

EAQAC Minutes

March 9, 2011

Absent: Sam Raker, Jim McDonnell, Sam Biondo

Discussion:

The January and February minutes were approved.

Paul Bubbosh announced that Naomi Friedman and Kevin Allen resigned from EAQAC.

Eric Coffman will circulate an announcement for new members seeking a focus on air expertise.

Paul and one of the co-chairs will handle interviewing tasks.

Steve Gibb will send both sets of minutes to Eric Coffman for finalization.

EAQAC has no mandated annual report to complete. Steve briefed EAQAC on the February 10 "all advisory groups" meeting with the County Executive. The lawyer for the county encouraged advisory council members to avoid "representing" themselves as the voice of the county in state fora and other meetings and to remind members to say they are only speaking for themselves in such fora. A variety of councils spoke about potential budget cuts to programs in their areas of interest.

DEP Update:

- DEP is relatively unscathed thus far in the budget process for 2012 and at most is likely to lose only one open position (not an actual person).
- Paul offered to do a phone call with Bob Hoyt related to the cuts planned and see if EAQAC would like to comment.
- Eric detailed the competitive rebate program, a \$1.7 m fund for private sector and commercial retrofits geared towards small businesses, multi-family dwellings and congregations. 50 percent of the cost would be reimbursed for those qualifying. While applying some of the criteria may be challenging, a first round is likely to seek applications by April 15, with a second round aimed at May 15 and a possible third round depending on available funds.
- Eric asked if EAQAC might help market the program, particularly to firms that do retrofits as they may be eager to update potential clients with information about the program.

- MEA has a state rebate program and the county doesn't want people double-dipping.

SMARTWAY

- The County Executive strongly endorsed EAQAC's letter on approaching county shippers and carriers to join the USEPA's SMARTWAY program. Next steps were discussed, including how DEP could engage businesses and incorporate joining the program into its Green Business Certification program.