

Deer Park Community Advisory Council

www.deerparkcac.org

Meeting Notes Monday, May 23, 2022

The 301st meeting of the Deer Park Community Advisory Council (DPCAC) was held on Monday, May 23, 2022, at the Jimmy Burke Activity Center. Facilitator Diane Sheridan reviewed the agenda, which was accepted as proposed. The April 2022 meeting notes were approved without changes.

Deer Park Public Works Assistant Water Treatment Plant Supervisor Nicholas Cook brought the department's new mascot, Timmy Tapwater, to greet members as they arrive. Cook then offered to return to a future meeting to talk about the city's water treatment operations and to host a tour for DPCAC.

ATTENDANCE

DPCAC Community Members		DPCAC Plant Members		Guests/Resources	
x	Ruth Boyd		Clean Harbors , Bruce Riffel	X	John Collins
	Steve Corry, DPISD	X	Dow Chemical Deer Park , Monty Heins	X	Nicholas Cook, DP Water Treatment
X	Kristina DeWhitty, SJC	X	Evonik Oil Additives , Jim Bentinck-Smith	X	Sheryl DaPron
	Christine DiCosimo, TX Hse. Dist. 128	X	GEO Specialty Chemicals , Steve Outlaw	X	Karen DeBorde
X	Ken Donnell	X	Intercontinental Terminals , David Wascome, rep. by Corey Sledge	X	James Flynn, UH Presenter
	Beverly Ferguson-Cooper, US Rep 36		Lubrizol , Tanya Travis, rep. by Hector Acosta	X	Brian Lawson, Dow
	Jamie Galloway, DP OEM		NOVVI , Alan Kominek, rep. by Bob Wolff	X	Karen Lewis-Holmes, TCEQ
X	Bobby Garcia	X	OxyVinyls PVC/KOH , Eric Delgado	X	Stuart Mueller, HCPCS
X	Sherry Garrison	X	OxyVinyls VCM , Josh Munn	X	Nicole Roper, Shell DP Chemical
X	Tommy Ginn		Pemex Deer Park , Guy Hackwell	X	Timmy Topwater, DP Mascot
X	Cara Herbeck		Pemex Deer Park , Jennifer Walsh	X	Blake White, Harris County OEM
	Steven Horton	X	Shell Deer Park , Nathan Levin		
	Norma Hysler	X	Shell Deer Park , Jessica Blackmore		
	Gretchen Knowles, Harris Co. Pct. 2		Texas Molecular , Jimmy Bracher		
	Paula Moorhaj, DP Chamber		Valvoline , Robert Shelton		
	Bill Patterson, DP City Council	X	Vopak Moda , Jeff Sanford, rep. by Duane Campbell		
	Ariel Pena		Vopak Terminal Deer Park , Kathy Stewart		
	James Ragaisis, SJC		Westlake Epoxy , Marlene Mercado		
	Vickey Roberts				
	Andy Smith, San Jacinto Battleground Historic Site				

	Larry Taylor, TX Sen. Dist. 11				Support Staff
	Charles Thomas			X	Diane Sheridan, Facilitator
X	David Wade			X	Anne Gowan, Facilitation Associate
	Ernest Weedon			X	Marilyn Bass, Secretary

TRACER: Weather & Air Quality Study Based at La Porte Airport

slides can be found at www.deerparkcac.org

James Flynn, Research Associate Professor, Department of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, University of Houston, spoke about the TRacking Aerosol Convection interactions ExpeRiment (TRACER) project. TRACER is a year-long weather experiment that will examine the effects of tiny particles in the air on the formation of big puffy clouds that often bring us lightning and heavy rain. Researchers are collecting evidence to see whether clouds formed from polluted air behave differently from those composed of clean air; i.e.; whether rainfall is heavier when the air is polluted. TRACER aims to improve forecasting of these pop-up thunderstorms, which sometimes lead to flooding and loss of life.

TRACER chose to collect data in Houston because of weather events and the large number of existing measurements. Data for TRACER is being collected at 3 locations in the greater Houston area, with the La Porte Airport as the primary base. Weather events of particular interest to the many researchers are the convective clouds that build in the afternoon, and the Bay breezes that pull pollution out over the bay in the morning, where it sits over the water during the day, then Gulf breezes that push the air back over the coastal areas. Researchers are interested in seeing how the smaller particles of pollution affect the lifecycle of clouds and precipitation. They are researching what types of particles are making an impact, how big of an impact and what type of impact. The results of this study will apply here and across the world.

When asked, Flynn said that the research instruments can speciate the various aerosols and know which ones are coming from wildfires in California or even from Saharan dust.

The study runs from Oct 1, 2021 through Sept 30, 2022. Most intensive studies will be June, 2022 – September, 2022 based on observations. Many top observers and researchers are here right now to start this phase. Equipment for the study began arriving in September of 2021 and 15 different projects have been added onto TRACER because of the large amount of equipment necessary to complete the study.

More information about the study and collected data can be found at <https://adc.arm.gov/afcd/#/tracer/overview>.

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.

OxyVinyls PVC/KOH - Eric Delgado reported the last reportable environmental incident was August 7th, 2021. The Deer Park PVC/KOH site has not had any reportable environmental incidents in 2022.

Additionally, the site has not had any recordable safety incidents 2022, and celebrated 2 years with zero recordable safety incidents on January 8th, 2022. The Deer Park PVC site received one ACC and three TCC awards for efficiency, worker and process safety, and continuous improvement.

OxyVinyls VCM – Josh Munn reported that on February 22, 2022 a Reportable Quantity (RQ) of VCM was released from a pressure gauge when the bourdon tube inside the gauge developed a small crack. There was no injury or community impact. The Deer Park VCM site had one recordable injury in December 2021 when an operator burned his arm during a line unplugging activity. The Deer Park VCM site received two ACC awards for efficiency and waste reduction. Business conditions were strong in 2021 and are expected to continue to be strong throughout 2022.

Texas Molecular – A representative was unable to attend so Sheridan reported on their behalf. There were no reportable spills or releases. No OSHA recordable injuries since the last report.

Vopak Moda – Duane Campbell reported no recordable injuries or emissions events.

New Plant Introduction Duane Campbell explained that Vopak Moda is a joint venture between Royal Vopak and Moda Midstream. They are a bulk storage terminal company for hire.

The marine terminal was fully operational as of October 2021 and has one ship dock and 4 barge berths. They also have two 15,000-ton tanks for ammonia storage with pipelines to customers. They are located between Dow and ITC and are receiving imports by vessel. They are not exporting Ammonia. Vopak Moda has an inland site that will be operational in July 2022 and will have storage capacity for 100+ railcar unit trains and a hydrocarbon unloading rack. More information can be found at <https://www.modamidstream.com/terminals/vopak-moda-houston>

Ozone Exceedance Days – TCEQ’s Karen Lewis-Holmes reported that there have been 9 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 April and 5 exceedances of the 8-hour standard in May. None of these exceedances were in Deer Park.

Plans for Future Meetings

- No June or July Meeting
- August 22
- September 26

Dates for 2022 - all Mondays

Jan. 24	May 23	Sept. 26
Feb. 28	No June meeting	Oct. 24
Mar. 28	No July meeting	Nov. 28 (delayed due to Thanksgiving)
Apr. 25	Aug. 22	No December meeting

Deer Park Community Advisory Panel
May 23, 2022 Meeting Input
Weather and Air Quality Study

Question 1: Most interesting thing I heard tonight:

- How clouds are formed and the impact of different kinds of particles in the air on that process. (The entire presentation was very interesting!)
- Agree – Very interesting. Very high level of technical advances.
- Great presentation – lots of info, interesting and informative
- How weather accuracy is measured.
- Would like to repeat topic once study concludes.
- Large number of data collectors converging on Houston to study weather.

Question 2: Anything confusing?

- A lot of information was given.
- I thought he said Houston Weather System wasn't participating in some aspect of the study.

Question 3: Anything of concern?

- Balloons breaking and equipment landing on someone's head.

Question 4: Any comments on anything else about the meeting?

- It was difficult to read the screen.
- Please send the website reference.
- Every person speaking should use a microphone. Hold microphone near mouth.
- Can we look at switching 1 in person, 1 virtual every month?
- Good presentation