

**Community Advisory Group (CAG)
for the
Omaha Lead Site**

Minutes for Meeting Held
Wednesday, February 9, 2005, 9:30 a.m.
Salem Baptist Church
3131 Lake Street

OLS CAG Members Present:

Janet Bohm—*Citizen at Large*

Sue Casteel—*ATSDR*

Tanya Cook—*Governor's Omaha Advisory Council for Lead Safe Neighborhoods*

Todd Davis—*Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality*

Jonah Deppe—*League of Women Voters*

Connie Determan—*MFG, Inc.*

Bob Feild—*Environmental Protection Agency*

Marilyn McGary—*Urban League of Nebraska*

Joe Gudenrath—*City of Omaha Mayor's Office*

Jeff McDermott—*Union Pacific Railroad*

Adi Pour—*Douglas County Health Department*

Shireen Rajaram—*University of Nebraska, Omaha*

Chris Rodgers—*Douglas County Board of Commissioners*

Marian Todd—*City of Omaha Planning Department*

Vernon Waldren—*University Extension*

Cammy Watkins—*Sierra Club*

Tommie Wilson—*NAACP*

Warren Weaver (proxy for Councilmen Gernandt and Brown)—*City of Omaha*

Cheryl Weston—*Lead Safe Omaha Coalition*

Others Present:

Joel Christensen—*MUD*

Felisa Dillon—*ASW*

Sonny Foster—*Senator Ben Nelson's Office*

Nancy Gaarder—*Omaha World-Herald*

Debbie Kring—*Environmental Protection Agency*

Stacy Meacham—*MFG, Inc.*

Claudia Preddy—*Marc Enviro Services*

Jennifer Rawley—*MFG, Inc.*

Dr. Everett Reynolds—*NAACP*

Steve Sanders—*Environmental Protection Agency*

Introductions were made.

1. Discussion on Minutes from the January 12, 2005 Meeting

Ms. Council asked for any changes or additions to the minutes from the January 12, 2005 CAG meeting.

Ms. Weston, referring to the second paragraph on page 5, stated that she would like clarification as to if Mr. Howe would prefer the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) or the contractors (ECC and HGL) serve as the main contact for the project. Ms. Weston stated that she was not requesting a change to the minutes; rather she would like clarification from Mr. Howe. Ms. Council stated that clarification would be sought and she would report back on the matter at the next CAG meeting.

Mr. Davis stated that in the third paragraph on page 5, "October 1" should be "October 21." Mr. Feild stated that in the fifth paragraph on page 2, "December 16" should be "December 15." Mr. Waldren moved to approve the minutes with the changes from Mr. Davis and Mr. Feild. Mr. Weaver seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed (12-0).

2. EPA Update

Mr. Feild provided a handout summarizing EPA soil removal activities. Mr. Feild stated that copies of the Special Notice letters were distributed to the CAG. Mr. Feild explained that the letters were sent to parties deemed responsible. Mr. Feild stated that EPA is looking for the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) to reimburse EPA for past costs and future remediation costs. Mr. Feild stated that if the PRPs provide a good faith offer in 60 days, there would be another 60 days of negotiations. Mr. Feild stated that, in the meantime, EPA could not spend money on implementing the Interim Record of Decision (ROD). Mr. Feild stated that EPA would continue to perform soil removals under EPA's emergency response authority.

Ms. Deppe asked if Mr. Feild had the soil removal information broken down by zip code. Mr. Feild stated that he would provide the CAG with the information by zip code.

Mr. Feild stated that the two contractors for the USACE, ECC and HGL, are moving forward.

Mr. Feild stated that EPA Targeted Grant proposals were due at the end of January. Mr. Feild reported that EPA Region 7 received 18 or 19 proposals. The Region will review and rank the proposals. A certain number of the proposals will be submitted to EPA Headquarters, where it will be decided which proposals are accepted. Applications will then need to be prepared for each accepted proposal. Mr. Feild estimated that the grants would be awarded sometime in June or July. Ms. Council asked how many proposals for the grant for projects within the Omaha Lead Site had been submitted. Mr. Feild stated that he did not know.

Ms. Kring stated that she had brought copies of a fact sheet focusing on the Interim Record of Decision to the meeting. Ms. Kring stated that the fact sheet would be mailed to Omaha citizens on February 10, 2005. Ms. Kring stated that there are approximately 7,000 individuals on EPA's mailing list.

Ms. Council asked if there is a way to obtain additional addresses and suggested consulting the Polk Directory, which contains every address in the City of Omaha.

3. NDEQ Update

Mr. Davis provided an update on NDEQ activities. Mr. Davis stated that NDEQ is waiting during negotiations. Ms. Council asked if NDEQ is still researching State lead funding activities. Mr. Davis stated that the NDEQ has finished their search. Ms. Council asked if NDEQ is communicating with EPA about a cooperative agreement. Ms. Council asked if such discussions typically occur now or after the moratorium. Mr. Feild stated that the discussion with NDEQ regarding their cost share would occur before the moratorium is over. Dr. Pour asked if such discussions with NDEQ have begun. Mr. Feild stated that preliminary discussions have occurred. Dr. Pour asked if nonprofit activities could go toward the cost share. Mr. Feild replied that any direct, out-of-pocket State expenses could count toward the cost share.

4. Social Norms

Ms. Council stated discussion had occurred at the January CAG meeting regarding social norms. Ms. Council stated that Mr. Jeff Linkenbach had presented on social norms in Leadville, Colorado. Ms. Council stated that articles regarding the social norms approach were provided and asked if the CAG would be interested in inviting Mr. Linkenbach to present at a CAG meeting.

Dr. Pour stated that the social norms approach is a positive approach, which could improve community participation. Dr. Pour asked if someone local could speak about social norms.

Dr. Reynolds motioned to invite Mr. Linkenbach to present to the CAG if a local expert cannot be identified. Mr. Rodgers seconded the motion. The motion passed (14-0-1). Ms. Weston abstained from voting.

5. H.R. 433 and H.R. 434

Ms. Council stated that Congressman Terry had introduced two bills dealing with lead. Ms. Watkins read a description of the bills. Ms. Council stated that copies of the bill would be sent in the next CAG package. Dr. Pour asked what EPA's Science and Technology Group does. Mr. Feild stated that the Science and Technology Group supports research and technology, such as the phosphate study, rather than cleanup. Ms. Weston motioned to invite representatives from Congressman Terry, Senator Nelson, and

Senator Hagel's offices to attend the next CAG meeting to discuss the bills. Mr. Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

Ms. Deppe stated that the CAG should also watch what happens with HUD funding. Ms. Council asked Mr. Foster to discuss the issue of community development funds at the next CAG meeting. Mr. Foster replied that he would discuss the issue at the next CAG meeting.

6. Vendor Spreadsheet

Ms. Weston stated that a spreadsheet with local vendors had been distributed, but was incomplete. Ms. Weston stated that she would re-email the full spreadsheet to be distributed to the CAG.

7. Contracting Subcommittee

Ms. Meacham provided an update on the Contracting Subcommittee. Ms. Meacham stated that the Subcommittee had discussed the status of the two contracts with the USACE. Ms. Meacham stated that the Subcommittee also discussed training issues.

Ms. Weston stated that 23 individuals were 40-hour certified through training provided by EPA. Ms. Weston stated that the Lead Safe Omaha Coalition provided the trainees with the two contractors' contact information. Ms. Council stated that the Subcommittee discussed whether or not the trainees' contact information is public information, suggesting that EPA provide a list of the trainees to provide to the contractors and subcontractors interested in hiring local, trained individuals. Mr. Foster stated that the contractors should have the responsibility to find local individuals. Mr. Foster stated that by not providing the contractor with the contact information, it allows the contractor to say that they could not find local individuals. Mr. Foster stated that Ms. Weston should not be put in a position to serve as a scapegoat for the contractors.

Ms. Dillon stated that ASW, one of ECC's subcontractors, wants to hire at least 75% local workers and is looking for ways to contact interested individuals.

Ms. Bohm asked if the trainees signed an application that could be provided to the contractors. Ms. Weston stated that the trainees were provided with the contractors' contact information. Ms. Bohm asked if ASW has received any calls from interested, trained individuals. Ms. Dillon stated that ASW has not received any calls.

Ms. Preddy stated that some local engineering firms were absent from the local vendor spreadsheet. Ms. Council asked Ms. Preddy to speak with Ms. Weston about additions to the spreadsheet. Ms. Preddy stated that some of the businesses listed are not locally based, but hire local individuals. Ms. Weston stated that businesses that either have a local office or hire local individuals were listed.

Mr. Feild stated that if EPA has to lead future work, he would like the Contracting Subcommittee to help EPA structure the contracting approach in order to increase local contractor participation. Mr. Feild stated that EPA would create separate contracts for exterior paint, interior cleaning, and excavation. Mr. Feild stated that many groups would assist with health education. Mr. Feild stated that EPA can provide funding to groups providing education, and stated that it would be best to fund one entity that could distribute funding to the small agencies and community-based organizations.

8. Education Subcommittee

Mr. Waldren provided an update on the Education Subcommittee. Mr. Waldren stated that the Education Subcommittee continues to work on an education plan. Mr. Waldren stated the Subcommittee is identifying current educational materials and would like to decide on one set of materials to be used within the community. Mr. Waldren stated that the briefing binder for new CAG members would be discussed at the next Subcommittee meeting. Mr. Waldren stated that the Subcommittee would like to involve as many people as possible and will be meeting Tuesday, February 15, 2005 at 1:30 p.m.

Ms. Weston asked why the Education Subcommittee has created a briefing binder that only a few individuals would read. Ms. Council stated that the idea was to boil down all of the information the CAG has received over the last year into one notebook to provide to new and replacement CAG members. Ms. Weston stated that most people would not read the binder and suggested reducing the binder to synopses of documents. Ms. Council stated that the binder would be discussed at the Education Subcommittee meeting and that anyone interested is invited to attend.

Ms. Casteel stated that the Douglas County Health Department has been working with ATSDR through a separate grant. Ms. Casteel stated that the Douglas County Health Department and ATSDR are active members on the Education Subcommittee and are focusing on working together.

Ms. Deppe stated that individuals have asked her for one or two page summaries of handouts. Ms. Deppe stated that some individuals have been confused by the information disseminated and would like more concise information. Ms. Council stated that creating summaries of all documents would only create additional handouts. Ms. Council stated that if individuals have questions or are feeling confused, they can contact the CAG via the website.

Dr. Reynolds stated that some people like to read and want detailed information, while others do not. Dr. Reynolds stated that it should be up to the CAG or a subcommittee to decide what information is needed. Dr. Reynolds stated that it is an endless debate.

Ms. Council asked that education subcommittee discuss the issue.

9. Comprehensive Plan Subcommittee

Ms. Deppe announced that the Comprehensive Plan Subcommittee would meet at 10:30 a.m. on February 15, 2005.

10. Grants

Ms. Deppe stated that a grant committee is needed to identify applicable grants and to determine who should apply for grants. Ms. Kring stated that EPA has a grant matrix. Ms. Deppe stated that other grants might also be applicable. Ms. Council suggested that the Comprehensive Plan Subcommittee address grants. Dr. Rajaram agreed that the Comprehensive Plan Subcommittee should address grants.

11. Next Meeting

Ms. Council asked if ATSDR wants to be listed on the agenda for the next CAG meeting. Ms. Casteel stated that ATSDR would like to give a 20-minute presentation.

Ms. Council announced that she intends to invite Headstart and Educare to the CAG, as well as a daycare association.

Ms. Council stated that the next CAG meeting would be held March 9, 2005. The location is to be announced.

Handouts Provided for the Meeting (February 9, 2005):

Draft Minutes from 01/12/05 (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Approved Minutes from 12/08/04 (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Lead Safe Work Practices Training Course (Provided by Douglas County Health Department)

Special Notice Letters (Provided by EPA)

EPA Launches New Spanish Web Site (Provided by EPA)

WASA Breached Law, EPA Says (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

14 Groups Given Grants by Alegent (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

'Living the Dream' 2005 Awards (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

University of Nebraska Extension in Douglas/Sarpy Counties Grant Proposal (Provided by Mr. Vernon Waldren)

OneWorld Community Health Centers Grant Proposal (Provided by Ms. Jonah Deppe)

Education Subcommittee Meeting Minutes from January 18, 2005

Social Norms Articles (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

White House, Congress to Battle Again Over Domestic Programs (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Technical Assistance Seminar – Program Evaluation (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Hispanic Stakeholders Forum and Training Sessions (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Elevated Blood Lead Levels in Refugee Children (Provided by Dr. Shireen Rajaram)

CPSC Announces New Policy Addressing Lead in Children’s Metal Jewelry (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Fact Sheet: EPA Issues Interim Record of Decision (Provided by EPA)

Fight Lead Poisoning with a Healthy Diet (Provided by EPA)

EPA Update (Provided by EPA)

Attachments to Minutes:

Sign-In Sheet (hardcopy to be delivered)