

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for Soil Study Wednesday, June 27th 2018 Meeting Notes

In attendance: Dr. Tammy Milillo (TM-UB), Jackie James-Creedon (JJC-CSCR, Kenmore Resident), Katie Little (KL-UB, CSCR), Anne Bazinet (AB-ToT Resident), Rich Mpezos (RM, Buffalo Resident), Jay Farqueson (JF, Grand Island resident)

Absent: Dr. Joe Gardella (JG-UB), Dr. Mike Milligan (MM-SUNY Fredonia), Jeanine Justin (JJ, Grand Island Resident), Sue Mazur (SM, ToT Resident)

Review Meeting Notes

(JF) Wanted to discuss the list of questions that he put together in April. Include them in an informational sheet?

(KL) JG did not want to discuss those questions without JF being present. Some of them may need to be on the FAQ sheet. We should table the questions, review the FAQ sheet and see which ones we should add.

(JF) People need to have information to know what to do

(JJC) To release data without solutions is reckless.

(RM) We could ask authorities to provide more specific information.

(AB) It's not UB's job to remediate. The homeowner will need to follow up on their data.

(RM) We could provide resources/phone numbers to call the DEC/EPA.

(TM) UB will initiate the remediation discussion with DEC/EPA if it is warranted.

(RM) Potential decisions/possibilities may change more sampling stages are completed/as we collect more data.

Sampling in Stages

(TM) Phase 2 will happen in stages. First we will sample at the edges of areas of interest to determine if we need to extend sampling boundaries. If levels are high we will take more samples to accurately describe what is there. We will not be doing a grid sampling pattern for Phase 2; we will be sampling more densely to delineate any potential contamination. After sampling a small area we will make decisions based on the collected data and do another round of sampling.

We will have multiple mini-phases in areas of interest. We will start at the boundaries and extend them if necessary. We will be using standard protocols. We will not be sampling in a grid. We will only be sampling in areas of interest (and schools/churches/public places that JG has promised) to describe the shape and extent of the contaminants.

(JJC) In a way it doesn't make sense to discuss Phase 2 until we meet with the elected officials and we all get on the same page.

(TM) We are in the process of creating draft maps and scheduling meetings to discuss them with elected officials.

(JJC) Mayor Davis sent a letter that says not to use his quotes or the logo for the City of Tonawanda. He also said that he is rescinding permission for the sites that were sampled in Phase 1.

(TM) Has not seen the letter, does not know if rescinding permission is officially happening.

(JJC) The elected officials may not back the soil study.

(AB) Data is data; people will want their help.

(JF) Are elected officials trying to get a sense of the extent and severity of the problem?

(TM) Yes, and we have no problem showing them draft maps.

(RM) In order for this study to be effective the elected officials need to be on board.

(TM)

Sampling at TCC

(TM) We are in the process of scheduling to collect samples. JG, MM, and 2-3 students will take up to 15 samples in order to create one composite sample. When we are at TCC we will look for sites from which to sample air.

(JF) How severe is the problem? Would like a summary of what was found in Phase 1.

(TM) Until we meet with elected officials we are not able to give a summary.

(JF) JG should have said we weren't getting the data.

(TM) The community and CAC will get the data in the form of maps. We just have to show elected officials first.

(JJC) We have data which we got from our "server".

(TM) You have data from seven samples of the TCC Soil Study. You have data from Delevan-Grider. I could lose my job because of that.

(RM) Will the meeting with the elected officials be scheduled soon?

(TM) We are trying to honor promises with the elected officials. Our interpretation, which agrees with the 3rd party opinion which also reviewed Town of Tonawanda data, is that the Town of Tonawanda samples are clean. Not including their data will introduce more error in the maps and make the extent of contamination worse.

(AB) Are people contacting elected officials with concern?

(TM) Even people with higher levels are signing permission for us to use their data.

Air Sampling

(TM) We are working to get a quote. Because the budget was over \$5,000 we have to put it out to bid. We are waiting for a 3rd bidder. ALS doesn't do the testing we are looking to do.

We will be taking 2 samples in tandem, one with the UB equipment and one with the Fredonia equipment. The Fredonia equipment collects far more air, which allows for the detection of much more dilute, lower concentration contaminants.

We will be taking 8 samples in the community and 1 at TCC.

Streamlining Permission Process

(KL) We respect the advice the CAC gave last month to switch to a 1 part permission process. We are currently also conducting a phone survey of Phase 1 participants to get a broader opinion about the change.

(AB) Try using Survey Monkey to send the surveys out via email.

Nellie Visit

(KL) Nellie and others from the Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine (COEM) visited UB/JG. We plan to invite Nellie to a CAC meeting so that she can give a presentation to the CAC about her experience at UB. We may livestream the presentation, but Nellie has to confirm that she has permission to stream. Nellie is available 7/18.

If we have the CAC meeting earlier in the evening and open Nellie's presentation to the general public people may show up early and limit the productivity of the CAC meeting.

(RM) Nellie may be more comfortable in a room with just the CAC.

(AB) The general public may not appreciate Nellie's presentation if it's not condemning and concise.

(JF) We could invite former workers from TCC.

(RM) We don't want to sully the CAC with seeming like we have a political agenda.

We will invite Nellie to the CAC on 7/18. We will tentatively change the CAC meetings to the 3rd Wednesday of the month. This was preferred by AB, JF. Meetings were originally on the 3rd Wednesday, but were changed for MT who has not been to a meeting since the change was made.

(TM) If Nellie is coming she would be part of our meeting. We would make it all one meeting pending responses from other CAC members.

(JJC) FYI, the city clerk was copied on the letter from elected officials letter, so it is public record. There is a chance the media may get a hold of it.

(AB) Waiting to disclose information makes it look worse because people start to worry about what is there.

(KL) Checking in to see if CAC members are disappointed that JG is not here. Are CAC members ok with KL/TM representing UB?

(RM) We appreciate the time and effort from KL/TM. That said, there are some questions that can't be answered without JG. Appreciates the candor between KL/TM/CAC.

(AB) Agrees that some questions can't be answered without JG, but sometimes JG makes meetings longer than they need to be.

(JJC) JG's absence puts KL/TM in a difficult position to be the go between.

(TM) I have no problem relaying information to the CAC. With this study there has been a lot of drama so I don't feel safe giving personal interpretations and taking on more of the PI role.

(JJC) We need to all pull in the same direction. We all want the same thing.

(KL) TM and I are pulling in the same direction; come join us.

(RM) The study seems to be trucking along despite bickering and delays.

(TM) We were out sampling in the snow last year. Respect the amount of time we put into this study. If you want the study to finish the meeting with JG/MM/elected officials needs to happen ASAP.

(AB) People may think that the results are really bad because it's taking so long to share the results.

(TM) JJC's sampling initiative is confusing the community. I am fielding ~10 calls/hr to respond to people who have heard words like "toxic, toxic waste, contamination". I am waiting to hear from JJC who will craft a statement to address the differences between the TCC Soil Study and JJC's initiative.

We held meetings at the beginning of the study with elected officials which were productive. The study hasn't changed since then.

(JJC) You can't control what the media prints. We need to have a group meeting so we can all get on the same page.

(TM) We are having "Talks with Tammy" meetings to clear up the confusion between JJC's initiative and TCC Soil Study. JJC needs to step up and represent the study effectively and responsibly; you can't just say that you can't control the media.

(AB) We need to delineate between JJC's initiative and the TCC Soil Study.

(RM) There is a seemingly large demand for testing the soil right now and the timing is unfortunate.

(TM) JJC needs to tone down the "toxic" language.

(RM) Is there a way to check with everyone before sending out documents?

(TM) Usually it's not a problem, usually it's just a matter of sending a friendly email, but those have gone by the wayside. I may lose my job because of the confidential information that JJC has.

(JJC) We have the data, but we aren't going to share it.

(TM) JJC taking the data was breach of confidentiality as defined by UB. At this point it is protocol that JG is copied on all emails and communication.

(RM) It seems like liberties have been taken in every direction, but things are still trying to move forward.

(TM) I feel your frustration, but my doctors say that I need to leave this job due to the stress it's putting on me.

(RM) We can't stop just because there are delays.

**Next meeting Wednesday July 18th, 2018
6pm – 3200 Elmwood, Room 210**