



**Minutes of the
Environmental Affairs Advisory Board
Wednesday, August 2, 2023, at 6:30 PM
Location: Avon Lake Public Library, McMahan**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Welcome/Attendance/Meeting Minutes

Present: Sam Naumann, Jen Miller, Terry Robison, Rob Shahmir, and Terry Wyrock, citizen members.

Mike McCormick (Applied Specialties), Tom Sulzer (Avient™), Scott Cameron (Charah Solutions), and Michelle Hall (Ford), industry members.

Absent: Rita George, Kayla Goodwin, and Marty Patton, citizen members; Ron Spears (Lubrizol), industry member.

Also Present: Billie Jo David, Council Representative, and Mark Spaetzel, Council Ward 3.

Approval of Minutes: Mrs. Miller moved to approve the minutes of July 5, 2023. Mr. Sulzer seconded. All ayes. Motion approved.

1. Administrative

- Calendar Sponsorship

Chair Naumann reported that he received an email from former Public Works Director Joe Reitz asking if the EAAB would like to sponsor one of the months in the NEO-PIPE 2024 calendar at the cost of \$500. The EAAB has previously participated in its sponsorship program. *NEO-PIPE is the Northeast Ohio Public Involvement Public Education work group, a regional consortium of Soil and Water Districts and other governmental agencies committed to improving water quality in Northeast Ohio.*

Motion: Mr. Cameron moved to authorize the EAAB sponsorship in the 2024 NEO-PIPE calendar at the cost of \$500. Mr. Robison seconded. All ayes. Motion approved.

- Carbon Reduction Petition

Mrs. David reported that the coalition of Power a Clean Future Ohio (PCFO) recently canvassed the City of Avon Lake to join their organization, and the City received 47 letters from residents encouraging the City to join PCFO. Fees are associated with membership. After the City joins, an assessment is conducted to determine the City's current carbon footprint and reduction goals will be developed. The assessment includes all City buildings, vehicles, and other energy-generated equipment and PCFO will provide their recommendations. Some recommendations, such as solar panels, will change the way the City operates. When a community joins PCFO, they agree to meet the goals established. The cities of Lorain and Lakewood are the two neighboring communities that have joined PCFO. After this meeting, PCFO's website link will be sent to the Board members

for their review and further discussion held at the next meeting. If the Board is in favor of joining PCFO, they could provide a recommendation to the City to become a partnering community.

In response to Chair Naumann, Mrs. David stated that the City does not have a formal ESG (Environmental Social Governance) program. The City does, however, receive grants from NOPEC (Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council) that encourage the City to become more energy efficient through the purchase of energy-efficient HVAC systems, windows, insulation, etc. She would like to research the mandatory commitments of PCFO regarding the yearly cost to the City's operating budget to ensure that it can sustain the program, or what educational and advice component the EAAB could build or create in a program that the City could implement. More information is needed before moving forward.

Mr. Shahmir asked if the NOPEC grant could be used to develop an ESG program for the community or at least pay for an assessment. Mr. Spaetzel responded that the NOPEC grant involves capital improvements, and he will review their grant requirements to see if it would include programming.

Mr. Shahmir stated that if the community moves towards a sustainability goal, then federal funding is available which is significant. However, the City needs a plan to be developed and designed in a manner that shows progressive movement toward sustainability on a non-binding basis.

- Governance

Chair Naumann added this item to the agenda to discuss the possibility of him stepping down as chair to give another member the opportunity because his work commitments have caused him to not be fully focused on the administration of the Board. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed that the Chair needed additional support, and Jen Miller offered to help with the administrative activities. Chair Naumann will continue in his role as chair.

- EAAB Social

The Board discussed having a social that included members plus guests. Mr. Shahmir offered to host a barbeque at his home on August 12th. He will email an invitation to the Board to obtain a headcount and potluck items that will be shared.

Marty Patton arrived.

2. Residential Accountability

- Summer/Fall Projects

The Board discussed re-starting the rain barrel program as a possible project. The program was introduced by former Public Works Director Joe Reitz. Mrs. David will contact the current Public Works Director Kevin Brubaker to see if he can provide information about the program. It was suggested that instead of handing out water bottles at Big Trucks, the Board could raffle off some rain barrels. It would be a way to engage with the public and collect contact information for future events.

Other projects could include partnering with the Garden Club which could provide instruction on planting gardens or offer a workshop on raised beds. Another option would be for the Board to

plant a garden either in the community garden or another location and work with the high school Environmental Club. The garden could be cultivated, and the produce donated to CRS (Community Resource Services). This would be a fund activity and educational and would require a business plan.

- Speaker Series

The next program partnered with Avon Lake Public Library is Environmentally Speaking: Co-Existing with Wildlife which will be held on Tuesday, August 8th from 7 to 8 p.m.

- Moss Club Presentation

Troy Intermediate School students, Jane and Julia, addressed the Board about a new environmental club at their school. One day they noticed trash on the school grounds and decided to pick it up. The next day they found more trash and again picked it up. Other students joined in, and they knew they wanted to make a difference at their school and formed the Moss Club. They would like the Moss Club to become a community group and are exploring fundraising opportunities and would like to sell native plants.

The Board invited the Moss Club to join them at the Big Trucks event in September and suggested that they prepare a flyer about their club that would be distributed or maybe they could sell plants. If this is something they are interested in, they should attend the Board's meeting on September 5th.

- Big Trucks

The Board had a brief discussion about Big Trucks, on Saturday, September 16th, and will discuss appropriating funds for giveaways at the next meeting.

3. Industrial Accountability

- Industry Reports

Applied Specialties – Mr. McCormick introduced Caitlyn Hall, an intern from Cleveland State University in the Civil Engineering Program, Environmental Studies. She is a resident of Avon Lake and is working at the plant this summer learning about environmental regulations. Applied Specialties is still busy completing routine maintenance, cleaning, and painting at the facility as reported last month.

Avient™ – Mr. Sulzer reported that the 2022 sustainability report was released and is available on the investor page on their website. The RC14001 audit was completed last week (Responsible Care).

Ford Motor Company – Ms. Hall reported that the plant expansion is ongoing. Ford has encouraged the trucks at the site to slow down to reduce dust, and water trucks and street sweepers operate regularly. A Notice of Compliance was issued by the Ohio EPA Division of Air Pollution Control from their recent inspection. Construction progress is moving along steadily, and the northwest retention pond is completed. The stormwater permit prohibits the paving or grading of a non-porous surface that is over an acre within 12 months. Because of this restriction, creating a bigger retention pond was necessary to allow for stormwater flow.

Charah – Mr. Cameron reported that four poles at the former coal pile treatment building fell during the recent storm. Two of the poles held transformers. The poles hit the building and the spilled oil caught fire. The City's Fire Department extinguished the fire. First Energy arrived and Clean Harbors removed the oil along with the dirt and gravel next to the building and cleaned the residual oil from the transformers. A mound is being formed on the old coal pile that will become a bike path. Avon Lake Regional Water is working in that area. The ductwork from the old precipitator building was removed from the stack and the main plant, and the two last coal belts on the north side of the two units will be removed. The renewal for the NPS permit was filed in July. The permit is for the remaining two outfalls. After the west end of the stack has been demolished, the back road area will be cleared, followed by the east end working to the west.

Mr. Shahmir stated that he stopped at the site and noticed coal fines on the mounds that Mr. Cameron described as the future bike path. He questioned if coal fines are the base for the bike path and, if so, will it be capped and will random samplings be taken?

In response, Mr. Cameron stated the mound will be capped, and ALRW is using extra soil from the construction of their new water tanks to form the mounds. Samplings of the proposed bike path will be taken this week and the results will determine how it will be finished. He was unsure if an isolation liner would be installed.

Mr. Shahmir asked if the City has engaged Verdantas as the environmental consultant. Mrs. David stated that she has discussed the protocol for hiring the consultant with Community Development Director Ted Esborn. The City does not have an environmental person to authorize the charges that will be reimbursed, and this needs to be resolved. She is attempting to have Verdantas attend a Council Work Session to help educate the Council on when the City needs to be engaged and to answer questions.

4. Wildlife

- Coyotes

Mrs. David reported that there have been coyote sightings and reports of small dogs that were killed over the last several weeks in the area between Jaycox Road and SR 83.

Mr. Spaetzel noted that one dog was attacked by a coyote and one dog killed in the Belmar Boulevard and Canterbury Road area.

Mrs. David stated that she has not received confirmation of these attacks/killings, only reporting. She reviewed the City's website, and a coyote hotline is posted that directs residents to the Public Works Department. She was unsure if the public knew about the hotline. The City can use the reporting structure to inform people of what is a reportable sighting and what is a natural behavior. She suggested the Board review the City's education program and revamp it to have current best practices and create a reporting program that will help educate the residents on what is reportable. The education material could include the City's leash laws, the no feeding of wildlife ordinance, and how these laws are enforced. Perhaps the Residential Accountability could develop an education component or record a podcast with the Division of Wildlife.

Action: The Board will continue discussion on this topic at future meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully yours,

Valerie Rosmarin, Clerk