



# Community Advisory Council

**January 25, 2007**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Members Present**

Carol Bullock Carpenter  
Bill Ford  
Kevin Kaiser  
Mark Kinnett  
Sr. Joan Krimm  
Keith Mesch  
Kendel Mesch  
Jim Pfennig  
Sandy Schoenberger  
John Theuring  
Tami Todd

### **Facilitator**

Kim Lahman

The meeting was held in the second floor conference room at the Rohm and Haas plant. Kim welcomed everyone. She announced that Keith Mesch was stepping in for Bruce to present the plant update to CAC members since Bruce was unable to attend the meeting.

### **Resignation Letter**

Kim read the resignation letter submitted by Rachael Belz, who represented Ohio Citizen Action. Rachael will no longer attend meetings, but requested to be kept on the mailing list for minutes and other news.

### **Review of Evaluation Results (All)**

In December 2006, Kim mailed twenty-five forms all members, both active and inactive to evaluate the functioning of the CAC. Kim led a review of the results from the 10 completed and returned 2006 CAC evaluation forms. She expressed the need to update the membership and mailing lists.

Kim encouraged members to read the summary at their leisure and that the meeting would focus on statements that received the most comments. They are as follows:

- 1) Eighty percent of the respondents agreed that the CAC is diverse and represents the community, yet seven comments were made about the need for more citizen representation and more diversity.

- 2) According to the summary, respondents were satisfied with the facilitator, meeting style, minutes and location. Based on the results, the membership did not experience disputes during 2006.
- 3) Reviewing meeting topics, respondents found most valuable on the evaluation summary, 60 percent found announcements of chemical releases to air, sewer and land, and odor complaints along with updates on odor reduction projects most helpful or valuable. Topics people found valuable in 2006 and what they chose to address in the upcoming meetings for 2007 followed a similar order in priority.

The topic of discussion shifted to members recommending how to attract members and to increase current levels of interest. Within the discussion, members made the following

**suggestions:**

- Jim P. suggested eliminating another meeting so that the group would meet a total of nine times during the year.
- Carol B/C and Bill F. recommended meeting every other month to prevent people from losing interest and losing consistency.
- Making personal contacts and using the Valley Courier to advertise
- Carol B/C suggested having speakers during the meetings. Chris Hall from MSD was mentioned as a possible guest speaker.
- Carol B/C suggested the fire department present how they work with the local plants during a meeting. Kevin K. reinforced Carol's suggestion by saying the fire department could demonstrate their regional assets as well as other things that could be of value to the group.
- Tami T. suggested making the meetings more about the community and marketing other businesses for the sake of coordinating services to the community. Kevin K. stated there had been a similar effort called CAER, Community Awareness and Emergency Response that worked well in the past until site-specific issues dismantled the group. The local partnership was derived from a national program driven by the American Chemistry Council.
- Keith M. suggested that speaking with Bruce about the history of CAER would be beneficial. Sandy S. said involving others in the community sounded like a more positive approach than reducing the number of meetings.
- Carol B/C favored the idea of inviting other companies to present about their community service as a way to invite them to participate. It was suggested that companies could use their CAC membership as a marketing strategy. Sr. Joan talked about the benefit to local companies' reputations by their affiliation with the R&H CAC.
- Kevin K. brought up the idea of inviting other citizens advisory groups to learn from them and to give the CAC a benchmark for comparison. Bill F. remembered that different representatives from local advisory groups presented to the CAC three years ago. Tami T. said that the visitors gave the R&H CAC positive feedback on its progress.
- Kim suggested that she send monthly updates and/or the R&H employee newsletter in-between meetings to keep continuity and kindle interest.

Keith M. representing R&H's perspective gave the following **responses:**

- R&H is open to the group's wishes and yet believes that monthly meetings have become more difficult because of the subject matter that R&H covers.
- R&H lacks the issues and doesn't have full agendas for monthly meetings.
- The company is interested in marketing to attract people to the meetings and to having good strong meetings with speakers and tours.
- Keith M. acknowledged the suggestions might increase people's interest in attending the meetings.
- R&H is agreeable to meeting every other month.
- R&H desires to have the community know them and how they operate.
- Keith suggested that maybe it is time to get to know other local chemical companies, learn what they do, and how they relate to the community, what products they make and what their risks are. By including local companies on the CAC, it serves R&H by creating an opportunity to mentor and learn from them.

### **Results**

The group decided that the suggestions were relevant and they would support the CAC mission. People agreed the ideas would strengthen the founding belief that R&H wants to make community members feel safe. Kim agreed to meet with Bruce and Keith to discuss further and to finalize the CAC meeting schedule for 2007.

### **Community Partnership Initiative (CPI) (Kim Lahman)**

Kevin K. and Kim L. participated in a conference call with other CAC facilitators and members in December to discuss lessons learned from the CPI grant process. Kim L. presented a brief summary of the phone call. Other groups had experienced a positive experience using an online application process, which helped in the screening of inappropriate applications. Some of the program presentations were given on site during the time the programs were being implemented rather than at a CAC meeting. This enabled CAC members to get a first-hand feel for the programs. Other CAC groups allocated CPI funds to support environmental causes such as land use applications. Some of the groups gave preview training for potential grant applicants to explain the application process and expectations. Those who gave the training felt it helped the process go smoothly. Kim said that each of these ideas will be given consideration by our CPI sub-committee and will explore their applicability to the Cincinnati CAC. There are contacts through the conference calls that are willing to help develop these ideas and give tips from their experiences.

### **Plant Update (Keith Mesch)**

#### Safety

- No accidents, injuries or first aids with employees or contractors. Production at the plant was shut down between December 16, 2006 and January 2, 2007. Contractors completed maintenance work safely and on time during that time period.

#### Environmental (Sewer and Wastewater)

- Sewer:  
No pH excursions, but a near miss. The system Rohm and Haas has in place to prevent excursions worked. All sewer reports were submitted on time.
- Sewer Project: The rainwater project for the 500,000-gallon underground storm water storage tank is in the final draft stage and will be submitted to the MSD next week. Rohm and Haas should have a Permit to Install by the end of March. Construction is expected to begin the end of April and will continue through the summer.
- Air:  
No permit exceedances or reportable releases
- The week of January 15, R&H experienced one fire false alarm. Employees were working on the alarm system in Building 20, (the warehouse) and had forgotten to put the system on test mode.

### Odor Complaints

- The plant received three complaints since the November CAC meeting.  
January 6 - mercaptan odor reported by a fence-line neighbor  
January 7 - mercaptan odor reported by Reading Road neighbor  
January 19 - mercaptan odor reported by Reading Road neighbor, (Note: R&H only had one process running and do not believe they had an odor problem that day.)

### Early Truck Arrivals

- There were five early trucks arrivals from the last meeting in November. All of them arrived after 6 a.m. and all but one was admitted. When checked, all the truck drivers had the proper paperwork instructing the drivers not to arrive before 7 a.m.

Bill F. mentioned a concern expressed by Mr. Hobert Foster, a fence-line neighbor, about bulk trucks transporting hazardous materials past the stadium and pool area and the potential emergency if there was a release. He questioned why there wasn't a direct route coming off of Reading Road. Mr. Foster observed a couple of trucks coming down Bernard Ave. Kevin K. stated that there is work being done on gas lines along Market Street and some of the side streets. Trucks may be diverted on a temporary basis. R&H may receive complaints over the next two months.

**Q:** How many trucks transport hazardous materials each week?

**A:** There are approximately 11 trucks a week that transport hazardous incoming raw materials such as liquid ammonia, Thioglycolic Acid (TGA) and Sodium Sulphydrate. Most of the hazardous materials come in by rail. None of the R&H finished products are hazardous.

Bill F. suggested that Mr. Foster's concern could be discussed further at the next meeting with Mr. Foster present. Kevin K. suggested that people should report tractor-trailer trucks using Bernard Avenue to the police and to take note of the companies who sent them.

**Closing Note**

Kim thanked members for their attendance and participation. She reminded everyone that additional evaluations would be accepted. She reminded them that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 22, 2007.

**The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.**