

Pompton Lakes Community Advisory Group

September 17, 2011

Minutes

- Meeting commenced at 7:15 PM. Robert Spiegel conducted the pledge of allegiance and asked for a moment of silence for September 11, 2001.
- Rich Lombardo made a motion to add Karen Dean as a CAG Board member & The CAG unanimously voted yes, and welcomed her to the meeting.
- Helen Martens made a motion to table the approval of 7/25/11 minutes to the next meeting, Dana Patterson seconds, and all approve.
- Patterson went through the action items from 7/25/11:
 - Two outstanding letters to MUA & EPA Acid Brook
 - Patterson explained they are still in draft; Cheryl Rubino was working on this, and is out on business right now out of state. Tabled to next meeting. Will be resending the letters to the township using new addresses.
 - Response from Borough of Pompton Lakes about letter
 - Patterson explained they heard no response from the town.
 - EWA OPRA Request documents
 - Patterson explained that EWA put in a ORPA to NJDEP for all the files, performed a 5-day review, cataloged them, held up by absurd charges, received them, now they are going through all the documents.
 - Grindrod/ Fefferman to follow up on CAG's first 2 resolutions
 - Update EPA repository & for agencies to attend the CAG meetings
 - Both were not able to make the meeting tonight – tabled to next meeting
 - EWA to add list of ORPA NJDEP docs to website
 - Dana Patterson stated that it was added to the site and available to download.
- Raggiola asked Patterson to discuss in further detail the letter to Pompton Lakes Borough (2nd action item) and Patterson reads the final letter into the record.
- Patterson encourages the audience members to follow up with Mayor and Council and attend meetings to ask why they didn't tell the residents about the vapor intrusion. Letter is available upon request or on the website.
- Spiegel introduces Barbara Finazzo of USEPA and thanks her for coming to the meeting.
 - Finazzo adds that she is happy to participate, listen and share information.
 - Spiegel invites Finazzo to come to the front and she updates CAG about resolutions. Finazzo says that EPA is committed to updating the repository, may not have everything on the list and there is limited space.
 - Finazzo said EPA is committed to come to the meetings when necessary, but cannot come every month. If there is a specific presentation they would like to the CAG, EPA would be happy to do that.
 - Patterson explained there are many electronic files, and Finazzo said they would take whatever EWA had, as the scanning is a huge cost for USEPA. Spiegel asks if they could be put on USEPA website, but Finazzo says there is limited space. Lombardo asked if there is any censored information, Finazzo says only thing redacted would be residents personal information
- Martens asks about the Hazard Ranking System, Finazzo explains that in early 80s EPA performed the HRS for sites all around the country using old criteria (no VI included), and was preliminary scoring. She explained because it was a RCRA it was never moved further in Superfund program. Martens asked why it was delayed under RCRA and Finazzo responded that they have been cleaning it up under regulations and permits, and the state has an Administrative Order.
- George [AQ]: Will EPA be involved in the test well assessment?

- Finazzo explained DEP will monitor, EPA will split samples with DuPont.
- George [AQ]: Will EPA/DuPont be testing the groundwater for heavy metals
 - EPA is going to do split samples with DuPont on the Groundwater wells and from pump and treat system, and going to run the samples on their own in November
- Raggiola thanked EPA for quick action during the flooding. She explained that there was an oil tank, and Bonnie Bellows took quick action to respond. The residents were having trouble breathing, EPA brought in machines to suck in oil.
- Raggiola explained she got a call from canoers that there was an oil tank, and made EPA aware.
- Finazzo explained that the incident in Tuxedo, NY may not have been linked to the odor in PL, and Finazzo will get back to the community with the source.
- Patterson requested that EPA put out a press release about the oil spill/ flooding update, Finazzo agreed they could do that.
- Spiegel discussed the resolution regarding the TAG grant that EWA applied for. He will update the CAG on the status at the next meeting.
- Spiegel explained there are ambient levels of benzene in the air above screening levels in 2009 DuPont report. Spiegel asked Rich Chapin to discuss.
- Chapin began his presentation with the 1954 draft master plan for Pompton Lakes. It shows the large area next to the lake is marked for Open Space and then developed in the 1960s. Kate bought it off of e-bay.
- Chapin discussed the benzene issue and the fact that there are ambient issues. He is not sure why benzene was taken out of the chemicals of concern; explained DuPont convinced NJDEP that they are not responsible for it. They have not been testing for benzene in the GW monitoring wells, so we don't know it is there because there are not reports of it. And,
- Patterson asked Finazzo that EPA test for benzene, and Finazzo said that they will look into the request. Finazzo said that the lab tests for it but does not report for it.
- Finazzo asked Chapin what report showed the ambient levels of benzene. Chapin gave it to her.
- Chapin asked if they test for radiologicals?
- Patterson proposed a resolution to “ The Pompton Lakes Community Advisory Group is requesting when The United States Environmental Protection Agency does split sampling with DuPont, including the upcoming November split sampling of the Groundwater wells, that they include the entire suite of full priority pollutants, uranium 235, uranium 238, radium and plutonium. Lombardo seconded it; CAG unanimously approves Resolution #005.
- Martens explains that a resident who lives on Ringwood Ave. told her that she shouldn't drink the drinking water because there were worms in it. Raggiola asks if anyone has a sample, and Martens doesn't believe so. Chapin explains that worms in a drinking water supply means the fundamental filtration system has failed. Raggiola asked if they reported to the authorities and Chapin agrees that she has to do that. Patterson asks Martens to request pictures.
- Dean asked why her water was blue when she filled her bathtub to prepare for the hurricane before the storm. Chapin explains that if it came out of the tub, but not the faucet, there could be something wrong with her plumbing.
- Lombardo asked if Pompton Lakes has different aquifers or one aquifer. Chapin explains that the only way that the flood water would get into the groundwater is if the flood water gets into the groundwater recharge area. If there are cracks in the bedrock, that is another way too. It is a complicated geologic study.
- Chapin explains the pilot test for the bioremediation started, they are probably waiting on the data. They inject the oils into the ground and they basically eat the contaminants as food. It starts the reaction, and the bacteria get all the oxygen out of the groundwater and then use the chlorinated solvents and break them down. Here it is an experiment, but it has been done in many places.

- Lombardo asks what the byproduct of this. Chapin explains that there is a molecule where Chlorine is attached to carbon and oxygen and the chlorine is stripped off, turned into a chloride ion, salt – sodium chloride. PCE → TCE → DCE → Vinyl Chloride → Carbon Dioxide. If you manage the process well, you will break it down to Carbon Dioxide. Chapin explained that they started the process.
- Finazzo clarifies. DuPont installed wells on intersection Skylar and Barbara Drive in July to test groundwater flow to see if the flow is efficient to make the chemical reaction occur. DEP and USEPA just got the reports and are reviewing to determine what the results mean. They are using specialists from Ada, Oklahoma and have a summary the first week of October.
- Spiegel requests USEPA to bring the experts back, Finazzo says she cannot commit to that, but she will take the request back to headquarters.
- Martens asks Finazzo what the timeline is. Finazzo does not know but explains that they are looking for something that works throughout the plume. They started at the pilot area because there is significant level of contamination and in the intermediate layer. It is a good place to start to see if the reaction will work.
- Raggiola asks Finazzo what type of real investigation in Orchard street plume area. Finazzo explains they do not look at it street by street. They use monitoring wells to determine if the plume has shifted. Chapin adds that the key to getting this to work is to know how the fluids move in the subsurface. [He draws diagram of 3 layers in plume area.] He further states they are doing this biological and they are further looking to do some areas with chemically inject reactants into the soil that break apart the chlorinated solvent molecule. There will be areas of biological and chemical that will be done.
- Raggiola asks how long bioremediation has been around and Chapin explains that the basics have been around since the turn of the 1900's, and the degradation of the chlorinated solvents for at least 15 years, where it was state of the art. Raggiola expresses concerns of why they did not do this process 15 years ago here.
- Lombardo asks if they use oatmeal. Chapin says you can use corn oil. There is a company calls Regenesis that has a product they market for this.
- Chapin discusses the flooding issues. He explains that flooding can move sediment and wash contamination from place to place.
- Raggiola makes a motion to present a resolution to have full detail testing of all flood-prone areas in Pompton Lakes (Hersfield Park, Garden Road Area, South End by Harrison Place to test for DuPont contaminants and sewage issues directed to NJDEP and USEPA. She explains when she was a council woman that the sewage levels were exceeded). Spiegel asks her to form into a resolution.
- Chapin asks public to help read through the public documents to understand. CAG would help direct to pick out the key points and to let us know if they are interested.
- Patterson asks Chapin for recommendations on Raggiola's proposed resolution. Chapin will get back to us.
- Tom Kennedy presented on importance of water and what it does for our bodies.
- Spiegel opens public session.
- Craig Plowman explains he spoke to the mayor and council regarding the projected remediation of acid brook delta and lake. He is a former resident of 31 years. When DuPont did the soil remediation from the lake years ago, the noise was horrendous, and wanted to make sure the mayor was aware of how it was. Mayor gave Plowman a rundown of how the remediation was going to be handled at the meeting. She explained to him that they are going to have to destroy the park and remove every tree in the delta. Plowman explained they need two permits – Tree removal through Shade Tree Commission and Soil Removal (through planning board). He explains the soil removal is of concern because he questioned how they would do it. DuPont is planning on bringing in equipment to squeeze water out of mud. Plowman is also concerned with the route the trucks will take. He suggested they take Lakeside across the bridge to 202.
- Raggiola said they took some out by train, and Plowman said yes, but that didn't work because some states argued that they did not want the possible contaminated soil through their state. They could not stop trucks on the federal state highway, so they went back to using trucks.

- Plowman explained there was a public meeting to discuss, but he was unaware of it. He has maps on the restoration on the areas in the lake to remove sediments. Estimating 18-20 trucks per day and probably will be doing for a long time. Plowman raised issue that it is near a school and if it is noisy, it can have effect on teaching in the school. Plowman said DuPont is offering to redo the entire park, but the concept plan is larger than the area that currently exists, and since you can't fill in the pond, he is not sure how they will do it. He asked what measures they will take to prevent soil erosion from properties, will it be graded or back filled. Anyone with docks will have to be removed and replaced.
- [AQ] At one point they said they will be capping it. Is this true?
- Response from public and CAG was that it is being capped indeed.
- Finazzo explains that the work on Pompton Lake is a work in progress. There have been several meetings about it and there will be a meeting coming up the second week of October to get more public comments and questions. She clarifies this is not a capping that has not been proposed. In 2009, DuPont looked at capping and dredging options. DuPont decided that dredging was the better option, but they have not worked out the details, e.g. school issues. The report is a decision to do capping vs. dredging. EPA is taking lead on the site, modifying the permit, and has a schedule on moving forward. EPA will bring in water quality experts that deal with dredging to answer questions. Finazzo encouraged everyone to attend EPA will release a draft of permit modification and 45 public comment period will start as well as a public hearing in December. They hope to have a draft permit out by January. She explains this is a continuing dialogue such as effects of storm and flooding.
- Patterson asks Finazzo if this workplan is already approved. Finazzo explains this is not the final workplan. There have been several documents such as the decision to select dredge vs. capping, proposal from DuPont on how to move forward. She explained that RCRA is complicated and there are extra reports in her opinion instead of addressing the specifics like Superfund does. Chapin explains under Superfund it is a decision document that is approved, and under RCRA they issue a permit and it is the permit requirements that control what is done. Finazzo explains there is an operating plan associated with the workplan that explains the specifics.
- Plowman explains the reason he got involved is because he lived through the horror of the past dredging. Plowman explains how he met with the mayor to Finazzo and that the mayor never told him the USEPA was involved. Finazzo asks for his contact information so he can attend the next public session because this is the information that they need.
- Plowman explained they put a floating dredge and used a metal pipe to bring it to the dewatering facility and sat as a large mud puddle and every rock went around the pipe 10-12 hours a day and was so loud that he couldn't hear himself in his own living room. He explained in detail the previous dredging. Also people were going flying off their boats because the lake bottom was not flat after they dredged.
- [AQ] Will the USEPA or NJDEP be issuing the map as to the depth of dredging? He does not consider 6 inches dredging. That is what they proposing. Finazzo explains that is what is currently proposed, and if you have concerns, bring it forward to USEPA. USEPA will not be going out there and redoing the maps.
- Lombardo encourages everyone to stay involved.
- Patterson explains to Finazzo our next CAG meeting will be on October 17th, so to not conflict with that.
- Spiegel suggested combining the availability session with the CAG meeting if they would like to have it as a special CAG meeting. The CAG agrees that it is a good idea and EPA should consider it. It will discuss plan, pros and cons, EPA, and public comments and questions. Finazzo explains this is something the other group is involved in so they have to check with them.
- [AQ- George] explains the "7827 RASR CMS revised Sept 2009 issued by DuPont" page 28 states that the alternative selective areas would be addressed via capping; no sediment areas would be removed. The highest concentration of mercury is near the delta and the highest concentrations are in the deepest areas. Finazzo

explains this is not a final document. Lombardo explains this seems to be predetermined and asks Finazzo to look into this.

- Riggiola comments that she cannot believe that this is even on the table for consideration when people are swimming in the lake. Her husband brought it to the council meeting and the mayor told him after that she has no way to control the people swimming in the lake. Meanwhile, the USEPA told us that it is not swimmable, yet the Pompton Lakes Government cannot patrol it. Lombardo added that people still eat the fish in there.
- Patterson asked if there is any way to get more signage at Pompton Lakes. Finazzo will look into it. Riggiola explained history of attempts for signs to Mayor of Pompton Lakes. Spiegel explained that if you concrete signs in a bucket and put in the water, it's harder for people to get them and remove them.
- Martens asked Chapin – with all the flooding, is there more intensified vapor in the homes because of the change in the water table. Chapin explains that it could go both ways. Chapin said if there were real time monitors under the homes, we would know. Lombardo explains the flooding was different all over town.
- Finazzo encourages anyone without a system that has experienced flooding to get one and talk to contractor about accounting for a higher water table.
- Martens asked what happens to the people who have a system and lost power. Finazzo explains it takes 3-4 days for the vapors to build up under the homes. Martens then asked if they lost power for 2 weeks, is there something DuPont can do for these residents if that happened, such as loan a generator. Riggiola suggests that DuPont should give everyone a generator and people went out of power for days.
- Spiegel asks if there are any other questions from the public. Resolution will be tabled and Riggiola will work on language for the next meeting.
- Finazzo explains the concern of 10 chemicals of concern from DuPont and says the environmental CAG requested that be reviewed and USEPA provided funding, and an expert from SKEO Solutions will be reporting and reviewing all the documents at their next meeting. Patterson requests copies of the list of documents being reviewed and Finazzo said that will be in his report. Spiegel requests the list of documents in review in advance because there may be additional reports we have that may be of use. Finazzo will also send his contact information.
- Martens thanked Menendez, Lautenberg, and Pascrell for sending a letter to the health agencies to investigate the effects of chemicals of concerns. Explains the letter they sent and they will be doing a full health study. Patterson explains a copy of the letter was in the front.
- Riggiola explains the next Health CAG is Wed at 7pm at the PL Library. Fall 2011 the full health study to include former and current residents of Pompton Lakes.
- Spiegel closes the meeting and thanks everyone for coming. The next meeting will be October 17 at 7pm.