

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday May 19, 2020
Via Microsoft Teams hosted by Ohio EPA/OCAPP

CAP members Present via Teams: Carolyn Cybulski, Glorianna Corman, Christina O’Keeffe, Chris Shaw and Dan Sowry

Absent: Rep. Shane Wilkin, Ben Stratton, John Pierko

Non-member participants: Director Laurie A. Stevenson, Jerry Rouch, Steve Canter, Lexie Andrews, Jessica Cáceres, Brooke Grant, Harold Scott, Ellie Murphy

Roll Call: Lexie opened the meeting at 10 a.m. followed by introductions and roll call.

Opening Remarks: Lexie kicked the meeting off by introducing herself (Ohio EPA’s Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP) Supervisor). Lexie reviewed the agenda and handed the meeting off to Director Laurie A. Stevenson.

Director Stevenson’s Agency Updates: Director Stevenson shared that the Agency continues to stay connected as a team internally and is continuing to serve customers the best way possible. Director Stevenson said that this is an opportunity for all of us to think in a transformative way. The Director shared that at this time Ohio EPA has been advised to continue teleworking for the foreseeable future and that the Governor is focused on getting the state agencies working on plans to transition to the new normal. The Director also shared that Ohio EPA is in the middle of the budget planning phases and has been able to absorb cuts, make strategic cuts and has had to hit the pause button on the distribution of some of Ohio EPA’s grants. The Director informed the CAP that Ohio EPA is currently waiting on guidance from the Office of Budget and Management.

Ohio EPA Continues to Work Remotely: Jerry echoed the Director’s enthusiasm and information regarding working remotely and how the Agency is doing their best to make sure there are no gaps in the services provided to customers. Jerry also shared that the DEFA Annual Report is now available on Ohio EPA’s website.

Publications Update: Lexie informed the group that OCAPP is working on updating all OCAPP publications that are due for their two-year review. Lexie said she would share the finalized documents with the CAP once completed.

Tobacco and e-Cigarette Outreach Project: Jessica shared information about a potential project with Elizabeth De Luca-Kontchou who works for the City of Columbus Public Health Department as the Smoke-Free Initiatives Program Manager. Jessica shared that Elizabeth is interested in collaborating with Ohio EPA on outreach materials on littering and the environmental impacts of e-cigarettes. Jessica said she has started research and has begun to put together some materials for the OCAPP team to look at.

Ohio EPA Updates: Dan shared that OCAPP is working on seamless providing all services while working remotely, with a strong focus on education and outreach. Since the in-person Compliance Assistance Conference was cancelled, Dan shared that the team is working diligently to put on a virtual conference and has reached out to other state agencies both in and outside of Ohio for guidance. Dan also shared

that OCAPP has been working on a new webinar series that focuses on educating local leaders, such as mayors, township trustees, city officials and more, about important environmental regulations. The series is called the, "In Your Community" webinar. Ellie Murphy from Marathon offered up her team's assistance and involvement in this webinar series.

SBO Updates: Christina O'Keeffe introduced herself and shared that she works for the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) which provides financing to help businesses go beyond compliance. Christina also introduced Brooke Grant who is a new project manager at OAQDA and will be working with small businesses on the financing side. Christina shared that OAQDA has also been working remotely since mid-March and is looking forward to seeing how this may evolve or invoke a potential paradigm shift for OAQDA. Christina informed the group that there has been an increase in activity from the previous state fiscal year, primarily OAQDA has seen an increase in small businesses accessing financing and receiving grants from a subsidy that absorbs costs of pollution prevention control equipment. For the next fiscal year, Christina informed the group OAQDA is looking to maintain the same level of funding. Christina also informed the group that there are some administrative changes to the program rules. Since there is such a large demand for funding from small businesses, OAQDA wants to work on pacing long term funding so they have taken a deep dive to forecast activity trends. OAQDA sent out a survey asking what level of grant subsidy would be sufficient for grantees. The majority of the survey feedback said that 20% would be reasonable for accomplishing their projects. Christina shared OAQDA's rules get reviewed every five years, so this was a great opportunity to make those adjustments to the administrative aspect of the program. The changes are currently in the public comment phase, final approval will take place in June with a tentative effective date of July 1, 2020.

Agenda & 2021 Meeting Schedule: All participants on the call agreed that Teams was a sufficient platform for meetings moving forward. The remainder of the 2020 CAP meetings will be hosted on Teams and will take place on September 15 and November 17.

Open Discussion: Lexie opened the meeting up for an open discussion.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at ~11:00 am

Respectfully submitted,

Lexie Andrews, OCAPP Supervisor/CAP Secretariat