

Agenda and Minutes

Ann Arbor Dioxane Community Engagement Informational Meeting

September 29, 2016

Attendees: Mitch Adelman (MDEQ Remediation and Redevelopment Division supervisor); Jenni Conn (Washtenaw County environmental analyst); Michael McClellan (MDEQ Field Operations Section–East chief); Shana Milkie (Ann Arbor resident); Matt Naud (City of Ann Arbor environmental coordinator)

Sharing of information from DEQ related to Ann Arbor Community Engagement

1. DEQ Plan - Focusing Forward

Why is DEQ doing Community Engagement?

- the five community asks on the dioxane issue: 1) stricter criterion for dioxane levels; 2) increased transparency from the state; 3) more aggressive legal action on the Gelman site; 4) increased community engagement in the cleanup and 5) a contingency plan
- this group specifically addresses ask #4 and therefore addresses the other four
- the state of Michigan has appropriated \$700,000 in Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI) funds for the Gelman site; the community engagement group will make recommendations on how to spend that (although MDEQ is not obligated to follow the group's recommendations)
- the CMI money will be available in FY2017, which starts October 1, 2016
- Bob Wagner (MDEQ Remediation and Redevelopment Division chief) charged Mitch and Michael with starting the community engagement process; Bob had previous success with a community engagement group in Bay Harbor
- Michael handed out copies of the Focusing Forward 9/6 handout.

2. Public access to group

- possible ways to make group accessible to public:
 - agendas and minutes posted to DEQ website (yes)
 - meeting notices posted to DEQ website (to be determined)
 - meetings open to public (no, at least for now)
 - brief public comment period at end of each meeting (no, at least for now)
 - regular, perhaps quarterly, public presentations on progress of group (We all agreed this would be a good idea, and will explore that possibility with the input of the facilitator.)

Dan Hamel (MDEQ project manager for the Gelman site) and Michael McClellan, with assistance from MDEQ IT personnel, will post the information from the 9/6/16 and 9/29/16 meetings on the current Gelman web page. The template for the web page redesign has a section for “Community Engagement and Outreach” which is the logical spot for future postings.

Reasons for holding non-public meetings include 1) Closed meetings may mean Gelman/Pall/Danaher more likely to participate and 2) creating space so people feel safe to share diverse ideas. Since the meetings are not open to the public, it’s particularly important to provide other means of access to the group’s work, such as periodic public presentations. Additionally, the larger community will be able to provide input and have influence through their community representatives.

3. Bid Process

- Jerry Jennings was chosen by MDEQ (after seeking competitive bids) for the short-term process to create the Focusing Forward Plan and begin the community engagement planning meetings
- MDEQ is currently embarked on a longer-term process to secure the long-term facilitator using the “Bid for Michigan” procedure; Jerry Jennings is among those submitting a bid
- Michael handed out copies of the Request for Proposals for the long-term facilitator role
- The group asked if there will be opportunity for the planning committee to review the bids/be involved in selection of facilitator? Michael needs to check with management and report back to the planning committee. Concept is team weighs in with preferences, but not be decision-makers.

4. Next Steps:

- Hire long-term facilitator
- Next meeting will be in November, so cancel the October 13 meeting.
- Divide 24 spots on larger community engagement group into logical categories, such as citizens, elected officials, technical experts, etc.

5. Questions or comments from the planning team members (to be resolved in future meetings):

- Planning team will need to develop and follow its own ground rules
- How to select who would be invited to apply
- If really looking for new voices how will we know who to invite? Broad public invitation along with people specifically identified by planning team?
- Planning team members sit in on interviews with facilitator?

- Does everybody who applies get an interview?
- Ensure that CARD's voice be part of larger community engagement group, especially recognizing CARD members with technical expertise
- Important for all members of larger community engagement group to agree to work cooperatively and constructively towards reaching group goals

Minutes jointly prepared by Mitch Adelman, Michael McClellan and Shana Milkie.