

PINE RIVER SUPERFUND CITIZEN TASK FORCE

December 21, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 6:55 pm by Chair, Jane Keon following a potluck dinner. The sign in sheet and blank nomination forms were passed around. Murray Borrello made the motion to accept the minutes of the November meeting. In the paragraph about the Feasibility Study the public meeting did not take place as the school had another event taking place that evening. No new date has been set. Gary Smith seconded the motion which passed.

A discussion regarding the burial of PBB contaminated cattle followed. The chickens that were affected are buried near Coswell-Jackson Rd. John Baker said that cattle in this area were not fed the protein (feed supplement) that the PBB contamination was in.

Gary Smith gave the Treasurer's report for October and November. The beginning checkbook balance was \$10,908.29 with expenses of \$10,014.46. The ending checkbook balance is \$7,274.60. The money market account began with \$86,399.86. Interest earned was \$64.99 with a new balance of \$86,464.85. Of this amount \$786.19 is still from the Carter Award.

Correspondence and Communications:

- A. Greater Gratiot Development asked for a second letter of support. This would be for an EPA grant to do site characterization and remedies at small, polluted sites in Gratiot and Isabella counties. The first one was for \$100,000. This is for a \$350,000 for petroleum and \$650,000 for hazardous waste.
- B. Doug Brecht forwarded to an article to Jane on abandoned coal mines under Saginaw.

Program:

Jane Keon reviewed the CAG highlights for 2011 (see attached copy).

Murray Borrello made the motion to send something in sympathy to Tom Alcamo, EPA Project Manager for this sister's death. Gary Smith seconded the motion which passed.

The golf site is a superfund site. There are high metals present and are were high brine concentrations. The organic materials are known, but what else is present is not known at this time.

Murray Borrello will report on the fish data in January.

Unfinished Business:

- A. Regarding the Gratiot County Landfill Superfund Site we have submitted a letter to MDEQ that lays out our objections, comments, and recommendations on the 2011 5-year Review of the landfill. The new project manager from EPA for the site is Diane Russell.
- B. The Golf Course Superfund Site also has a new EPA project manager, Jena Sleboda Braun. She has been asked to present the project schedule at the January meeting.
- C. There has been no more word on the 90 day rate study for pCBSA. It is suggested that our Senators be contacted again to give another push.
- D. There has been no response from MSU in 6 months about the bed nets for malaria. We voted to give \$500 toward this effort.

New Business:

- A. Ed Lorenz was in on a conference call with Collaborative Health and Environment scientists about the links between DDT exposure and diabetes. David Carpenter spoke about the connection between obesity and diabetes 2 with exposure to agent orange and DDT which is a persistent organic pollutant. Another speaker was Bruce Blomberg who had lived in Alaska. Read the material and make a decision at the January meeting about becoming a partner in this group.
- B. There has been a health advisory about the downstream portion of the Pine River. The Chippewa tribe in Saginaw wants to be involved. A treaty made in 1796 with the tribe was violated in 1974 by the recommendation that fish taken from the river not be eaten.
- C. Scott Cornelius, MDEQ Project Manager:
 - 1. Said that DBCP was a principal threat in a smaller amount that would be addressed if it was found separate from NAPL and NAPL was the principal threat in a larger amount.
 - 2. EPA must meet the CERCLA law. One of the provisions in that law is preference for containment of waste with little or no treatment. If the waste is mobile it would be taken care.
 - 3. Liability protection for Velsicol – creditor secure claims – water system- and clean up of the contaminated yards.
 - 4. Lack of GEO liner. The cap will have this liner. If #7 plan were used the thick cap is not needed. Hazardous waste cell – there would be an additional risk if the waste were moving. The waste would be picked up and moved somewhere else. O & M for 50 years. Scott stated that there is no more NAPL being made on the site. The volatile gases come off and are treated.
 - 5. The 3 remedies are: Dig out
Pump and treat long term containment
In situ
Plans 3-5-and 7 would need a large water treatment system. DBCP in situ and in #7 would be removed. Three ways of removal would be vapor, liquid, or pump and treat. Further work would depend on the findings.
 - 6. C-Sap are contaminants in the soil. The chemistry and solubility need to be looked at. Benzene and chloro-benzene are soluble in one another. It is mobile in the new form and colorless.
 - 7. Scott has made certain that the money is available from the State to do this work.
- D. Carol Layman requested that the nomination forms be filled out and returned to her at the end of the meeting.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol J. Layman, Co-Secretary

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