Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for Soil Study
Wednesday, March 28th 2018 Meeting Notes

In attendance: Dr. Joe Gardella (JG-UB), Dr. Mike Milligan (MM-SUNY Fredonia), Dr. Tammy Milillo (TM-UB), Jackie James-Creedon (JJC-CSCR, Kenmore Resident), Katie Little (KL-UB, CSCR), Sue Mazur (SM, ToT Resident)
Absent: Jeanine Justin (JJ, Grand Island Resident), Anne Bazinet (AB-ToT Resident), Rich Mpelezos (RM, Buffalo Resident), Jay Farqueson (JF, Grand Island resident), Maria Tisby (MT, ToT Resident)

(**JJC**) Opened meeting, reviewed 2/28/18 meeting notes, notes accepted with no clarifications.
(**SM**) Mentioned that TCC mixed the coke on the ground, not on cement like they were supposed to.
(**JG**) Is aware of mixing coke on the ground- that's why we told them that we get to choose where to take the samples. Will contact Nellie Brown, a chemist who started her career at TCC, to see if she would speak at a CAC meeting.

(**MM**) Asked about the status of the Philip Sheridan Building- it's being sold and turned into apartments?
(**JJC**) Yes, we are moving out at the end of May and are currently looking for another location.

(**KL**) Updates on UB progress:

- # samples taken – 182
- # reports delivered – 179
- # secondary permissions – 123
- # needed secondary permissions – 54
- # officially declined to submit secondary permission – 5

(**TM**) We are incorporating DEC data into our map to fill in areas where we did not sample. There are 65 DEC sites with multiple samples on each site.
(**MM**) What depth did they test?
(**TM**) Sampling depth varies from 2 inches to 8 feet. We are doing our best to sort through and use the relevant data. The students are helping to scan DEC reports and digitize the data.
(**MM**) When were samples taken?
(**TM**) We will have to make decisions about what data to use. There are some sites that have continuous monitoring, so sampling data is relatively recent. Others are not as recent. Collecting DEC data is a long process.

(**JG**) Described meeting with Supervisor Emminger and lawyer on 3/8/18. They are having reports sent to get a second opinion about the data. Emminger will then have the Town Board approve signing the secondary permission. CAC members and residents of Tonawanda should be at the Town Board meeting to show support in favor of signing the secondary permission. Emminger suggested the process of receiving a second opinion might take about a month.

(**JG**) Described other meetings with local churches and schools. Noted that we will test other public areas (schools, churches, parks, etc.) in phase 2.
We will release the maps from phase 1 when we have more secondary permissions and when we are able to incorporate the DEC data into the maps.

(**JJC**) Will we sample at 2 and 6 inches in phase 2?
(**JG**) We will continue to take samples at 2 and 6 inches. We may also do geoprobes to determine the extent of the depth of hotspots. Using a sleeve/sediment core we can determine the depths of contamination.

(**JJC**) How many samples are we taking in phase 2?
(**JG**) The number of samples we will take depends on how big/how many hotspots there are. We may take as many as 300 samples to define the extent of contamination. In DEC cleanups they often keep digging until they no longer detect contamination. The samples in phase 2 will be more closely spaced than they were in phase 1.
We will be taking 15 samples on TCC property and we will composite them. This will give us a reference sample to compare our data with. The sample from the coke product will also be used as a reference. We sampled for a range of compounds that are not typically sampled using DEC/EPA methods. This large sampling range will help MM and JW with source apportionment.

(**SM**) When will you be sampling at TCC?
(**JG**) This would be about two days of work. We have to coordinate JG and MM's schedules, and they have to go through safety training.

(**JJC**) KL and JJC have to make a volunteer plan.

(**JG**) We will prepare a preliminary sampling plan, create the maps, bring them to the CAC for review, and then schedule a press conference. Announcing the maps for phase 1 at a press conference will be the start of phase 2. There will be downloadable high resolution maps that will be publicly available.

(**JJC**) What is the procedure for telling those people in the hotspot areas? We don't want them to panic.
(**JG**) People may be upset, but they need to know.
(**KL**) We can make sure to tell them that there will be more soil testing- they could self-identify as wanting to participate in phase 2.
(**JG**) We may take samples in the front yard and in the backyard.

(**JJC**) What if there is a hotspot of pesticides?
(**JG**) The pesticides are a negative control and a timestamp. DDT was off the market in the early 70s. The judge's order is to look at the impact of TCC in general, not in a specific time period. The pesticides give us some idea of over how much time the chemical has been built up.
We are not emphasizing pesticides; we are mapping everything and every map will be available. Hotspots will not be decided based on pesticides alone.

(**JJC**) How are you defining a hotspot?
(**JG**) We are defining hotspots based on Soil Cleanup Objectives (SCOs) and the GIS analysis. We are using conservative SCO guidelines from NY, PA, and MA. If contaminant levels are above the SCOs they will be considered a hot spot.
We will have 130 maps, one for each contaminant, publicly available. We will share the maps that emphasize the hotspots we plan to focus on at public events, (e.g. results meetings, press conference).

Details about air sampling plan:
(**MM**) We plan to take multiple 24hour air samples. Air will be sampled on site at TCC and 8 samples will be taken within the community.

- These samples are not intended as a comprehensive study. Sampling within the community is intended to be a snapshot of our air quality. If we find anything of concern we will take that data to the DEC.
- This data may lead to other projects and we may identify novel/unique compounds that will help as references for the source apportionment part of the soil study.
- We are using standard EPA air sampling methods.
- Air samples will be sent to the ALS lab in Simi Valley, California- arguably the best lab in the US.

(**JG**) The high-volume equipment from Fredonia will sample for chemicals that occur in low concentrations. The equipment from UB is able to sample for a wider range of chemicals.

(**SM**) When will you start air sampling?
(MM/JG) We will potentially start in June pending getting permission from families who want to host the equipment.
(**KL**) We were considering having a meeting and inviting families interested in hosting the equipment so they can see what the equipment/commitment is like, especially in regard to the noise level of Fredonia's equipment.

(**JJC**) Air sampling could help to satisfy the first goal of the project proposal: To characterize and measure the POM originating from TCC via air sampling and chemical analysis and determine what chemicals are specific to TCC~~)~~
(**MM**) It's important to be cautious about drawing conclusions based on a limited amount of data.
(**JG**) The most important information is for the neighbors around the sample location. You can't draw conclusions from the air samples we will be taking- this will be just a snapshot, like taking a bucket sample. There was no plan to do an exhaustive air study in the proposal.

Next meeting Wednesday April 25th, 2018

3200 Elmwood, Room 210, 6pm