



Community Advisory Panel

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2007

MINUTES

The Dow Community Advisory Panel met on Monday, September 17, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the Dow Conference Center. The following persons attended the meeting:

CAP Members

Ms. Carolyn Brown
Ms. Scarlet Callicoatte
Ms. Emma Davis
Ms. Shelley Delapasse
Mr. Ernest Grant
Ms. Juanita Hill
Mr. Mickey Rivet
Mr. Daniel Stoute
Mr. Jeff Wille

Dow Personnel

Ms. Sharon Cole
Ms. Donna Carville
Mr. Joe Hanna
Ms. Stacey Chiasson
Ms. Kristen Watkins
Ms. Fran Comeaux

Facilitation Team

Tim Johnson, Facilitator
Nancy Campanella, Recorder

Panel members Mr. Huey Gray, Mr. Raymond Smith, Jr., Mr. Gerald Trent, and Mr. Gerald Wilson, were unable to attend the meeting. The facilitator then explained that CAP members serve 2-year terms, with an option to serve an additional 1-year. Eight CAP members' terms will end following the November CAP meeting. Eleven new members will be added to the panel in January. The potential list of nominees currently has 8 names from West Baton Rouge Parish and 15 from Iberville Parish. A total of 30 from each parish are needed to make sure that the panel is an accurate representation of the communities it represents. Members from North Iberville, western West Baton Rouge, and the White Castle area are needed, as well as student members (high school juniors and seniors). After providing CAP members with a new member nomination form, he asked that each panel member provide the names of at least 2 nominees, concentrating on the standards of former CAP members. Please forward the nomination forms to Tim Johnson prior to the next CAP meeting. Nominees' names are reviewed by Dow's legal division to determine if there are any conflicts of interest. CAP member, Bill Cooper, has resigned from the panel, as his schedule does not permit him to attend regularly. The panel then approved the August 20, 2007 minutes, with one correction noted.

Personnel Changes at Dow

Ms. Cole stated that Dennis Davis is being transferred to a new role in the Houston area. He will become the Responsible Care Leader for a joint venture project in Saudi Arabia. Everyone was pleased for him personally, but disappointed to see him go. The facilitator asked that Ms. Cole pass the CAP's best wishes on to Mr. Davis. Several good candidates are being considered to fill Mr. Davis's position at LAO. In response to a panel member's question, Ms. Cole stated that Dow is in the process of expanding and building a plant with locals in Kuwait. Families of employees who are transferred overseas generally relocate their families with them.

Ms. Carville will dedicate 100% of her time as Dow's Governmental Affairs Leader and Ms. Chiasson will fill the Public Affairs Leader position. Interviewing is being done currently to fill the Community Relations Manager's position. Plans are to have that position filled by November.

Elections Around the State – Dow's Interest in the 2007 Elections

Ms. Carville provided information on Dow's interest in upcoming elections. A judge has ruled that Iberville Parish President Mitchell Ourso is eligible to run for office again this term after a lawsuit was filed citing that Mr. Ourso was ineligible because he served more than 2-1/2 terms.

She then explained that all of Dow's 2015 goals are impacted by policies, laws, and regulations set by governments. It is important for Dow to be involved to positively impact the outcomes. Dow gets involved at federal, state and local levels. It participates in coalitions with trade business associations, grassroots calls to action, and through the Dow political action committee (PAC). Employees are provided access to information to make informed decisions and can join the Dow PAC to support candidates for Congress, President, or statewide officials. Dow has registered lobbyists in the Washington, D.C. office. The following statewide elected seats will be filled in this fall's election: Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Commissioner of Agriculture, and Commissioner of Insurance. Treasurer John Kennedy had no opposition, so was reelected. Parish governmental offices that will be filled in the upcoming election include Parish President, Sheriff, Assessor, Clerk of Court, Coroner, and Parish Council. Of the 105 members of the Legislature (39 – Senate and 105 – House), 29 were unopposed. 92 candidates are running for 24 Senate seats, and 281 candidates are running for 55 House seats. Senators who currently represent Dow facilities include Senator Rob Marionneaux, who is opposed by Martha Manuel; Senator Butch Gautreaux, who is opposed by Clayton Diaz; Senator Joel Chaisson, who is unopposed; and Senator Robert Barham, who is term limited. (Representatives Charlie McDonald and Mike Walsworth are running to fill that vacancy.) Representatives who currently represent Dow facilities include Representative Karen St. Germain, who is unopposed; Representative Don Cazayoux, who is unopposed; Representative Regina Barrow, who is opposed by Sarah Holliday and Harold Williams; Representative Roy Quezairé, who is term limited (Elton Aubert, Troy Brown, and Terance Irvin are running to fill that vacancy); Representative Carla Darteaux, who is opposed by Joe Harrison, Estelle Mahoney, and Nick Morris; Representative Gary Smith, who is opposed by Ram Ranchandran; Representative Ernest Wooton, who is opposed by Russell Hayden; Representative Kay Katz, who is opposed by Benjamin Arnold and Ben Marshall; Representative Mike Walsworth, who is opposed by Richard Fewell, Paul Hargrove, Frank Hoffmann, Theresa Shirley Mayeux, and Jerry Wayne Trichel; and Robby Carter, who is term limited. (Walter Daniels, Ivory Dyson, John Bell Edwards, Mike Jackson, and George R. Tucker, are running to fill that vacancy.)

Ms. Carville stated that Dow interviews candidates and recently completed an interview with Martha Manual. U.S. Senator Landrieu, and Congressmen Bobby Jindal and Charlie Melancon, recently visited the Dow site. Dow has 2 registered lobbyists – Donna Carville and Karen Dugas. Dow’s intranet website provides information on elections and voting for Dow employees. Ms. Carville then stated that the primary election date is set for October 2, 2007, with the general election set for November 17, 2007. Inauguration will be held on January 14, 2008, and a special session is expected shortly thereafter.

Several groups will be hosting forums prior to the election. The Council for a Better Louisiana, a nonpartisan group, will host a forum on September 27, 2007 on LPB-TV.

Answers to Questions Included the Following:

1. If a lobbyist spends more than 10% of his time talking to legislators, they should become registered lobbyists in order to protect the legislator and the lobbyist. There are 2 types of lobbying – executive – talking with state employees regarding legislation; and legislative – talking with legislators regarding legislation.
2. The Louisiana Secretary of State’s website – www.sos.louisiana.gov provides information on candidates, voting dates, etc.
3. Prospective voters must provide 2 forms of ID (1 photo) to register to vote.

Responsible Care Performance Measurements

Mr. Hanna provided Responsible Care Measures stating that there have been 7 OSHA recordables to date at the LAO site. If this performance continues, the site is on track to beat the 2006 record (19) and tie the 2005 record. Dow’s goal is to get employees home in the same condition as they were when they arrived. There was 1 contractor injury on September 10, 2007 at the Methocel plant. A contractor, after threading a 2-inch pipe, removed the dye and set it aside. The machine was turning and he got his finger in the threader causing a laceration on his finger, which required stitches and damaged the equipment. He was wearing gloves, which is mandatory. He is okay. There were no outside complaints, spills affecting the community, agency audits, public notices, or serious transportation incidents between August 21-September 17. Dow is partnering with Union Pacific on a TRANSCAR incidence response training tour that is traveling through Texas and Louisiana, and will be in Donaldsonville on October 31, 2007.

Mr. Hanna stated that there have been 9 agency reportables year to date in 2007, with none occurring in the reporting period of August 21-September 17, 2007. On August 31, 2007, there was a load shed causing a loss of power. The units were brought down quickly with no releases. Mr. Hanna explained that a load shed is when power is taken off line to mitigate steam pressure. Other areas are asked to reduce their load to keep the critical needs of the plants going.

Dow in the News

Ms. Chiasson provided information regarding news articles posted during the reporting period of August 21-September 17, 2007, stating that an article on the new site leadership for Dow LAO was published in the *Advocate* and the *Post South*.

Did you know that Dow is awarding \$52,000 in community grants for 2007?

Ms. Chiasson thanked panel members, Scarlet Callicoatte and Juanita Hill, for reading grants. Grants were awarded in Iberville, West Baton Rouge, Assumption, and East Baton Rouge Parishes. The grants reception was cancelled because of the hurricane.

Upcoming events and activities include the following:

1. Habitat for Humanities Build - September 22-October 6. Two houses will be built –1 will be for a single dad and 4 children, and the other for a lady with 2 children. Although a third slab was poured (and was to be for a Katrina victim), there is no funding from Habitat International for it. Habitat is partnering with First Baptist Church, St. John Catholic Church, Dow, and Dow retirees on the funding. Other groups involved are Women on the Move, Omega Psi Phi Sorority, Plymouth Rock Baptist Church, LSU Habitat Chapter, Greater King David Baptist Church, and the Southern University basketball team. Ms. Carville asked that panel members consider volunteering for the builds, which are held between 7:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Interested parties, who must be at least 16 years old, should meet on the corner of Church and Desobray Streets for the builds. Persons under 16 may work on the outside lawn under supervision. Tools are provided and volunteers should wear jeans and closed toe shoes. The builds will be held on September 22, September 24-28, and September 29. St. John High School students will be landscaping the homes that are scheduled to be dedicated on October 6, 2007. The blessing of the build will be held on September 22. Ms. Carville explained that the cost to build a Habitat home is \$75,000. The homeowner has a 0% interest loan with Habitat for 20 years and must be able to pay the loan. The resident can't make more than 60% of the average income in the area to secure one of the homes. Payment of the mortgage goes into the Habitat fund for use on the next home. Habitat does seek state and federal housing grants. The homeowners of the Allen Street home may be moving. Habitat has the first right of refusal to get the home back for another family.
2. The United Way employee campaign kicked off last week. The United Way golf tournament is scheduled for October 2.
3. Dow's Door to Door program - October 24.
4. TRANSCAER® training tours - October 30-31.
5. Science is pH demonstrations - ongoing.

Dow will not host a Christmas Open House this December.

Answers to Questions Included the Following:

1. Trains are on the track on LA1 at 9:30 a.m. each day.
2. CAP members are ambassadors in the community for Dow.

Next Meeting

The next Dow CAP meeting will be held on Monday, October 15, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. at the Dow Conference Center. The main agenda item will include a global climate change presentation. The main agenda item for the November CAP meeting will be a presentation on Dow's TRI data. Steaks, ice cream, and pecan pie will be on the menu at the November meeting.