

Notes: CAG Development Meeting 7/17/19

Participants: EPA Representatives Larisa Romanowski and Joe Batappaglia (through EPA presentation and Q&A), CAG members/alternates David Fleming, Lani Richards, Dave Harris, Patsy Leader, Ann Shaughnessy, Dan Spilman, Andy Kahnle, Brian Wilson, Steve Everett, Erica Gundrum, Hans Hallman, Tyler Giles, Bruce Herron; also in attendance was Barbara Reina

Meeting Goals

- Achieve a “Big Picture”, common understanding of the Site history, current status, and future timeline
- Revisit and clarify membership issues
- Draft operating procedures
- Elect officers
- Plan next steps

Guidelines for Discussion

- Stay focused on purposes of the meeting
- “know thyself” – Push yourself to speak up/wrap up, whichever will serve the meeting
- Be succinct so that others may be heard
- One conversation at a time: avoid interruptions/side-bars
- Listen to understand
- If you disagree, say why
- Others?

EPA Presentation

- Joe gave a brief description of the history of the Site, the current status of work/studies taking place, and a general outline of the Superfund process/timeline.
- Tyler asked whether the PRPs are doing the sampling and if EPA knows the exact location of the samples taken from Nassau Lake; Joe responded “yes”, the PRPs are performing work under an agreement with and oversight from EPA, and shared that the sampling data is available, including both locations of samples and sampling results. He also explained that the PRPs developed a draft sampling plan which EPA provided input on before the plan was finalized and implemented with EPA oversight. EPA has also provided the Town of Nassau and UNCAGED with the opportunity to review draft sampling plans and reports.
- Erica raised a concern about a conflict of interest. She is concerned that because the PRPs select the labs which conduct the analysis, the PRPs could influence the sampling results. Joe said that the analysis of the samples is done by independent labs and that the QA/QC is reviewed and approved by EPA. The labs being used are respected, national companies.
- Erica asked about contamination in Valley Stream. Joe said that Valley Stream has been sampled and the results ranged from non-detect to very low levels of contamination; the sampling results indicate that the majority of contamination traveled into the western drainageway (Little Thunder Brook, Valatie Kill), rather than the southern drainageway (Valley Stream). He added that EPA will still include this area in its human health and ecological risk assessments to ensure there are no unacceptable risks present even though the results were low.
- Dave Fleming asked Joe to talk about the slow-down in the progress of the cleanup work in Little Thunder Brook. Joe explained that soil samples were collected following excavation work near the start of Little Thunder Brook, which revealed that contamination was encountered deeper

than anticipated in the design. Joe also explained that, based on these sampling results, additional sampling and excavation is being performed to properly delineate and address these areas. While the additional sampling and excavation work has required more time, the removal action work in Little Thunder Brook continues to be performed. Joe explained that the deeper contamination near the start of the brook is not all that surprising given its proximity to the Former Mead Road Pond where contamination was present up to 7 feet deep. Dave Fleming asked Joe what depths the PCB contamination has been encountered, which Joe responded up to 5 or 6 feet in one area.

- Someone asked what the State had done in Tributary T11A (renamed Little Thunder Brook). Joe reported the work performed under the State in 2001-2002 timeframe targeted the removal of fine-grained sediments in 2001-2002; despite this effort, the level of contamination in the brook remained high.
- Erica asked how many private wells are contaminated. Joe said approximately 27 private wells are included in the monitoring program; Of which 4 of them had levels exceeding drinking water standards and have individual treatment systems to remove contaminants.
- Tyler (?) asked what steps EPA is taking to stop PCBs from flowing downstream; Joe said sediments and soil with high PCB concentrations in Little Thunder Brook are being excavated as part of a removal action, while the investigation and study of the overall drainageway system is ongoing.; EPA will conduct a risk assessment to evaluate the risks present; Joe expects the greatest human health risk will derive from the consumption of fish, rather than stemming from the sediments/water. Tyler is concerned that the testing that was done in the past may not have gone deep enough given the deeper contamination encountered in Little Thunder Brook; Joe noted that deeper samples have been collected in Nassau Lake and that PCB concentrations were generally lower at depth .

Membership Issues

- As requested by Amanda Keenan, Liz raised the issue of a potential appearance of a conflict of interest. Amanda’s husband works for NY DEC in the Division of Environmental Remediation. He oversees cleanups and has had some prior involvement at the Site. He is not the project manager on the Site, but in the past, he conducted inspections there. He has not been to the Site in some time. Amanda would not mix her role on the CAG with her husband’s work, but wanted the group to be aware and to consider whether they considered this to be a conflict of interest for her. After a brief discussion, the group unanimously agreed that Amanda’s husband’s work does not create any conflict of issue concerns and that her participation is more than welcome. As a concerned resident, the group noted that her voice is very valuable to the CAG.

Members	Alternates	Liaisons
Town of Nassau: Lani Richards	David Fleming	Scott Bendett
Town of Schodack: Dave Harris	Dawne Kelly	Charles Peter
Town of Kinderhook: Patsy Leader	KLC representatives	EPA
Rensselaer County: Ann Shaughnessy	Rich Elder	NYDEC
UNCAGED: Anne Rabe Andy Kahnle	Kelly Travers-Main	NYDOH

Dan Spilman		
NLP/A: Brian Wilson Jim Prime		
KLC: Steve Everett Dan Langer		
Residents: Erica Gundrum Hans Hallman Vanessa Beuschel Debbie Prime Bruce Herron Tyler Giles (right?) Amanda Keenan (right?)		
Undecided: Dr. Jerry Bilinski		

Operating Procedures (see document “Draft Dewey-Loeffel CAG Mission Statement and Operating Procedures”)

Next Steps

Liz will document the draft operating procedures created at the meeting and transmit to the group.
The next meeting is scheduled for August 6, 2019 at Nassau Town Hall, from 6:30 – 8:30 pm.