

# Deer Park Community Advisory Council

www.deerparkcac.org

## Meeting Notes Monday, April 25, 2022

The 300<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Deer Park Community Advisory Council (DPCAC) was held on Monday, April 25, 2022, in person at the Jimmy Burke Activity Center. Facilitator Diane Sheridan reviewed the agenda, which was accepted as proposed. Texas House Representative Briscoe Cain presented the DPCAC a Certificate of Recognition from the State of Texas on the occasion of the 300<sup>th</sup> meeting. Cain thanked the DPCAC for their vital efforts to foster dialogue between local industry and the wider Deer Park community. The February 2022 meeting notes were approved without changes. It was the first in-person meeting in two years due to COVID-19.

### ATTENDANCE

DPCAC Community Members		DPCAC Plant Members		Guests/Resources	
	Ruth Boyd	X	Clean Harbors, Bruce Riffel	X	Jed Anderson
	Steve Corry, DPISD	X	Dow Chemical Deer Park, Monty Heins	X	Rep. Briscoe Cain, TX House Dist 128
	Kristina DeWhitty, SJC		Dow Chemical, Whitney Bolger	X	John Collins
	Christine DiCosimo, TX Hse. Dist. 128	X	Evonik Oil Additives, Jim Bentinck-Smith	X	Butch Cressman
	Ken Donnell	X	GEO Specialty Chemicals, Steve Outlaw	X	Trilby Cressman, Evonik
	Beverly Ferguson-Cooper, US Rep 36	X	Intercontinental Terminals, David Wascome, rep. by Richard Howes	X	Karen DeBorde
	Jamie Galloway, DP OEM	X	Lubrizol, Hector Acosta	X	Karen Lewis-Holmes, TCEQ
X	Bobby Garcia	X	NOVVI, Alan Kominek, rep. by Bob Wolff	X	Frank Marine, Texas Molecular
	Sherry Garrison	X	OxyVinyls VCM, Josh Munn	X	MaryJane Mudd, EHCMA
X	Tommy Ginn	X	OxyVinyls PVC/KOH, Eric Delgado	X	Stuart Mueller, HCPCS
X	Cara Herbeck	X	Pemex Deer Park, Guy Hackwell	X	Jon Powell
X	Steven Horton		Pemex Deer Park, Jennifer Walsh	X	Casey Rhodes, Dow Chemical DP
	Norma Hysler	X	Shell Deer Park, Nathan Levin	X	Nicole Stutz, HCTRA
	Gretchen Knowles, Harris Co. Pct. 2		Shell Deer Park, Jessica Blackmore	X	John Tyler, HCTRA
	Paula Moorhaj, DP Chamber	X	Texas Molecular, Jimmy Bracher	X	Jacie Weston, Valvoline
X	Bill Patterson, DP City Council	X	Valvoline, Robert Shelton	X	Blake White, Harris County OEM
	Ariel Pena		Vopak Terminal Deer Park, Kathy Stewart		
	James Ragaisis, SJC		Vopak Moda, Duane Campbell		
	Vickey Roberts	X	Westlake Epoxy, Marlene Mercado		<b>Support Staff</b>
X	Andy Smith, San Jacinto Battleground Historic Site			X	Diane Sheridan, Facilitator
	Larry Taylor, TX Sen. Dist. 11			X	Anne Gowan, Facilitation Associate
	Charles Thomas			X	Marilyn Bass, Secretary

David Wade			
Ernest Weedon			

## Beltway 8 Bridge Expansion

Presentation by John Tyler, Harris County Toll Road Authority

John Tyler, Deputy Director of Engineering with the Harris County Toll Road Authority (HCTRA), provided a detailed overview presentation on the status of the expansion project for the Beltway 8 Houston Ship Channel Bridge. John explained that, about a year ago, HCTRA began to take a new direction with the project. The pylons that resulted in a delay of the project will not be moved, but the top sections of them will have to be removed. The existing bridge has two 12-foot lanes in each direction with no safety shoulders, which is not ideal for travelers or first responders when there is an accident on the bridge. The new bridge will have four lanes in each direction with 10-foot shoulders on the inside and outside of the lanes. The clearance of the existing bridge is approximately 175 feet, while the clearance of the new bridge will be approximately 185-190 feet. In comparison, the Fred Hartman Bridge has a clearance of 175 feet and the 610 bridge has a clearance of 135 feet. The new bridge will include a shared use path. The plan is to construct parking lots at each end of the bridge for those who wish to use the path for walking or bicycling, for example. The goal is to have a total of eight connectors with SH 225. Currently, TxDOT plans to build five of the connectors.

The southbound section of the bridge will be constructed first. Then, the old bridge will be removed before the new northbound section is built. The new span from pylon to pylon will be 1,320 feet, which is almost double the current span of 750 feet. This will allow the Port to expand the ship channel in the future.

Construction progress can be followed at [www.shipchannelbridge.org](http://www.shipchannelbridge.org).

### Q&A

1. *When is the bridge completion date?* HCTRA anticipates that the bridge will be completed by 2030. There are 110 pipelines to be crossed during construction which makes construction more complicated and time consuming.
2. *Are we getting any funding from outside agencies to offset any of the project cost?* Everything is funded with HCTRA Revenue Bonds.
3. *Are there still cameras showing the construction?* When construction resumes, camera feed will return. You can view construction updates at <https://shipchannelbridge.org>.
4. *Can you speak to the safety elements of the bridge? Should we be concerned about structural safety?* The design is safe and has been through structural testing, including wind tunnel testing. The original design would not have fallen down, but would have had long term maintenance issues. The issue was not with the structure itself.

5. *When designing the size of the new bridge, how far out did HCTRA forecast growth? The bridge should accommodate Houston's growth through 2045.*
6. *The original construction company also constructed the bridge in Florida that collapsed. Why was this company used as the first contractor if safety was an issue? The Florida bridge was a different design under different circumstances.*
7. *Is the bridge contractor the same company that built the bridge in Corpus Christi? The original contractor was the same company that built the bridge in Corpus Christi.*

## Updates

**Written Facility Updates** - Members received regular periodic plant updates in advance of the meeting but the facilitator asked the plants who reported this month to share one or two highlights from their update that they wanted members to know about.

- **GEO Specialty Chemicals** – Steve Outlaw reported that no reportable spills, outfall excursions or air releases occurred during the reporting period. They are awaiting TCEQ approval for the design of a ground water well for their Non Transient Non Community Public Water System. They completed renewal of the TCEQ Air Quality Permit 8052. One of their products, Glycine, goes into pet food and products and is in very high demand right now.
- **Dow-Deer Park Operations** – Monty Heins reported zero agency RQ (Reportable Quantity) events, zero NOV (Notices of Violation), and zero NOEs (Notices of Enforcement) during the reporting period. There were two recordable injuries during this report period, both of which required medical treatment only. COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted at the Deer Park Site and employees that were working remotely are transitioning back to the Sites. Over 170,000 man-hours were worked at a turnaround in March with no recordable injuries.
- **NOVVI LLC** – Bob Wolff reported that NOVVI has been operating full-time for the last year. There were no environmental reportable releases, no OSHA recordable injuries or illness, no process safety management (PSM) events. NOVVI will be adding one full-time position in May, bringing their workforce total to 39.

### **Introduction of New Plant – NOVVI LLC**

NOVVI is producing sustainable, plant-based products, which are used in polymers, personal care, elastomers, and lubricants. When asked what plants are being used, Wolff said that NOVVI is using palm oil. There is recent growth in electric vehicles transmission oil. They started out as a large Research and Development operation, now they are in full production. They are privately held. They start with plant sourced feed stocks and transform them into high-value molecules. Currently delivering products world-wide to major companies and independent companies. Strong backing to support growth. They are located at 2525 Independence Parkway, co-located on the Texas Molecular site.

**Ozone Exceedance Days – TCEQ's** Karen Lewis-Holmes reported that there have been three ozone exceedances in the Houston Region in 2022. It was reported that there were two exceedances of the 8-

hour standard for the Houston region in March and one exceedance of the 8-hour standard in April. None of these exceedances were in Deer Park.

### Plans for Future Meetings

- May 23 – TRACER Weather and Air Quality Study Based at La Porte Airport.
  - TRACER is Tracking Aerosol Convection Interactions Experiment. It is perhaps the largest air quality study in this area since the 2000 Texas Air Quality Study that discovered, among other things, that some volatile organic compounds were more likely to generate ozone under the right conditions than others were. That finding has helped reduce ozone levels in the area.
  - James Flynn, Research Associate Professor, Department of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, University of Houston, or one of his associates, will introduce us to the TRACER project, which is bringing many dozens of scientists and sophisticated equipment to study weather and air quality from a base just next to Deer Park.
  - In-person at Republic Grill, 1600 Georgia, Deer Park or at Jimmy Burke Activity Center, 500 W. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Deer Park. Depends on recovery efforts at Republic Grill.
  - RSVPs EXTREMELY IMPORTANT!!!
- No June or July Meeting
- August 22

### **Dates for 2022 - all Mondays**

Jan. 24  
Feb. 28  
Mar. 28  
Apr. 25

May 23  
No June meeting  
No July meeting  
Aug. 22

Sept. 26  
Oct. 24  
Nov. 28 (delayed due to Thanksgiving)  
No December meeting