**Deer Park Community Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Notes**

**Monday, May 22, 2023**

The 310th meeting of the Deer Park Community Advisory Council (DPCAC) was held on Monday, May 22, 2023, at the Republic Grill. Facilitator Anne Gowan reviewed the agenda, which was accepted as proposed. The April 2023 meeting notes were approved without changes.

**ATTENDANCE**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DPCAC Community Members** | | **DPCAC Plant Members** | | **Guests/Resources** | | |
|  | Brian Babin, US Rep 36 | x | **Clean Harbors,** Bruce Riffel | x | | Jerri Anderson, CAS TxDOT |
| X | Ruth Boyd | x | **Dow Chemical Deer Park,** Monty Heins | X | | Kaylyn Atanacio, Entech |
|  | Steve Corry, DPISD | x | **Evonik Oil Additives,** Jim Bentinck-Smith, rep. by Duke Ogega | x | | Vanessa Bosques, TxDOT |
|  | Kristina DeWitty, SJC | x | **GEO Specialty Chemicals,** Steve Outlaw | x | | John Collins |
|  | Christine DiCosimo, TX Hse. Dist. 128 | X | **Intercontinental Terminals,** David Wascome, rep. by John Ferguson | X | | Sheryl DaPron |
| X | Ken Donnell | x | **Lubrizol,** Hector Acosta | x | | Brian Davidson, TxDOT |
|  | Jamie Galloway, DP OEM | X | **NOVVI**, Alan Kominek, rep. by Bob Wolff | x | | Jamal Elahi, P.E., TxDOT |
|  | Sherry Garrison | X | **OxyVinyls PVC/KOH,** Jeff Koetitz | x | | Roger Gonzalez, P.E., Entech |
| X | Tommy Ginn | X | **OxyVinyls VCM,** Josh Munn | x | | Karen Guidry |
| X | Cara Herbeck | x | **Pemex Deer Park,** Guy Hackwell | x | | Paul Guidry |
|  | Steven Horton |  | **Pemex Deer Park,** Jennifer Walsh | x | | Bambi Hall, TxDOT |
| X | Gretchen Knowles, Harris Co. Pct. 2 | x | **Shell Deer Park,** Nathan Levin | X | | Sharon Hulgan, DOW |
|  | Mayes Middleton, TX Sen. Dist. 11 | x | **Shell Deer Park,** Jessica Blackmore | X | | AJ Jones, Lubrizol |
|  | Paula Moorhaj, DP Chamber | x | **Texas Molecular,** Jimmy Bracher, rep. by Frank Marine | x | | Holly Kurth, EHCMA |
|  | Tyler Padgett, SJC |  | **Valvoline,** Robert Shelton | x | | Brian Lawson, Dow Chemical DP |
| X | Bill Patterson, DP City Council | x | **Vopak Moda,** Jeff Sanford, rep. by Duane Campbell | X | | Bradley Lyons, Westlake Epoxy |
|  | Ariel Pena |  | **Vopak Terminal Deer Park,** Kathy Stewart, rep. by Gary Jackson | X | | Frank Marine, Texas Molecular |
| X | Randon Pierson | x | **Westlake Epoxy,** Marlene Mercado | x | | Yayma Martinez, TCEQ |
|  | Vickey Roberts |  |  | X | | John McPhaul, OxyVinyls PVC/KOH |
| X | Andy Smith, San Jacinto Battleground Historic Site |  |  | x | Wanda Morris | |
| X | Angela Smith, City of Deer Park |  |  | X | | Susan Newman, Westlake Epoxy |
|  | Charles Thomas |  | **Support Staff** | X | | Darrell Pinckard |
| X | Cheyenne Valdez | X | Anne Gowan, Facilitator | x | | Jon Powell |
| X | David Wade | X | Marilyn Bass, Secretary | x | | David Sanchez |
|  | Ernest Weedon |  |  | x | | Maria Sanchez |
|  |  |  |  | x | | Robel Sintayehu, TxDOT |
|  |  |  |  | x | | Wahida Wakil, Entech |
|  |  |  |  | x | | Blake White, Harris Co Homeland Security |

**SH 225 and SH 146 Construction and Maintenance**

*slides can be found at* [*www.deerparkcac.org*](file:///C:\Users\annegowan\Dropbox\Anne\DPCAC\2022\November\www.deerparkcac.org)

TxDOT discussed projects underway and planned for SH 225 and SH 146, including connectors to the BW8 Bridge. Roger Gonzalez of Entech Engineering discussed the Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study for SH 225, needs identified and conceptual alternatives to meet the identified needs. An online poll was taken during the meeting so that attendees could choose which alternative they felt would best meet local needs. Additional comments and questions can be addressed to Robel Sintayehu at Robel.Sintayehu@txdot.gov.

**Questions and Comments:**

1. *Why are you potentially moving trucks to the inside lane when many issues arise because trucks are going too slow?* These alternatives are just ideas, not specific yet. Additionally, TxDOT is not able to set speed limits on city and county roads. They only have jurisdiction over setting speed limits on the state highway system.
2. *Are you looking at impacts during construction or just completion.* At this time, they are only looking at potential impacts of completed projects.
3. *Has there been any discussion of using trains in multimodal lanes?* They are exploring this option with Metro. Metro will be the entity who will recommend if a train system or bus service would be feasible.
4. *What is the realistic time from breaking ground until completion?* The project could take 10-15 years to complete, but they currently do not have funding or a start date. There are several steps to a large project like this and this project is in Stage 1 – PEL Study. The process includes: Step 1 – PEL Study (2 year time estimate), Step 2 – Schematic Design and environmental document (5 year time estimate), Step 3 – Right of Way Acquisition and PSE Process (2-4 year time estimate), Step 4 Funding.
5. *Are the high lanes for entering 225 from 610 and travelling all the way to the Port and vice versa or will there be access points to enter and exit those lanes throughout the length of 225?* An origination and destination study has already been done to determine access points.

Jamal Elahi of Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) discussed the current SH 146 projects and timelines. Projects include: Spencer Highway to Red Buff Road, South of Red Bluff Road to North of SH 96, FM 518 to Dickinson Bayou. Additional comments and questions can be address to Bambi Hall, MLS MPIO at [Bambi.Hall@txdot.gov](mailto:Bambi.Hall@txdot.gov).

**Questions and Comments:**

1. *Do you feel confident about completion dates?* Elahi is very confident that the Kemah express bridge will be completed on time. The other two projects just started, so a lot can happen.
2. *What percentage is federally funded versus state funded?* Only the Kemah bridge portion of the SH 146 projects is partially federally funded.

**Updates**

**Shell** - Shell Deer Park General Manager Nate Levin provided a brief update on the May 5, 2023 fire that occurred at Shell Deer Park. Levin said that the fire began around 3:00pm during routine maintenance activity in the olefins unit. The ignited product included cracked heavy gas oil, cracked light gas oil and gasoline. The emergency response team was immediately activated and Channel Industries Mutual Aid (CIMA) was asked for assistance. Although the fire was extinguished early on May 6th, the remaining product reignited later that day around 3:15 pm. Unified Command, which included US Coast Guard, EPA, Texas General Land Office, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and other authorities, was established on May 7th at the Shell Deer Park complex. The fire was extinguished later that day. Levin said that over 100 valves had to be closed in order to isolate the area.

Fifteen contractors were sent off-site for medical evaluation out of an abundance of caution. All 15 contractors were released. There were no fatalities.

Air monitoring was conducted throughout the duration of the event and until May 16th by CTEH for Shell Deer Park and other agencies also conducted air monitoring during the event. Harmful levels of chemicals were not detected.

Levin said that water management was difficult because large amounts of water were used to extinguish the fire and cool the equipment. Additionally, the Houston area experienced heavy rainfall on May 7th. The watershed area where Shell Deer Park was responding is approximately 590 acres and approximately 16 million gallons of water has to be processed for every inch of rain the site receives.

Shell is currently conducting an incident investigation, and at this time a root cause of the fire has not been determined. In August, if the investigation has been completed, Levin committed to providing an update to DPCAC.

**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.

* Dow Deer Park Operations – Monty Heins reported zero reportable quantity events during this period. There were two minor injuries during this reporting period, a broken toe and a cut that required stitches. April marked the successful completion of several large maintenance turnarounds totaling over 400,000 work hours logged and a peak activity of over 850 craftspeople on site. Monty announced his retirement effective June 30, 2023 and introduced Sharon Hulgan who will become the Site Director effective July 1, 2023.
* GEO Specialty Chemicals - Steve Outlaw reported the installation of a ground water well for the Non-Transient Non-Community Public Water System has been completed. It is undergoing analytical testing and the TCEQ approval to start well operation is expected soon. The last recordable injury occurred on April 6, 2023 when a worker tripped and was treated for a swollen knee.
* NOVVI LLC – Bob Wolff reported no environmental issues and no worker or process safety issues. Novvi staffed the Deer Park LEPC booth at San Jacinto Day at monument.

**Ozone Exceedance Days** –Yayma Martinez reported there were six May exceedances of the Houston Region 8-hour ozone standard, one May exceedance of the Houston Region 1-hour standard, two May exceedances of the Deer Park 8-hour, and zero May exceedances Deer Park 1-hour standards. Totals for 2023 include nine exceedances of the Houston Region 8-hour ozone standard, one exceedance of the Houston Region 1-hour standard, two exceedances of the Deer Park 8-hour, and zero exceedances Deer Park 1-hour standards.

**Host Plant** – GEO Specialty Chemicals was the plant host for the May meeting. They make glycine, which is used as a flavor enhancer for cat food. Glycine is also used in antiperspirant and other personal care products. Glycine is used in mineral supplements to improve absorption.

**Treasury Committee**

The East Harris County Manufacturers Association Deer Park Community Advisory Council considered and voted on business related to the Treasury Committee, bank utilized, and signatories and authorized users on the bank accounts.

**Motion #1:** Cara Herbeck moved to authorize the EHCMA DPCAC Treasury Committee to move the EHCMA DPCAC bank accounts to a banking institution of their choice. Seconded by Ken Donnell. Motion CARRIED.

**Motion #2:** Cara Herbeck moved the following recommendations from the East Harris County Manufacturers Association Deer Park Community Advisory Council (EHMCA DPCAC). Treasury Committee. Seconded by Ruth Boyd.

* To confirm that Cara Herbeck remains a community member of the Treasury Committee and serves as Treasurer, with a term to expire on 12-31-23. Cara will remain an authorized user and signatory to EHCMA DPCAC bank accounts.
* To confirm that Sharon Lee Garrison remains a community member of the Treasury Committee, with a term to expire on 12-31-25. Sharon will remain an authorized user and signatory to EHCMA DPCAC bank accounts.
* To confirm that the following two EHCMA representatives remain as authorized users and signatories to EHCMA DPCAC bank accounts: MaryJane Mudd, Executive Director and Monica Rhodes, Executive Administrator.
* To add, effective immediately, EHCMA accountant Mona Fluitt as an authorized user to EHCMA DPCAC bank accounts.

Motion CARRIED.

**Motion #3:** Cara Herbeck moved to confirm that, for purposes of banking, the members of the Treasury Committee shall serve as the board of directors for EHCMA DPCAC, and the EHCMA DPCAC Secretary, Marilyn Bass, shall serve as secretary. Seconded by ­­­­Frank Marine. Motion CARRIED.

**Motion #4:** Cara Herbeck moved to authorize the EHCMA DPCAC Treasury Committee to close the existing EHCMA DPCAC bank accounts at First Horizon Bank after new accounts at another banking institution have been established. Seconded by David Sanchez. Motion CARRIED.

**Plans for Future Meetings**

DPCAC meets at Republic Grill at the City of Deer Park Battleground Golf course from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

***No meeting in June or July***

**August 28 – Roads and Traffic in Deer Park**

**Dates for 2023 -** all Mondays

Jan. 23  
Feb. 27

Mar. 27

Apr. 24

May 22

No June meeting

No July meeting

Aug. 28

Sept. 25

Oct. 23

Nov. 27

No December meeting

**Deer Park Community Advisory Council (DPCAC)**

Input on SH 225 and SH 146 Construction & Maintenance

5-22-2023

1. **What transportation changes would you like to see on the SH 225 and I-610E corridor?**

* Please add more lanes to merge over onto 610 North and south.
* Totally need more movement.
* More capacity.
* Separate freight/ cargo lanes.
* Separation from trucks.
* Trucks should have the right (slow lane), not the left (fast) lane.
* Truck alternatives routes.
* Expansion of lanes to reduce congestion.
* No trucks
* Row access for industrial facilities.
* Fees for covering road damage repairs.
* Direct connects to Beltway 8.

1. **What would you consider to be immediate (0-2 years) needs for SH 225 and I-610E corridor?**
   * We are at a loss for a 2-year change, but for sure, restripe and add reflective items, etc. for safety (and helping to repave for smoother, safer, less destructive lanes/ driving.)
   * Enforce trucks to be in outside lane.
   * Enforce dedicated lane for non-truck traffic.
   * AI camera enforcement of lane control.
   * Repave road.
   * Pavement has pot holes, bumps and uneven roads on 225. It is a very uneasy ride. Fix this, and 2 years to fix this is too long.
   * Basic infrastructure.
   * Truck lane.
   * Address major interchanges (ex. 225 to BW8).
   * Connective service roads.
2. **Do you have any concerns about the information that was presented tonight?** 
   * Concerned about making the raised lanes for trucks. Prefer the trucks on lower lanes and car/ passenger vehicles raised instead.
   * Flyover exits at main exits such as Shaver/ Ritchey, Beltway 8, Center Blvd, East or Tidal, and 146.
   * Get things going.
   * Takes too long to design and build.
   * The time it takes to complete.
   * Concerns with timeline, budget and how long to see change.
   * No information on cost or potential delays during construction.
   * No funding.
   * More options for public transportation (i.e. rail) and alternatives used in other high metropolitan areas.

**4) Input on any other topics?**

* Great to come and do a presentation. More meetings, more presentation will be more helpful if people have more options. Thank you!
* Excellent information.
* Can the Republic Grill put out a tray for used dishes so we don’t have to sit with them for the entire meeting.