



# **March 1994 Meeting Minutes**

**SRS Citizen's Advisory Board**

**Aiken, S.C.**

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## **Members Present**

All members were present except Anne Brown, Jeff Crane, Myles Grant, Tom Heenan and Moses Todd. EPA alternate Carl Frodie attended for Jeff Crane and DOE-SR alternate Lew Goidell for Tom Heenan.

The meeting was called to order by Interim Co-Chairs Mildred McClain and Bob Slay.

## **Approval of minutes**

Brian Costner requested that two changes be made to the minutes:

- In the last sentence under "Welcome and Introductions" delete the "d" from "introduced."
- Add Myra Reece's name to list of those absent from the first meeting.

Brian also asked that more detail be added to the minutes. It was explained that the current meeting was being audio taped for that purpose. Ann Loadholt moved that the minutes be accepted with changes. Lane Parker seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as amended.

## **FACA update**

Lew Goidell presented an update on the "umbrella" Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) charter DOE has applied for to cover all of its site-specific advisory boards (SSAB). He reported that the charter is being reviewed by the General Services Administration and by the Office of Management and Budget, which had some concerns about the total amount budgeted by DOE for its SSABs. While Board members expressed their comfort with proceeding under the interim solution, they decided to send another letter to Assistant Secretary Grumbly asking that he do everything possible to encourage OMB to approve the charter prior to the next SRS CAB meeting on April 26.

## **Next meeting, subcommittee meetings**

Mark Musolf provided logistical details for the April meeting to be held at the Hilton Resort (formerly Mariners Inn) in Palmetto Dunes on Hilton Head Island, S.C. Members were told to

call 1-800-HILTONS to make their reservations, making certain to inform the reservations clerk that they are CAB members and should be charged the government rate of \$63 per night. For specific information on the facility or its amenities, the local number is (803) 842-8000.

Subcommittees will meet on Monday night, April 25. Times will be announced at a later date. The education subcommittee will meet on April 20. Time and place will be announced.

## **Agenda additions**

Several additions were made to the day's agenda. They included:

- A mechanism for identifying issues the Board will review
- Other upcoming meetings of interest
- Interface with other SRS citizens boards
- Regulatory update on recent meeting of DOE, EPA and DHEC

## **Administrative Functions**

Mildred McClain asked DOE for guidance on how the board should function with regard to finances until the FACA charter is received and funds can be transferred to the board.

Virginia Gardner explained that DOE and WSRC will continue to perform and fund administrative functions such as typing, mailings, advertisements, meeting planning and logistics. She also indicated that corporate long distance calling cards were being provided to the co-chairs but that the 800-number was not yet in operation. DOE approved a suggestion that Mildred provide half the board members with her calling card number and Bob provide the other half with his.

Brian Costner requested that an itemized accounting of costs and expenditures for the meetings be provided to the board for purposes of accountability, as well as to help the board estimate its expenses when preparing its budget. DOE agreed to provide a printout by the next meeting.

## **Subcommittee requirements**

Bob Slay explained the SRS "charter" requirements on subcommittee membership. It is up to the individual subcommittee chairs to staff their committees, based on the recommendations of the membership subcommittee. Therefore, the membership replacement subcommittee should be selected first. He suggested that the membership subcommittee members and the subcommittee chairs then consider naming to their respective subcommittees the persons who signed up at the previous meeting.

Ann Loadholt moved that those members who signed up be named to the membership subcommittee, as well as Mildred McClain and Thelonius Jones. Tom Greene seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. A motion by Thelonius Jones to let the membership subcommittee members select their own chairman was seconded by P.K. Smith and approved unanimously.

## **Subcommittee chair selection**

Mildred McClain suggested that board members interested in serving as the chair of a specific subcommittee indicate their interest. Walter Jones suggested that the name of the person at the top of the list for each subcommittee be appointed chair.

After discussion, it was decided that self-nominations would be accepted and board members would vote by secret ballot. There were no objections to the co-facilitators' counting the ballots. Several Board members encouraged the others to consider that while experience is important in selecting the chairs, leadership development is also an important consideration.

Subcommittee chairs were elected as follows:

Budget, Tom Greene  
Education, P.K. Smith  
By-Laws, Rachael Harper  
Nomination & Elections, Ann Loadholt

Other discussion on subcommittees and their operations included the following points:

- Board officers are considered ex-officio members of all subcommittees
- Travel to subcommittee meetings could be minimized by holding them around the general meetings.
- DOE, EPA and SCDHEC offered to attend and support subcommittee meetings as requested.

## **Membership Terms**

Bob Slay asked if any members would volunteer to serve two-year terms, to meet charter requirements that membership terms be staggered to prevent complete turnover of the board at one time. Those who volunteered were Bill Lawless, Anne Loadholt, Jo-Ann Nestor, Julie Arbogast and Rachael Kearse. Mildred McClain suggested that two-thirds of the board should hold three-year memberships, due to the complexity of issues, amount of training required, etc. Anne Loadholt expressed the opinion that the terms should not begin until the FACA charter is received. Brian Costner moved that the issue be turned over to the MRC. It was seconded by Bill Lawless and passed unanimously.

## **Absenteeism**

Brian Costner moved that the Board not begin tracking absenteeism until the FACA charter is received. It was seconded by Tom Greene and approved by the Board.

## **Membership Replacement Committee chair, actions**

During the morning break, the membership subcommittee met and elected Beaurine Wilkins as chair. She recommended to the other subcommittee chairman that they accept the members who

signed up previously for their subcommittees. The subcommittee chairs accepted her recommendation and subcommittee members were appointed as follows:

### **Budget**

P.K. Smith, Beaurine Wilkins, Walter Jones, Thelonius Jones, Myles Grant, Tom Greene, Chair (C)

### **By-Laws**

Anne Brown, Lane Parker, Andrew Rea, Walter Jones, Rachael Harper (C), Julie Arbogast

### **Briefing and Training (Education)**

P.K. Smith (C), Ann Loadholt, Tom Costikyan, Myles Grant, Pat Tousignant, Alice Hollingsworth, Ann Brown, Lane Parker, Julie Arbogast, Brian Costner, Beaurine Wilkins, Kathryn May

### **Membership**

Jo-Ann Nestor, Harry Jue, Lane Parker, Kathryn May, Beaurine Wilkins (C), Julie Arbogast, Thelonius Jones

### **Nominations/Elections**

Ann Loadholt (C), Jo-Ann Nestor, Lenola Cooks, Harry Jue

### **Issues Identification**

Brian Costner and Bob Slay expressed their concern to the Board about how it will identify and focus on issues. Mr. Slay recapped his memo of March 12, which asked members to think about how to develop a systematic approach to identifying and prioritizing the issues and listed two possible options:

- DOE prepares a strawman
- The board appoints an ad hoc committee to work with DOE in developing a proposal.

Mildred McClain pointed out that on pages one and two the charter gives guidance on which issues should be considered. She suggested that an ad hoc committee is needed to work with the education subcommittee to set the agenda and determine the curriculum for training.

She further noted that DOE has also recommended issues for consideration in the CAB Briefing Book given to members at the first meeting. Although the charter recommends that issues identification be done in conjunction with the DOE budget cycle, the FY95 budget cycle has been completed and the FY96 cycle is almost over.

Virginia Gardner informed the board that the deadline for comments on the FY96 budget proposal has been extended to April 8, 1994. Mildred McClain asked that board members be provided with copies of the FY96 proposal.

Bob Slay asked if there were any other ideas for an issues identification and prioritization process. Mildred McClain stated that a balance is needed between the site's and the public's concerns and needs. She suggested that the identification process begin simultaneously in these two areas. Brian Costner recommended that over the following week the board survey its members for ideas while the agencies do the same, then join the two lists before the next meeting.

Several members asked if there were any time frames or deadlines which might give priority to certain issues. Mildred McClain directed them to the issues section of the CAB Briefing Book, and Virginia Gardner pointed out that the Public Involvement Calendar mailed to members recently contained information and deadlines for activities scheduled thus far for the rest of the year. Ann Ragan asked for members' help with what issues they would like more information on from SCDHEC. Camilla Warren of EPA directed the group to the schedule for Records of Decision contained in the back of the Federal Facility Agreement.

Bill Lawless reminded the board that they are not a decision-making body and should avoid becoming a bottleneck in the SRS decision-making process. Andrew Rea concurred, adding that the board will be most effective as "a policy-making body." Mildred McClain clarified the board's role as that of making recommendations which will be factored into the SRS decision-making process by the three agencies.

After further discussion on the issues identification and prioritization process, Brian Costner warned the board not to become "another black hole" and moved that the education committee be responsible for working with the agencies to identify issues before the next meeting. Bill Lawless seconded. Several members recommended that public input be sought, too, as well as that of Westinghouse Savannah River Company employees and independent experts. Harry Jue cautioned the board not to lose its focus or go outside its scope.

Virginia Gardner explained that the public involvement opportunities will continue as usual while the board organizes, and even beyond that. Mildred McClain suggested that members participate in public involvement activities and comment on issues as individuals until the board sets its agenda.

Brian Costner's motion passed unanimously.

## **FY96 Budget Meeting**

Brian Costner asked the board members to pay attention to the budget plan meeting scheduled for March 29, stating that the implications could be significant in determining the future of environmental restoration at the site for many years, not just 1996. It could alter the FFA schedule, he added. Mildred McClain asked that copy of the budget be mailed to each member.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

Lew Goidell provided the board with details on the March 29 budget plan workshop at the North Augusta Community Center. He stated that DOE shares Mr. Costner's concern about the short notice but hopes that next year the parties involved will be better prepared to request public involvement in a more timely fashion. He said that a budget plan information packet was being prepared and would be provided to members during the meeting.

Bill Lawless suggested that the education subcommittee interact with DOE to set up the public meetings. Lew Goidell said that could be done next year. Becky Craft of DOE-SR Office of External Affairs questioned whether that would apply to every public meeting. Bill Lawless responded that the education subcommittee should be notified so they could decide which environmental restoration and waste management activities the board should become involved with.

Thelonius Jones said he was concerned that the board was "dumping too much" on the education subcommittee. Mildred McClain suggested that since it is a large group, it could subdivide and divide the issues.

Bob Slay reminded the board that it needs to devise ways to make sure that subcommittee activities are coordinated through Virginia Gardner, so she can notify the public.

Lew Goidell mentioned two other upcoming meetings: the series of EIS workshops and meetings in April and May and the Site Treatment Plan focus group, tentatively set for April 18.

## **Interface with other boards**

Mildred McClain asked the board to think about how to coordinate with the SRS Dose Reconstruction Project interim working group, as well as the proposed SRS Health Effects Council, which will advise the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry.) Brian Costner added the Savannah River Regional Diversification Initiative, which is also concerned with long-term land use, environmental restoration activities, etc.

## **Regulatory Update**

Camilla Warren of EPA again directed members to the FFA schedule. She reported that the agencies had met last week to initiate discussion on the schedule and the budget. She explained that since this is a relatively new agreement, the agencies are still trying to clarify their roles. She said she would keep the board posted on future FFA meetings and activities.

## **Public Comment**

The interim co-chairs opened the meeting to public comment. Monica Schoch-Spana, a doctoral candidate in cultural anthropology at Johns Hopkins University, addressed the board. Don't worry that you might have a deficiency of technical knowledge, she said. The moral and spiritual

knowledge you bring to the table is equally important, she told the board members, and that is what has been missing in the public policy decision-making process. Board member Andrew Rea responded that her point was well taken and cautioned the board to guard against duplicating the "technocracy we have been established to balance."

Cheryl Nybro of SCDHEC introduced herself to the board, explaining that she has "some technical knowledge" and will be involved in risk assessments.

Get creative about involving the public in the decision-making process for the site, said King Singleton of Augusta, Ga., who had served on both the citizens working group and the selection panel which chose the board members. The board needs to go beyond the press release and traditional methods to reach the public, he explained. In response, the board committed to discuss during their April meeting a formal mechanism for achieving more effective public outreach.

S.C. Third District Congressional candidate Ed Allgood introduced himself and thanked the board for their efforts.

Mildred McClain read statements submitted by two members of the public who were unable to attend the meeting. They requested:

- that the board determine how it plans to "respond to concerns and questions raised by the public," as required by the charter on page three, item two
- that "community development and community organizing" be added to the "expertise" guidelines for membership selection on page seven, item number seven, in the charter

Board member Julie Arbogast stated she was pleased that the point about responding to the public had been made. She suggested that the board members consider holding public meetings in their own communities.

Other discussion was held by board members about sending out press releases under the Board's auspices, not DOE's. Bob Slay suggested that the board make certain the public knows it can address the board directly by including the names of local board members in press releases, advertisements, and other communications directed to their respective communities. Mildred McClain pledged that the issue of finding innovative, more effective ways of dealing with the public will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

## **Handouts**

- *EPA Superfund and Enforcement Program Publications Update*
- *Federal Facility Agreement for the Savannah River Site: November 24, 1992*
- Waste management visuals from March 22 meeting: Solid, low-level, and hazardous/mixed waste
- *Word List : WSRC-IM-90-61-7*