

GAR 000142

ASBESTOS INFORMATION ASSOCIATION/NORTH AMERICA

Board of Directors Meeting
September 12, 1973

The Williams Club

New York City

Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held pursuant to notice on September 12, 1973 at 9:30 a.m. at the Williams Club, New York City, New York. The following directors were present:

George Barge	Atlas Asbestos Company
S. D. Weaver	Cement Asbestos Products Company
Martin Sendeki (Proxy)	Congoleum Industries
A. R. Hooker	The Flintkote Company
Joseph Hall	GAF Corporation
F. J. Solon, Jr.	Johns-Manville Corporation
C. A. Neuman	Kentile Floors Incorporated
George P. Vogel	National Association of Filter Mfgs
J. K. Whittaker	Nicolet Industries, Incorporated
E. C. Bratt	H. K. Porter Co., Incorporated
J. H. Marsh	Raybestos-Marhatten
Kurt Schwarz	Supradur Manufacturing Corporation
William Thurber	Union Carbide Corporation

Also present: William Fassuliotis, GAF Corporation; John Meyers, Union Carbide Corporation; Robert H. Mereness, Executive Director, AIA/NA; Katherine Kinsella, AIA/NA; Eugene Leff, Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft; Matthew M. Swetonic, Hill & Knowlton, Inc.; David Mallino and Theresa Seely, Government Research Company.

Mr. Marsh, the President, presided. After opening remarks by the President, attention was invited to the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held on May 10, 1973. On motion, the minutes were approved as submitted.

By-Laws

The President reviewed the by-laws of the Association recommending title of Executive Director for the principal paid staff member and assigning to him the positions of secretary and treasurer of the Association. Definitions of these responsibilities were offered for inclusion in the by-laws along with certain

100319

minor changes in the wording of the by-laws. Waiver of prior notice to the Directors for recommended changes to the by-laws was made by affirmation and the changes were adopted by unanimous vote as submitted. Copies of the revised by-laws with the changes were distributed.

Presentation by M. M. Swetonic

Mr. Swetonic presented a report on "Asbestos and Health in 1973." He noted the continuing controversy within the medical community as to the seriousness of asbestos as a hazard to health, safe levels of asbestos exposure, etc. He discussed epidemiological studies citing statistical data prepared by Dr. Irving Selikoff. Mr. Swetonic discussed the challenges to industry, stating that the industry must recognize the problems, face the possibility that "research may find things that many of us would prefer not to know" and conduct inquiry of its own "to know where we stand." A discussion followed. Mr. Swetonic stated the statistics he presented were not thoroughly scientifically reliable, but did represent best statistical averages. He said his statistics had been reviewed by Dr. Pelnar of the Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health in Montreal, an imminent authority in the field. Mr. Marsh pointed out that most studies have been oriented to the 1930-40 period when there was poor dust control; that it is difficult to find "cohorts" for reliable statistical analysis; that without a minimum of 20 years experience there is no thoroughly valid data.

Old Business

A. Federal Government Affairs

Mr. Marsh introduced Mr. David Mallino and Miss Terry Seeley of Government Research Corporation for comments on pending governmental actions.

OSHA

Miss Seeley reported that OSHA plans to renew the asbestos standard some time next year. OSHA was under no obligation to form an "outside" advisory committee. A discussion followed as to whether the Association should voice its concern in having an Advisory Committee on which it would be represented. It was agreed that a 15 person Advisory Committee would be desirable to properly include industry, the scientific community and labor. The President directed that our position should be communicated to OSHA. Miss Seeley stated that there is no

100320

indication that NIOSH plans to develop a new criteria document on asbestos at this time. Mr. Fassuliotis spoke of public disclosure of asbestos monitoring (Fed. Reg. Aug. 30). Mr. Marsh stated this was a matter for consideration by the Technical Committee, that AIA would respond.

Workmen's Compensation

Mr. Mallino and Miss Seeley reported the workmen's compensation issue will be on the agenda for the next session of Congress and the reform effort will focus on the Williams-Javett (S.2009) approach which is supported by the AFL-CIO. The Williams-Javett bill defines occupational disease to include asbestosis, talcosis, mesothelioma and lung cancer. The Prelinghuysen bill (H. R. 6906) provides federal benefits for asbestos and mesothelioma. Mr. Marsh stated that the Association must keep in mind publicity that might generate from the hearing on these bills and the enormous expense that could ultimately be borne by the industry. It was stated that it could be two years before reformed workmen's compensation measures might become law.

Reserve Mining Trial

The government's case against the Reserve Mining Company opened August 1 and will last for several months. Dr. Selikoff and members of his staff are scheduled to testify. Though contaminants in the water is the current issue, air pollution will follow in the E.P.A.'s case.

Petition to FTC

Miss Seeley reported that the Center for Science in the Public Interest presented a petition in March to the Federal Trade Commission to provide inventory of all asbestos products on the market and require labeling of all consumer products containing asbestos.

FDA

Mr. Vogel reported that the FDA has been reviewing the uses of asbestos and has been petitioned by the Environment Defense Fund to ban the use of asbestos filters. The FDA will publish the petition in the near future but will take no position. Mr. Vogel suggested that AIA be more aggressive in relationships with the FDA.

Mr. Solon stated that he was advised tremolite in talc will be banned by the FDA.

Miss Seely said there is a tendency to treat asbestos and talc as the same.

EPA

Mr. Svetonic spoke of the Arthur D. Little study being prepared for EPA. The study is based on the effect of the proposed water effluent standards on the asbestos industry. Comments have been requested from members and will be evaluated for inclusion in the study.

Department of the Interior

Mr. Svetonic reported a tightening of health and safety standards for metal and non-metal mines is being proposed by the Department of the Interior. The Mining and Enforcement and Safety Administration published a proposed asbestos standard on August 29, 1973 which would limit asbestos dust exposure to a time weighted average airborne concentration of five fibers per milliliter. There is no information at the present time that the agency will hold public hearings on this standard.

Mr. Svetonic suggested that interested member companies send comments on the proposal to the Department of the Interior.

B. State and Local Government AffairsConnecticut Hearings

Mr. Weaver reported on the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection hearings he attended on July 25 in Hartford, Connecticut. He stated that any State, with Federal approval, can promulgate its own set of environmental health standards, so long as the standards are "as effective as" those promulgated by the EPA in Washington.

AIA and State Regulations

A letter of September 7 from Mr. Richard Carter of Johns-Manville to Mr. Marsh recommending that AIA monitor state laws and regulations pertaining to asbestos was submitted. Mr. Marsh stated that AIA should consider recommendation to each state to follow Federal regulations. He asked for written comments on the means and feasibility for AIA to monitor the proceedings of states for regulations on asbestos to be forwarded to the Executive Director. He said the Carter report and member recommendations would be considered at the next Executive Committee meeting (October 18).

C. Medical Affairs

Selikoff-Lewinsohn-Stender-AIA Letter Exchange

Mr. Marsh and Mr. Swetonic reported on a minor problem that developed with Dr. Selikoff concerning Dr. Lewinsohn's letter defending the two fiber theory which the AIA sent to the Department of Labor.

Dr. Selikoff has demanded an apology from AIA for failure to ask him for comments before transmitting the letter.

Borrow-Klenk Study

Mr. Marsh reported that AIA had sent a check for \$2,500 toward a \$5,000 grant sponsored by AIA to further research into William Klenk's electromotive theory of carcinogenic activity in asbestos. The experiments are continuing. No positive results were available to report.

New Business

A. Program for the Coming Year

Mr. Marsh stated that AIA was expanding its Executive Committee and would be holding more frequent meetings. He also advised he would seek better organization and response capability of the Technical Committee, and closer relationships with asbestos related associations, domestic and foreign.

B. OSHA Compliance Manuals

Mr. Swetonic reported that OSHA Compliance Manuals were completed in first draft and would receive a "second look" by the ad hoc committee as expeditiously as possible, preparatory to publication.

C. AIA Washington Office

Mr. Marenness reported that the AIA office in Washington (1660 L Street NW) would be fully operative by October 1, at which time the New York office would be closed.

D. President's Remarks

Mr. Marsh presented tokens of appreciation to Mr. Swetonic and Miss Kinsella for their outstanding work with the Association since its inception. He welcomed Mr. Marenness as the new Executive Director. Members were asked to provide Mr. Marenness

with background information such as annual reports, promotional material, etc., to assist him in a broad understanding of the industry.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.


A. H. Mereness
Secretary