

STRONGER, INC.
Board Meeting
October 19 2004
Oklahoma City

1. Call to Order Tom Stewart called the meeting to order and noted the presence of the following:

Don Garvin	Don Neeper
Lori Wrotenbery	Leslie Savage
Terry Adamson	Jim Collins
Jim Erb	Jim Carter
Hal Fitch	Mark Carl
Bill Hochheiser	Laura Hanson
Wilma Subra	

2. Debriefing of State Reviews – Chairman Stewart welcomed Bob Wilson (Virginia), Dave Hogeman (Pennsylvania), and Gary Ross (Louisiana). The Board then discussed the reviews and opportunities for improvement of the process. **ACTION ITEM: Tom Stewart will draft thank-you and response letters to each program director.**

3. Approval of July 15, August 18, and September 17, 2004 Board meeting minutes – On motion and second, the minutes were approved.

4. Financial Status Report – Jim Carter reported that the DOE/EPA \$70,000 has arrived and is available. STRONGER has accrued enough expenses to withdraw all of the money. The Board directed that the money be requested from EPA. The \$80,000 IOGCC money is not yet available because of a document dating issue. The Board discussed the need for IOGCC assistance on the upcoming reviews, and alternatives in the event the funding doesn't become available soon.

Training for the Indiana review team is scheduled for November 2. Mark Carl has not had a chance to do a trial run with the state. Jim Erb has talked with Mike Nickolaus, and Mike thinks that he is ready. The Board discussed alternatives for providing state support in the event funding isn't available in time, and decided to table the discussion until the funding problem with EPA can be addressed.

The Board asked whether STRONGER has sufficient resources to meet its commitments. Jim Carter reported that STRONGER has \$140,000 in the bank, and \$70,000 on the way from EPA. There are adequate resources to do complete the scheduled reviews.

Tom Stewart and Don Garvin reported that the \$300,000 earmark did make it into the Senate Budget. The Board discussed the need for support among the members of the House. There is a continuing budget resolution through Nov. 20th. The President has asked Congress to approve a budget before adjourning for the year,

but it is uncertain whether that will happen. A line item appropriation is the next thing to consider. Jim reported that Mike Keegan has been tremendous help and that the Board should thanks him and GWPC for their support.

5. Future State Reviews – Jim Erb reported that Illinois has committed to a review in May, 2005, New York has committed for June, Kansas for October, and Colorado for November. All of these reviews are follow-ups. None of them have requested joint GWPC reviews. Jim noted that Brian Mackey (Colorado) wants to be on a review before the Colorado review. Bob Wilson from Virginia has also expressed interest in being on another review. The Board discussed inviting Larry Bengal to serve on a review. The Board discussed how many team members they envision for these teams and criteria for deciding on team size. The Board decided to postpone discussion until the next day.

Jim Erb indicated that he has also talked with Nevada, and they are not opposed to the idea. It was suggested that we also need to touch base with Alabama. A question was asked whether there is sufficient funding to complet four reviews in 2005. Jim Carter indicated that, if API provides a 2005 grant, there should be. A question was asked whether the \$80,000 will be enough for IOGCC to provide support. Mark Carl indicate that he hoped it would, but doesn't know yet. He indicated that additional money might be available from DOE.

The Board also discussed the role of the team leader. Jim Erb pointed out that it is addressed in the Rules of Participation. The question is “How can you get state directors trained, but at the same time have an experienced director to lead the team?” The Board decided to resume this discussion in conjunction with the team nomination process discussion.

5. Adjournment – On motion and second, the meeting was adjourned for the day.

**Minutes
Stronger Board
October 20, 2004
Oklahoma City**

1. Call to Order - Tom Stewart called the meeting to order, and noted the presence of the following:

Don Garvin	Don Neeper
Lori Wrottenbery	Leslie Savage
Terry Adamson	Jim Collins
Jim Erb	Jim Carter
Mark Carl	Bill Hochheiser
Laura Hanson	Wilma Subra

2. Groundwater Protection Council (GWPC) Briefing – Tom Stewart introduced Tom Richmond, administrator of the Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation and chairman of the GWPC Board and Mike Paque, GWPC Executive Director, indicating that he had invited them to discuss future collaboration between STRONGER and GWPC.

At this point, the Board tabled the rest of the business meeting agenda and convened a discussion of general Guidelines revisions. The Board later reconvened to continue the business meeting agenda:

3. Scheduling of future meetings
 - November 12th, Board conference call – Tom Stewart requested that the call be scheduled for 10:00 am CST (8:00 PST, 9:00 MST, 11:00 EST) and the Board members agreed. The agenda will include discussion of team size and makeup when a joint review is planned.
 - December 9th Board Meeting, Oklahoma City – This will be the Board’s annual business meeting, to include election of officers and review of the Bear West contract. The meeting is scheduled for Oklahoma City on December 9th.
 - Meeting with WGA – Jim Carter will draft a letter to the WGA for Chairman Stewart’s signature requesting a meeting.
4. Adjournment – On motion and second, the meeting was adjourned.