

**PINE RIVER SUPERFUND CITIZEN TASK FORCE**  
**Box 172**  
**St. Louis, Michigan 48880**

July 12, 2002

On July 10, 2002, fifteen St. Louis residents met in Clapp Park at the invitation of the Pine River Superfund Citizen Task Force Community Advisory Group to discuss possible ways to use the former plant site of Velsicol Chemical Corporation, should the land become available for use in the future. Most of those who met also belong to other organizations in St. Louis and Gratiot County, including the Gratiot County Senior Citizen Board, the Parks and Recreation Commission of St. Louis, the Middle of the Mitten Association, the Alma Area Business and Professional Women, the Christmas Home Tour Committee, the St. Louis Historical Society, the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee of St. Louis, the St. Louis Downtown Development Authority, the Brownsfield Committee of St. Louis, and the St. Louis City Council. Five CAG members attended. Also present were reporters from both local newspapers: The Gratiot County Herald and the Morning Sun.

The ideas fell into three major categories: commercial enterprises, recreation facilities, and nature appreciation.

#### COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES

1. Build a nice restaurant close to M-46.
2. Build a large community center, with windows showing views of the river. The community center could be used for wedding receptions and other gatherings, with a fee charged that would help pay for maintenance of the facility.
3. Make R.V. parking campsites, and also use the parking area for an overflow parking facility during the Highland Festival in Alma.
4. Use the area for an amusement park, like the one in Sandusky, Ohio.
5. The other suggestions for commercial business involved the area of the river more than the plant site: (a) a showboat, like the Chesaning Showboat; (b) a riverboat for gambling.

#### RECREATION FACILITIES

1. Use the site for a county-wide recreation area, with soccer fields, ice hockey rinks, swimming pools (indoor and outdoor), gymnastics classes, and a skateboard park.
2. Build a golf course.

3. Make a sledding hill (this suggestion received the most enthusiastic response).
4. Build an amphitheater and a band shell.

#### NATURE APPRECIATION

1. Encourage the goose population to continue to use the area for a haven from hunters in October and November by keeping dogs and people out of the area.
2. Build a 100' high fountain out in the river, lit at night, for an eye-catching display.
3. Build a boardwalk along the river's edge for walkers and joggers.
4. Make cross-country ski trails.

The CAG provided maps of the plant site, showing where the low-level radioactive wastes are buried. One person expressed concern about talking about the low-level radioactivity located on the site, wanting to avoid negative publicity. Others maintained the radioactive waste should be dug up and removed.

Concern was also expressed about where the money would come from to build and maintain any sort of planned facility on the plant site.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Keon, Chair  
Pine River Superfund Citizen Task Force