

Hazardous Materials Commission

Draft Minutes Operations Committee

December 10, 2021

Members and Alternates

Present: Marielle Boortz, Fred Glueck, Steve Linsley, Gabe Quinto Tim Bancroft (alternate),

Absent: Treston Shull, Sara Gurdian

Staff: Michael Kent

Members of the Public: none

1) Call to order, announcements:

Commissioner Glueck called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

Michael Kent made the following announcements:

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- The final annual County Supervisor meeting of the year with Supervisor Mitchoff on December 8, 2021 went well, and she congratulated the Commission for all the work they have done.
- The Board of Supervisors Sustainability committee will meet at 1:00 on December 13th.

2) Approval of Minutes:

Approval of the minutes from the November 12, 2021 meeting were moved by Commissioner Boortz, seconded by Commissioner Glueck and approved by a vote of 4-0-1 with Commissioner Quinto abstaining.

3) Public Comments: None

4) Old Business:

a) Conduct interviews for the vacant General Public Seat

The applicant that was to be interviewed, James Boster, had to withdraw due to work conflicts. Therefore, Commissioner Quinto made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Boortz, to recommend to the full Commission that they nominate Tim Bancroft, the current alternate for the General Public seat, for the General Public Seat. The Operations committee had previously interviewed Commissioner Bancroft at their November 12th meeting. The motion carried 5 – 0. They also agreed that the Commission should readvertise for the General Public seat alternate if the Board of Supervisors approves Commissioner Bancroft's appointment.

5) New Business:

a) Discuss research topics for Lithium-ion batteries

The committee reviewed the final draft report from DTSC's Lithium-ion Car Battery Recycling Advisory Group and discussed it.

Commissioner Quinto said he thought this is a good opportunity for the County to support this type of business, and he would like to look into this opportunity.

Commissioner Glueck said he has worked on recycling issues all of his career, and he has observed that cost incentives are always overlooked. It is often not cost-effective to recycle something, so incentives are usually needed. The draft report has lots of information on the regulatory system, but not many details on the costs of recycling. Someone will need to be paid to do the recycling, it won't pay for itself. So the important question is how to incentivize the recycling of the batteries. Commissioner Boortz asked if that means if the product isn't recycled it will just get landfilled. Commissioner Glueck said that was correct.

Commissioner Quinto said it seems like there should be ways to recycle the batteries with the right State and Federal incentives. He shared that he tried to get a meeting with Department of Transportation Secretary Buttigieg about climate change infrastructure projects, but it is very competitive; everyone is asking for funding. But still, we need to look into these new technologies. Commissioner Boortz mentioned that she had seen where the materials generated from recycling batteries can be used for other uses as well than just making new batteries.

Commissioner Glueck thought that if all the legislation for this issue is focused on the collection and management aspect of recycling and not on incentivizing the recycling of the batteries, the system won't work. At the same time, he doesn't want to regulations to stifle technological innovation.

Commissioner Boortz asked if the report provided support for research and development of recycling technologies. Michael Kent said that this was not the focus of the report.

The committee agreed that their next step should be to invite Sam Driggers, the County's Economic Development Manager, to discuss his interest in promoting lithium-ion car battery recycling in Contra Costa County.

- 6) **Plan Next Agenda:** Extend invitation to Sam Driggers to discuss his interest in promoting lithium-ion car battery recycling in Contra Costa County and discuss alternatives to using treat wood.

- 7) **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.