

**Draft
Minutes
STRONGER Board Meeting**

June 28-29, 2007

Call to Order and Roll Call – 8:30 AM

Board present:

Jim Collins, JWC Consulting, STRONGER Chair, Industry
Wilma Subra, Subra Company, STRONGER Vice-Chair, Environmental
Hal Fitch, Michigan Geological Survey, STRONGER Secretary/Treasurer, State
Tom Stewart, Ohio Oil & Gas Association, Industry
Don Garvin, Trout Unlimited, Environmental
Kathy Martin, Sierra Club, Environmental
Lori Wrotenbery, Oklahoma Corporation Commission, State
Rick Bender, Kentucky Division of Oil and Gas conservation, State

Staff/ Observers present:

Gerry Baker, IOGCC
Dan Yates, Ground Water Protection Council
Mike Nickolaus, Ground Water Protection Council
Mike Paque, Ground Water Protection Council

Jim Collins declared a quorum of board members present.

Motion to approve Minutes of May 18, 2007 conference call made by Lori Wrotenbery, Second by Jim Collins

Approved

Discussion of Tennessee review

Kathy Martin detailed the status of the Tennessee review and updated the board on the report writing session that occurred on June 26th. Rick Bender suggested that for light reviews all team members should be experienced because there is no questionnaire to guide the team. Jim Collins suggested the possibility of a question template for the team to use. Don Garvin suggested using the full questionnaire for this purpose for non-light reviews. There was further discussion about the possibility of using contractor services to assist states with the completion of the full questionnaire to alleviate the burden on states. This might encourage some states that have expressed concerns about undergoing a review due to staff time constraints. Jim Collins also suggested that he would like to see a system for demonstrating the value of the reviews and support for attaining these values. He further suggested that a list of value items might be beneficial. There was also discussion about scheduling a post report meeting with the program director to discuss report recommendations and possible solutions.

Enter Executive Session

2007 Stronger and Budget and Legislative Appropriations (Executive Session) –8:35 AM- 10 AM

Exit Executive Session

Conference call with DOE/ EPA- Discussion of agency needs, expectations and funding possibilities
10 AM- 11 AM

The conference call was attended by Bill Hochheiser of DOE and Bonnie Robinson of EPA. Bill Hochheiser began by stating the DOE did not have any budget for the STRONGER process and that oil and gas research budget was already set for 2008 at \$14 million, of which \$12 million was devoted to gas hydrates. He indicated that DOE wanted to remain involved in the process by attending reviews and meetings whenever possible. Bonnie Robinson echoed Bill Hochheiser's statements regarding funding as they related to EPA. Although committed to STRONGER there is no indication that the current EPA management believes they are bound by commitments from previous administrations regarding support for STRONGER. Bonnie Robinson did indicate they were interested in continuing their participation in reviews and meetings. A suggestion was made that STRONGER may want to consider approaching the Office of Water regarding funding. Kathy Martin suggested that EPA had saved substantial sums over many years by not having to implement a regulatory program under the RCRA Subtitle C exemption and that this should be pointed out to EPA management. It was also suggested that pressure from outside the agency was the only way to affect financial support. Jim Collins asked if a debate over STRONGER funding would be discussed during RCRA re-authorization and Bonnie Robinson indicated that, at present, there is no talk of re-authorizing RCRA. Tom Stewart asked whether or not either DOE or EPA had been approached by Congress regarding support for an earmark and he was told that this information would require some research. Tom Stewart then asked for copies of any physical documents related to such a request and each agency's response.

Enter Executive Session

Future of STRONGER (Brainstorming Session)- June 28 11 AM-Noon and 1:15 PM-4:30

Meeting Wrap-up June 29 8:30 AM- 10 AM

Exit Executive Session

Motion to Adjourn made by Hal Fitch, Second by Lori Wrotenbery

Approved

Meeting adjourned – 10 AM