

## **Hazardous Materials Commission**

### **Draft Minutes Operations Committee**

May 13, 2022

#### **Members and Alternates**

**Present:** Tim Bancroft, Marielle Boortz, Fred Glueck, Steve Linsley, Treston Shull, Heather Youngs (alternate),

**Absent:** Gabe Quinto,

**Staff:** Michael Kent, Matt Kaufmann, Cindy Shehorn, Carrie Ricci

**Members of the Public:** None

#### **1) Call to order, announcements:**

Commissioner Glueck called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

Michael Kent made the following announcements:

- The next Board of Supervisors Sustainability Committee meeting will be on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 via Zoom.
- The joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors ISO/CWS Ad Hoc committee to review facility Safety Culture Assessments will be on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 via Zoom.

#### **2) Approval of Minutes:**

Approval of the minutes from the April 8, 2022 meeting were moved by Commissioner Glueck seconded by Commissioner Boortz and approved with corrections by a vote of 5-0-1 with Commissioner Shull abstaining and Commissioner Linsley arriving after the vote.

#### **3) Public Comments:** None

#### **4) Old Business:** None

#### **5) New Business:**

##### **a) Interview Candidate for the General Public Alternate seat**

The committee interviewed Gretchen Salter for the General Public Alternate Seat. They deferred discussion until the June meeting when they plan on interviewing two additional candidates for the seat.

**b) Consider the recommendations from Iliana Treyger, Hazardous Materials Commission intern, to amend the County's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing policy to prohibit the use of disposable foodware containing PFAS**

The committee began by reviewing an overview of resources available about Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policies and PFAS-free foodware purchasing policies.

Cindy Shehorn, the County Public Works Department Purchasing Unit manager, said that they have been working with a variety of groups to review the current policy. For PFAS, they have done some preliminary investigation and found that most of the products purchased from the County's various vendors don't contain PFAS.

Commissioner Glueck asked how long it takes to replace a vendor for a particular product if the vendor can't meet the County's specification for that product. Ms. Shehorn said that they usually don't have single vendors for any given project, so they can turn to the other vendors if necessary. But if they do have to onboard a new vendor, they conduct initial interviews and then can bring on a new vendor pretty quickly after that.

Carrie Ricci, Public Works Department Deputy Director, explained that their goal is to complete the update to the Purchasing Policy this and are close to finalizing a draft they want to send to the Sustainability Commission in a couple of months. They have been working with the Sustainability Commission for a while now.

Commissioner Glueck asked how they address cost differentials between products that have special criteria, like PFAS-free, vs. the standard product. Ms. Ricci said that SB 1383 has cost criteria for recycled alternatives to standard products for paper that they can use as a guideline. Their hope is that alternative products become more available and at a reasonable price since they are now being required by so many purchasing policies. But Ms. Shehorn did mention the example of asphalt, which right now they have a problem purchasing, because the product available that meets their criteria is very expensive.

The committee directed staff to draft language for the full Commission to consider that would recommend developing a requirement in the purchasing policy that would prohibit the purchase of foodware containing PFAS that is consistent with the existing format of the purchasing policy and provides an example of a third-party verification entity for compostable materials, and if possible, a third-party verification entity for PFAS in foodware.

Ms. Ricci said that such a recommendation should reference AB 1200 where it is applicable.

**c) Consider recommendations for the use of alternatives to Treated Wood in the County's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy**

The committee began by review an overview of resources on alternatives to treated wood. Michael Kent observed that most previous policies have been very general and have taken the approach of setting up criteria to find the least-toxic product for a specific application.

Commissioner Glueck suggested that the committee could recommend a policy that would require the best product available for a given application by developing a point-ranking criteria system. Ms. Shehorn said that County Departments make purchasing decisions in conjunction with her unit. She agreed that there should be some guidelines for purchasing treated wood, but she was not sure what that would be. Commissioner Boortz said that maybe a ranking system of low/medium/high toxicity would help. Ms. Shehorn agreed that the Purchasing Department would have a role in this and having clear guidelines would be important.

Ms. Shehorn stressed that the County's purchasing system is decentralized and individual Departments decide what they purchase. Michael Kent asked if centralized authority was being considered for this update to the Purchasing Policy. Ms. Shehorn and Ms. Ricci said that this type of decision would be made at the Board of Supervisors level, and questions about this should go to the Sustainability Committee.

Ms. Shehorn raised the issue of how setting criteria would work if a project was contracted out. Ms. Ricci thought the criteria could be put into contract requests.

Ms. Ricci said it would be helpful for the Commission to recommend a policy to develop guidelines for treated wood applications, but she wasn't sure who would develop those guidelines.

The committee directed staff to draft language for the full Commission to consider that would recommend developing a requirement in the purchasing policy that would encourage purchasing alternatives to treat wood, require the purchase of the least toxic treated wood possible, and establish guidelines to determine what the least toxic treated wood would be for specific applications.

**d) Review the latest draft of the Sea Level Rise Section of the Health and Safety Element of the draft update to the County's General Plan to compare against previous Commission recommendations.**

**6) Plan Next Agenda:** The committee will interview candidates for the General Public Alternate seat and the Environmental Justice seat, and review the latest draft of the Sea Level Rise Section of the Health and Safety Element of the draft update to the County's General Plan to compare against previous Commission recommendations.

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