possible and to do it in a transparent way. Recognizing how tight travel budgets are also means knowing there won't be enough travel assistance to help everyone who wants/needs it.

5. Deferred Title V sources. Sally Tarowski asked if there was any news on USEPA's review of deferred Title V sources. Rene Bashel reported that the STAPPA/ALAPCO teleconference earlier in the day had discussed the issue. USEPA is still reviewing the policy; Steve Hitte is still able to take data on state programs serving these sectors and will do so while his management considers the policy. This process seems to be on the timeline Steve described to us several months ago when he thought sometime around the new year might bring a draft policy.

6. National CAP activity: There was a discussion about activities being undertaken by the National CAP, particularly around efforts to raise the issue of multimedia. Elsa reported that the NCAP was discussing approaching USEPA and asking it to revisit its position on the question. There was confusion about how this had become a NCAP focus; NCAP feels it was asked to pursue the issue by the NSC and is working out a possible strategy. A number of NSC members expressed serious concerns about lack of clear communication between the NSC and the NCAP. There was some disagreement about the degree to which the NSC should be "reviewing" NCAP activities and documents (e.g., NCAP's revised by laws). There was complete agreement, however, that the more interchange between the two groups the better.

It was suggested that we institutionalize a NCAP update on every agenda from both the NCAP rep to the NSC and from the NSC vice chair (our rep to the NCAP).

Through Ron Dyer and Reimar von Kalben, the NSC wishes to improve communications with the NCAP to avoid misunderstandings and to allow each group to contribute to the other's success.

There was a recognition that both the NSC and the NCAP need to reach a common understanding of the relationship between the two and to confirm the process to implement the necessary communication.

7. Dan Eddinger said that work on the revision of the ICR (otherwise known as our annual report) will start in December.

Meeting adjourned.