

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for Soil Study

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 Meeting Notes

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

Absent: Jeanine Justin (Grand Island), Elizabeth Menth (City of Tonawanda)

(JJC) Opened the meeting, welcomed everyone.

(JG) Described the weekly brainstorming meeting that JG, MM, JW, KL, and JJC will attend to prepare for CAC meeting. Prep meeting will take place 3-4 days ahead of each CAC meeting.

(TM) Presented poster/map of study area with potential soil sampling locations. The digital version will be something that we can zoom in very close. Some maps have 1-meter resolution.

(JG) Expressed need for quality control on interpretation and analysis of data. The first 30 samples are a pilot study to determine where the boundaries are for the study area as well as what questions are being asked. CSCR can answer general questions, but for specific answers people should contact the Dr. Gardella's team using the email: tcsoilstudyquestions@gmail.com

We will develop a standard format to report results and have a summary statement for each sample. We will be using the DEC standards for residential housing, which is the most stringent of the categories they use. We may want to establish even higher standards than the DEC.

(KL) Updated the group on the status of collecting Permission to Enter Property Forms. All 30 sampling locations have been secured. Commented that not everyone was willing to participate because of having to disclose the results of the study when the home is sold.

(JG) If you remediate your property you don't have to report the results of the study, you just report if it had been cleaned. In NY state if you sell your home and there is a known contaminant next door you don't have to disclose that information. Those people worried about problems regarding property value should be welcomed to our community meetings so they can share their concerns and we can promote transparency.

(JJC) Asked for comments on the current draft of the FAQ sheet.

- Mike Milligan
- Use tcsoilstudyquestions@gmail.com for Joe's contact email
- #6) ALS *Environmental*
- Include a revision date to know when the form was updated.
- FAQ sheet is ok to post with the disclaimer that it is the current *draft*.

(JW) The soil sampling team is going to collect all 30 samples in two days (4/29, 4/30) Students will be trained on Friday (4/28) at 4:30pm in Joe Gardella's lab on UB North Campus.

(MT) Will the soil testing team have identifiers to make the team recognizable?

(JJC) The teams will have name badges and polo shirts to identify themselves.

(JF) Asked about what chemicals will be tested for, specifically hexavalent chromium and beryllium.

(MM,JW) Beryllium is not very common and not in the general suite of tests offered in our study.

(JG) If we want to explore further there is a standard test for chromium, we could do that in addition if we felt it was necessary.

We are testing for 138 chemicals. We will analyze maps and look for any and all chemicals of the 138, we are not limiting ourselves to the chemicals found at Tonawanda Coke (TCC).

TCC was unlikely to have emitted PCBs or pesticide residues, but if we found them we could still ask for cleanup. We will be doing a broad suite of tests and the data will help us to clean it up. That said, if we find a chemical that doesn't mean that the concentration is at an actionable level. We will be analyzing spots that we know are clean and use that as a background.

(MT) Why is the starting 30 samples located where it is?

(JG) To set the edge of the study area. We'll check in the areas where prevailing winds would be likely to deposit chemicals.

(JF) Described areas on Grand Island using map provided by TM.

(JG) Asked CAC members if the soil sampling team should consider moving the Grand Island boundary further north. CAC team will consider and report back.

(JG) The soil study team will be getting a soil sample, a sample of coke, and a sample of air emissions from TCC. We will be testing for things that aren't normally tested for by the EPA.

(SM) Asked if the analysis of chemicals would be of use to the health study, suggested putting health study information on the soil study FAQ sheet.

(JG) The health study can translate the data for what kind of chemicals are found so they will know what to monitor in the urine analysis. Dr. Matt Bonner is the PI of the health study. The health study is not ready to distribute information about the study, but when it is we can incorporate it.

(JF) Is there a need for additional samples of coal?

(JW) To satisfy academic curiosity, yes, but in terms of this study, no.

ALS is sending out extra kits for the sampling team. With the data turnaround we should have our first batch of results in early May.

(JG,JW) Currently planning a meeting with collaborators (DEC,EPA) which may take place within the next couple of weeks.

(JJC) Suggested that collaborators should be invited to attend CAC meeting in June.

(JJC) Closed meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

**Next meeting Wednesday May 17th, 2017
3200 Elmwood, Room 210, 6pm**