

Community Involvement Advisory Council
Thursday, December 6, 2016
9:30 AM-11:30 AM
Smyrna Rest Stop
Dover, DE

Meeting Minutes

Members Present - William Pelham (Chair), Jay Julis, Sarah Keifer, Jason Adkins, Leolga Wright, Robert Frederick, Marvin Thomas, Pam Meitner

Members Absent: LaVaida Owens-White, Harold Truxon

DNREC: Secretary David Small, James Brunswick, Pat Emory, Lisa Johannsen

I. Meeting Called to Order

Mr. Pelham called the meeting to order at 9:45am

II. Meeting Protocol Review

Members reviewed the spelling of names, and to ensure that the names of people who approved/opposed projects are on the meeting minutes. Request for when there are project presentation to send a reminder that the meeting is going to run over.

III. Review/Approval of Meeting Notes

MOTION was made by Mr. Pelham to approve the October 6, 2016 meeting notes a second was made by Jay Julis all in favor and, motion carried and passed

IV. Community Ombudsman Report:

- **Community Air Monitoring Initiative**

James Brunswick provided information and handouts on the Air Monitoring Project, in the Claymont area that are suspected to have poor air quality. Mr. Thomas asked the question in regards to what regulatory measures are being taken to ensure corrections are being made, that are necessary to help with the air quality. Mr. Brunswick provided a listing of identified permitted facilities in the area, the port, surrounding areas and he is not sure if changes can be made to regulations Mr. Thomas also asked the question in regards to Diamond Material in New Castle County, regarding who regulates the height of the mounds, as the mounds are continuing to grow higher and well as why the Department is not regulating dust from those areas. Mr. Brunswick stated that the Division of Air and the Environmental Crimes Unit are addressing those issues. Secretary Small stated that there have been ongoing issues with Diamond Materials, and that with the monitoring equipment in place DNREC will be able to get reliable data to determine whether or not there are issues in

those areas. Staff from the Division of Air will be collecting data once every 3 days over a period of 6 months. Ms. Meitner, asked if the data will be available to the public for viewing? Mr. Brunswick stated that this will be the most intensive monitoring done in a long time and that people will have an opportunity to view the data.

- **Community Engagement Internship**

The Internship is focused on creating a Public Involvement plan with a student to create a MAPOS of the entire state. The goal is to help create the capacity for the department in regards to public involvement plans. Mr. Brunswick stated that New York and Connecticut require companies to come up with public involvement plans that include an initial outreach plan to provide information to stake holders. Mr. Brunswick would like to see the Divisions create public participation plans to include a description of the proposed project, outreach activities, and to have staff on hand to locate and provide information. He would also like to plan for the future to keep the plan moving with fact sheets regarding meetings. He would also like to see the Divisions put together and provide detailed information to provide to the stake holders. Mr. Thomas wanted to know if there is reluctance of the businesses to spend a lot of time providing this information. Mr. Brunswick stated that he would suspect some push back. Mr. Brunswick stated that Victor Perez - who has experience with creating maps of environmental indicators, would like to be involved as well. He has experience with the mapping program that UD uses. The program is intuitive and can show a wide range of information and data. Three intern candidates will be interviewed on December 7th and UD staff and interns would be used. Ms. Meitner asked the question that with the forming of CIAC a study group came together through the chamber of commerce, they would have volunteers who may be interested in working. Mr. Brunswick said that would be the next step after the maps and stake holders.

- **SECAP Columbia University Earth Institute Film Exploration**

There was a meeting held in Ellendale, Sussex County with the Columbia Film Institute. The film institute creates documentaries on environmental issues and international environmental issues and looks at water issues facing low income areas. The group brought together the community to show how poor water issues are affecting the area, especially throughout Sussex County (Possum Point, Ellendale, New Hope etc.). These areas are primarily minority, low income families with poor water and soil drainage. Mr. Brunswick stated that there are several communities throughout Sussex County that have been impacted by the

severe sewer and water issues. Mr. Pelham, wanted to know how many people this impacts? Mr. Brunswick stated that approximately 950 households with 75% of them being home owners, there are a lot of mobile home communities. Mr. Emory asked what the average income was? Mr. Brunswick stated that they worked with First State surveys and they went door to door to gather the information. Per the survey company it is estimated that the income is between \$9,000-\$36,000. Mr. Thomas- wanted to know what will be done next since the data has been collected? Mr. Brunswick informed the board that Social Services will be looking at the water quality, solid waste, roads and streets. The Community is working to submit a petition with 50 registered voters to force a public hearing.

V. 2015 CEPF Project Updates:

- **AmeriCorps**

Trailer was purchased and outfitted with the tools and equipment needed for the project. As a result in 2015 there were 5 members now there are 15 members. This is an outstanding project with 15 members for funding. Each member had 85-100 total hours of time with a total of 1700 hours for 2015. There were also 140 volunteers who produced 560 hours of volunteer time which was 340 hours more than what was originally pledged, exceeding goals for the project.

- **Delaware Academy of Sciences**

The startup site was able to leverage a lot of additional funding. At Iron Hill Museum the public is able to see the installation of drainage, infrastructure, and removal of invasive species. They used the boy scouts of UD and other volunteers and high school students to help with the project.

- **Old Brandywine Village**

- This project is a living shoreline project between Market and Jessup Street with a creation of facilities along the shoreline. There have been several meetings with project sponsors for a half million fundraising plan to fund the rest of the projects. City of Wilmington is now involved and they are assisting with the project to ensure it continues. The next step will be implementation with a goal for the living shoreline to be a Northeast destination for people. Mr. Pelham what is the timeline? Mr. Brunswick stated that it is long term and at least 5 years.

- **Town of Leipsic**

The project is underway but there was a learning curve as Leipsic is a small town and mostly volunteers. The project gave the team an understanding and challenges that are faced with commercial fishing. The town has had increased participation in

eco-tourism. People in the Leipsic were able to partner with other state agencies regarding sea level rise and climate change. Volunteer hours have also increased from 3.084 to 134 hours.

- **Town of Milford**

Mr. Brunswick stated that the Town has yet to submit a report or draw funds. Mr. Julius asked what was left in the budget? Mr. Brunswick stated approximately \$13, 000.00 Board recommended sending a letter to the Town or if there are clauses in the contract for termination. Mr. Phelham asked for recommendations at the net meeting.

VI. Open Forum

Mr. Adkins asked what can be done to increase the flow of information between the community and DNREC, specifically in the area of Septic's. He stated that a lot of people in the community are afraid to contact the department in fear of fines and enforcement. Secretary Small said that he know that this has been an ongoing struggle and wants people to feel comfortable and that more conversations is needed to help the community come to the part. We do have James Brunswick and Michelle Jacobs to serve as that buffer to be a friendly face and voice for people to come to.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:35

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Johannsen

Administrative Specialist II, DNREC, State of Delaware

The notes of this meeting are not intended to be a verbatim record of the topics that were presented or discussed. They are for the use of the Community Involvement Advisory Council members and the public in supplementing their personal notes and recall of presentations.