



SRS Citizens Advisory Board

Executive Committee Meeting

Meeting Record

March 22, 1999
University of South Carolina
Aiken, SC

The Executive Committee of the SRS Citizens Advisory Board met on Monday, March 22, 1999, at 3:30 p.m. at the USC-Aiken Conference Center in Aiken, S.C. The following were in attendanc

Citizens Advisory Board

Bill Adams	Lane Parker
Tom Costikyan	Karen Patterson
Ken Goad	Maria Reichmanis
Brendolyn Jenkins	Lola Richardson
Bill Lawless	Ed Tant
Ann Loadholt	Wade Waters
Jimmy Mackey	Beaurine Wilkins

DOE/WSRC Staff

Tom Heenan, DOE
Gerri Fleming, DOE
Clay Jones, WSRC

Stakeholders

Lynn Waishwell, CRESP

Mike Schoener, Board Facilitator also participated.

Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Transportation Seminar

Mike Schoener provided background regarding the Transportation Seminar (see attached). The Seminar will be held on May 20-23, 1999 in Cincinnati, OH. It is being hosted by the Fernald SSAB. Karen Patterson asked if the SRS CAB would support the seminar. She commented that the seminar focus needs to be narrowed and expressed concern that it will be difficult to manage. All agreed that the SRS CAB needed to provide token representation. Tom Costikyan stated that the biggest issue is that people hold up transportation as a barrier and exaggerate the risk involved. Perceived risks are often much worse than real risks, he said. Brendolyn Jenkins moved the Board support the Transportation Seminar and Beaurine Wilkins seconded. Committee members present voted unanimously to support the seminar. Board Chair Ann Loadholt will determine who represents the SRS CAB.

Stewardship Seminar

Ann Loadholt noted that the Oak Ridge SSAB will host a Stewardship Seminar in the October-November timeframe.

CAB Spokesperson Authority

Ms. Loadholt reminded the Executive Committee of CAB Spokesperson Authority by reading the Board Bylaws, Section 4.2 , Duties of Officers of the Board. She noted that only Board recommendations fully endorsed by the SRS CAB should be discussed in public and advised members not to speculate on issues. She also noted that CAB members should not speak on unfamiliar technical issues. Karen

Patterson stated that at public meetings she makes it clear that she is speaking as a member of the public and not a CAB member.

Travel Regulations Review

Ms. Loadholt reviewed pertinent travel regulations (see attached) stressing that hotel expenses other than direct-billed room stay are the responsibility of Board members. She also explained why the Meals & Incidentals portion of CAB members expenses are reduced when meals are provided. She highlighted CAB member responsibility to attend meetings when hotels have been provided and noted responsibility for expense vouchers as well. She requested that when car rental is necessary, please contact administrative staff.

Education Proposal

Karen Patterson noted that New Member Orientation is being revised based on feedback. She also presented a proposal (see attached) to conduct two-hour training sessions in conjunction with full Board meetings. Outlines will be available and a reference manual will be provided. Currently, a glossary is being developed for new members as well. Brendolyn Jenkins commended Ms. Patterson on coordinating the recent Environmental Laws & Regulations Course offered in February. All appeared to have found it useful and beneficial.

Nevada Test Site Low Level Waste Seminar

Dawn Haygood provided a draft letter (see attached) to the NTS CAB from the SRS CAB dated March 24, 1999. This letter was in response to a request from the NTS CAB (see attached) to jointly transmit a final matrix of suggestions regarding 17 issues identified at the Low Level Waste Seminar to Mr. James Owendoff of DOE-Headquarters. Several minor edits were made to the letter and Bill Lawless moved the SRS CAB provide a letter in support of a joint transmittal and Jimmy Mackey seconded. It was approved unanimously.

Other Items

Ann Loadholt read portions of Article VII of the Board Bylaws regarding conflict of interests. She noted how conflict of interests are handled and that employees or anyone directly impacted by Board decisions must only make the potential conflict known and excuse themselves from voting on that matter. Karen Patterson discussed her employment with Tetra-Tech and stated her company lawyers did not believe there to be a conflict of interest in her situation. P.K. Smith's employment with WSRC was also noted.

Bill Lawless stated his desire to conduct a survey regarding attitudes in the communities surrounding SRS. It was noted that this had been discussed in the Outreach Subcommittee meeting earlier in the day and members felt a baseline was not needed at this time, however a survey would be appropriate in another year following outreach efforts. Tom Heenan noted that CRESA has done a great deal of research in this arena.

Dr. Lawless noted the SRS CAB has been doing a lot of work with CRESA and said he questions if this is the right way to approach science. He stated it might be time for the SRS CAB to ask DOE-Headquarters what is the best approach- a quasi-agency funding science or an individual approach to science. He pondered which grant is more effective-large or small. He stated the SRS CAB has used both approaches –conducting dozens of independent scientific peer reviews and utilizing CRESA on at least three occasions. He would like to ask DOE-Headquarters how effective both approaches are. Tom Heenan stated the SRS CAB is probably in a better position to answer that question and commented he thought it would be interesting and intelligent input into the process.

Wade Waters commented on the quality of presentations provided to the SRS CAB. He credited WSRC public involvement liaisons and their work with speakers to this end. He noted that sometimes SRS CAB members tend to want to "kill the messenger" and asked that the Board be more tolerant of speakers who many times are coming to the Board with early information in an effort ensure timely notification. He asked Board members to be courteous and more professional in that respect.

Tom Costikyan noted his concern over recent articles regarding the Centers for Disease Control Report. Bill Adams concurred and read several headlines from recent weeks in Hilton Head. He noted he had requested a public retraction for some of the reporting. He stated this reporting is very damaging and should be of concern to the SRS CAB. Tom Heenan informed the Committee of various actions being taken by SRS officials to deal with this issue and asked for any ideas.

Bill Adams also stated he took exception to comments in the Evaluation of DOE SSABs that a mainstream environmentalist viewpoint is missing on the SRS CAB. He stated that most anti- or activists are concerned with production-not cleanup of legacy wastes. Bill Lawless noted his dissatisfaction with the report as well regarding consensus decision-making. Karen Patterson stated that the Boards are only asked to "strive for consensus." Bill Lawless stated that trying to reach consensus sets up conformity problems. He stated he never seeks it or strives for it however he does look for compromise. Ann Loadholt commented she sees Dr. Lawless strive for consensus at every meeting. Bill Adams commented that one of the great strengths of the SRS CAB is that it does not rubberstamp but tries to converge and reach agreement.

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

Meeting handouts may be obtained by calling 1-800-249-8155.