

## **Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for Soil Study Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> 2018 Meeting Notes**

**In attendance:** Dr. Joe Gardella (JG-UB), Dr. Tammy Milillo (TM-UB), Dr. Mike Milligan (MM-SUNY Fredonia) Jackie James-Creedon (JJC-CSCR, Kenmore Resident), Katie Little (KL-UB, CSCR), Sue Mazur (SM, ToT Resident), Anne Bazinet (AB-ToT Resident), Jeanine Justin (JJ, Grand Island Resident), Rich Mpelezos (RM, Buffalo Resident), Arianna Rothfuss (UB student), Chris Allan (UB student)

**Absent:** Dr. Josh Wallace (JW-UB), Jay Farqueson (JF, Grand Island resident), Maria Tisby (MT, ToT Resident)

**(JJC)** Opened meeting, reviewed CAC 12/7/17 meeting notes - AB and TM noted details that needed to be corrected.

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

- TM has created 130 2" maps, 130 6" maps – can't release maps until more secondary permissions have been turned in.
- TM is double checking data to ensure quality and is integrating DEC brownfields data for the sites in industrial areas that wouldn't participate.
- Arianna R. and Chris A. have been hired to work on the project. Elizabeth L. will also continue to work from home as needed. We may recruit additional students after following up with Alex and Jon R.
- JW is only scheduled 20hrs/wk and has stepped down from being project manager. JW will focus his time on the source apportionment. His responsibilities will be split between KL and TM.
- New work orders were just returned from ALS.
  - This is the data for the last samples taken in 2017; all areas with permission to sample have been sampled.
- KL, AR, and EL are working on processing data, creating, and delivering reports.
  - # samples taken – 182
  - # reports delivered – 122
  - # secondary permissions – 49
- In phase 2 school districts will be contacted and will be automatically included in the study if they wish to participate.
- We have begun preliminary analysis of maps. TM is using ArcMap and licensed software.

**(SM)** Mentioned that 18 samples were taken of the sludge at TCC, SM has been in touch with Aaron Mango and has requested the results of those samples- may help in soil study?

**(MM)** Clarified that the sludge was obtained from places like Bethlehem Steel with the intent to use as fuel.

**(JJC)** Added that TCC would collect coal tar sludge for disposal from other companies.

**(RM)** Inquired about the timeline, next steps of the project.

**(JG)** As we wait for people to follow up with their questions and secondary permission forms we are creating the maps. Once we have more secondary permissions we can release the maps.

The next results meeting for only participants of the soil study will be Wednesday, 1/24, at the Kenmore Library from 6-8pm.

When we get more secondary permissions we will have an open meeting and an update for the general community. The maps will be public information.

We are moving into the source apportionment stage. The bar for determining a hot spot is deliberately low- based on the most conservative/stringent standards of NY, PA, MA. We will re-sample in areas where we see hot spots.

**(JJ)** Suggested that the results can't be too dramatic or they would have closed the fields if there was a concern over public health.

**(JG)** Explained that such decisions shouldn't be made on the basis of a single soil sample.

**(JJ)** Suggested that some people may question why UB didn't immediately sample phase 2 on school properties.

**(JG)** Almost every report has some chemicals above soil cleanup objectives (SCOs), but they may not be at the level that would be a health risk.

The term "SCO" is jargon that shows which chemicals to pay attention to. They were formerly called "action levels", but that was changed because the term is just a guideline and action isn't always taken.

**(SM)** Inquired if JG could disclose what chemicals were being found.

(JG) No, we will be giving that information in the form of maps.

(RM) Inquired if samples on TCC property been taken yet.

(JG) No, sampling has to be within JG/JW's work schedule.

(RM) Inquired about the progress/scope of the air study mentioned in the project proposal.

(JG) We will be taking samples at TCC and we have the equipment. Sampling will be done with MM's help. The air sampling is not necessary for the source apportionment- the emissions leaving the factory now is not what it was; we are sampling historic deposition. We will FOIA the DEC air sampling data.

We have no plans to go offsite. We are just collecting the air sample as a reference for what is in the emissions coming from TCC.

(AB) Suggested requesting the data from the Holmes Elementary air sampler.

(JJC) Inquired about why the air sampling wasn't done first- then we would know what's coming from TCC.

(MM) Sampling in Fall '17 vs. Spring '18 makes no substantive difference.

(JG) Air sampling is important for differentiating between the other ~50 air regulated companies.

We are defining hotspots based on soil sampling data. We test for some chemicals that we know don't come from TCC and use that data as a negative control.

(MM) We would know if a chemical was from TCC because of two things: we have a sample of their product (coke) and can compare the results of testing the sample to the soil study results. Using GIS we can see the spatial distribution of the chemicals

(JJ) Inquired about the presence of benzene.

(JG) You don't find benzene in the soil unless it was dumped there recently- it's very volatile.

(MM) Recognized enthusiasm for air sampling, but we don't have the funding for data collection/analysis of samples off site- that would be a separate project.

(RM) Inquired about current air monitoring- if soil study results could change where air sampling/monitoring is occurring.

(MM) Yes, based on distribution of chemicals in the soil study that may change where you would want to locate air monitors.

(JJC) Requested clarification regarding why we're not doing air sampling offsite of TCC.

(MM) The objective of the soil study was not to determine the air quality around TCC.

(JJC) Suggested that if we're not doing air sampling we should correct/ take that item out of the proposal.

(JG, TM) We will be taking an air sample from TCC.

(RM) Agreed that a single air sample at TCC would satisfy the project proposal.

Regarding the CAC memo:

(JJC) In regard to point #1- Stated that members of the CAC are covered under CSCR insurance. Still getting verification that volunteers are covered under liability insurance.

(JJC) In regard to point #4- Stated that CSCR and SUNY Fredonia give 6 month reports to UB and UB then reports to the Department of Justice.

(MM) SUNY Fredonia and CSCR are subcontractors under UB.

(JJC) Stated that there have been no budget reports, only a 6 month report.

(RM) Asked if the CAC members have a right to see financial reports.

(JJC) Yes, the CAC members may see financial reports.

Melissa Colley will send out a verification listing a schedule of due dates for financial reports.

**Next meeting Wednesday February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
3200 Elmwood, Room 210, 6pm**