

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

Minutes for Meeting Held
Wednesday, May 11, 2005, 9:30 a.m.
Salem Baptist Church
3131 Lake Street

OLS CAG Members Present:

Janet Bohm—*Citizen at Large*
Sue Casteel—*ATSDR*
Brenda Council—*Facilitator*
Todd Davis—*Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality*
Jonah Deppe—*League of Women Voters*
Bob Feild—*Environmental Protection Agency*
Nick Flattery—*OneWorld Community Health Centers*
Joe Gudenrath—*City of Omaha Mayor's Office*
Clifton Jones—*U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development*
Jeff McDermott—*Union Pacific Railroad*
Dr. Shireen Rajaram—*University of Nebraska, Omaha*
Reid Steinkraus (proxy for Dr. Adi Pour)—*Douglas County Health Department*
Marian Todd—*City of Omaha Planning Department*
Vernon Waldren—*Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office*
Warren Weaver (proxy for Councilmen Gernandt and Brown)—*City of Omaha*
Cheryl Weston—*Lead Safe Omaha Coalition*

Others Present:

Joel Christensen—*Metropolitan Utilities District*
Lelia Coyne—*Citizen*
Karen Davis—*Congressman Terry's Office*
Felisa Dillon—*ASW*
Monica Espinesa—*Environmental Protection Agency*
Nancy Gaarder—*Omaha World-Herald*
Andri Jovan—*Environmental Protection Agency*
Amy Morrison—*Lake County Community Health Program*
Anna Odipo-Nyambok—*Monroe-Meyer Institute*
Claudia Preddy—*Marc Enviro Services*
Kerry D. Queen—*Citizen*
Jennifer Rawley—*MFG, Inc.*

1. Discussion of Minutes from the April 6, 2005 Meeting

Ms. Council asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes from the April 6, 2005 meeting. Mr. Waldren motioned to approve the minutes with corrections to the attendance list and corrected typographical errors. Ms. Weston seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (9-0).

2. EPA Update

Mr. Feild provided an update on EPA activities. Mr. Feild stated that a FOIA was submitted on behalf of the CAG for the work plans of contractors performing excavations, including ECC, HGL, and ER. Mr. Feild provided redacted copies of ECC and HGL's work plans to Ms. Council for distribution to the CAG. Mr. Feild stated EPA is still processing ER's work plans. Mr. Feild stated that because certain information in the plan is confidential, the plans must be reviewed and approved for release by EPA's regional counsel and FOIA staff.

Mr. Feild stated that EPA technically does not have any way to require ECC and HGL to provide the percentages of local workers hired; however, ECC and HGL voluntarily provided the information to EPA. ECC currently has 14 staff (78%) from the Omaha Lead Site focus area. HGL currently has 38 personnel (73%) from the focus area. Mr. Feild stated that it is EPA's assessment that incentives are successful in encouraging local hiring. Mr. Feild stated that he does not yet have the numbers for ER.

Mr. Feild reported that discussions are continuing with the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs). Mr. Feild stated that EPA plans to continue leading remediation efforts this year and expects to hire two excavation contractors, an exterior lead-based paint contractor, and an interior dust contractor. Mr. Feild added that dust and paint would only be addressed where soil removals are performed.

Ms. Weston asked how EPA would determine which houses would be remediated for lead-based paint. Mr. Feild stated that the determination has not been made at this time, but would most likely involve using an XRF to determine the lead content of flaking paint. Mr. Feild stated that EPA would only address paint that threatens EPA's remedy, stating that deteriorating paint may remain, if it is not a threat. Mr. Feild added that EPA is currently researching different stabilization methods.

Ms. Bohm asked if ECC and HGL would be performing lead-based paint stabilization. Mr. Feild stated that paint is not being addressed under ECC and HGL's contracts. Mr. Feild stated that EPA would have to return to those properties to assess paint conditions under future contracts.

Mr. Feild provided an update sheet with removal status information. Mr. Feild stated that EPA is continuing sampling efforts and will be replacing significantly more yards this year than last.

Mr. Feild stated that at the last CAG meeting, a question arose about yard lead concentrations within each zip code. Mr. Feild stated that EPA developed a new map to show this information. Mr. Feild distributed six copies of the map. Mr. Feild stated that EPA could not release information about properties below EPA's decision level; therefore, the map only depicts properties with 800 ppm lead or above.

Mr. Feild stated that EPA would be sampling parks, although this is not indicated on the map. Ms. Weston stated that she believed parks had already been sampled. Ms. Council stated that the question of whether parks have been sampled had been asked last year, and the CAG was told parks had been sampled. Ms. Bohm expressed concern that, because she believed the parks had been sampled and remediated, she had frequently been taking her daughter to a neighborhood park. Ms. Bohm stated that sampling and remediation of parks should be a priority. Mr. Feild stated that EPA is prioritizing parks and developing a sampling strategy.

Mr. Feild stated that he observed the property Ms. Council spoke about at the last CAG meeting. Mr. Feild stated that he was satisfied that the workers were taking appropriate precautions. Mr. Feild stated that the site was controlled. Mr. Feild stated that he did observe an exterior lead-based paint concern, but stated that exterior lead-based paint cannot be addressed at this time.

Dr. Rajaram asked how EPA is proceeding with sampling. Mr. Feild stated that EPA is trying to complete sampling within the focus area and will then assess that data to predict where a boundary of contamination could be. Mr. Feild stated that determining a contamination boundary would be an iterative process.

Ms. Council asked how EPA is determining the source of lead in soil at each property, given that EPA has stated that the Omaha Lead Site is defined as any property contaminated with lead from industrial processes. Mr. Feild stated that properties are assumed to have been impacted by industrial processes based on the apportionment study, which found that at least 38% of lead in soil was associated with pyrometallurgical sources. Mr. Feild stated that EPA would be performing additional apportionment work to better assess the source of lead in outer-lying areas and additional apportionment work inside homes to determine if interior dust is associated with outdoor sources. Ms. Council stated that if at least 38% of the lead is from industrial processes, then up to 62% is from other sources. Mr. Feild stated that at least 38% is from industrial process, and could be much more.

Ms. Weston stated that additional HAZWOPER training is taking place. Ms. Weston stated that the Lead Safe Omaha Coalition is training 15 individuals, and ASW is training 21 individuals.

Ms. Council stated that ATSDR's public health assessment for the Omaha Lead Site is available. Ms. Casteel stated that if anyone had questions about the report, they could call her at (913) 551-1312. Dr. Rajaram requested that a link to the report be added to the CAG's website. Ms. Council stated that a link would be added.

Ms. Council stated that an article about the public health assessment had appeared in the paper the previous day. Ms. Council asked Ms. Casteel how ATSDR estimated the reported number of 1,600 children with elevated blood lead levels. Ms. Casteel stated that 484 tested children had elevated blood lead levels, and 30% of children were screened. Ms. Casteel stated that this information was used to extrapolate that as many as 1,600 children may have had elevated blood lead levels.

Ms. Council stated that the estimation was based on data through 2003 and did not take into account that the number of children screened has increased and the percent of children with elevated blood lead levels has declined since 2003. Mr. Steinkraus stated that Ms. Council was correct. Ms. Casteel stated that ATSDR would recalculate the projection using current data. Ms. Council stated that the estimate was released without assurances that it is accurate and without using current data. Mr. Steinkraus stated that it is unclear if that data used was for three of four years (from 2000 to 2003) and if the data was cumulative. Ms. Casteel stated that the data was cumulative for the entire time period. Dr. Rajaram asked if the same children could have been tested each year. Mr. Steinkraus stated that it was possible that some children were tested more than once. Ms. Casteel stated that the estimate would be recalculated with current data.

Ms. Odipo-Nyambok described a one-year study she just completed. Ms. Odipo-Nyambok stated that the study included collecting blood lead data in 11 zip codes. Dr. Rajaram requested a copy of the study for the CAG. Ms. Odipo-Nyambok stated that the study has not yet been published and still belongs to UNMC.

Mr. Davis asked if the CAG should form a data or technical review subcommittee. CAG members did not express interest in a subcommittee.

Mr. Steinkraus stated that he and Dr. Pour had reviewed the public health assessment and could not make sense of the 1,600 children estimate. Mr. Steinkraus stated that he and Dr. Pour were very concerned with the report. Ms. Weston asked what the point of the estimate was. Mr. Steinkraus stated that he was also unsure why the estimate was made.

3. NDEQ Update

Mr. Davis provided an update on Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) activities. Mr. Davis stated that NDEQ requested records from EPA pertaining to four sites potentially related to the Omaha Lead Site. Mr. Davis stated that NDEQ is still in negotiations with EPA regarding the State's contract with EPA. Mr. Davis stated that he would be meeting with the Nebraska Environmental Trust to discuss how the EPA cleanup is progressing.

4. City Grant Update

Ms. Todd stated that the grant proposal for the City is currently being drafted. Ms. Todd thanked the Douglas County Health Department for suggesting using CAG time as leverage. Ms. Todd stated that Ms. Deppe has drafted a letter for CAG members to consider, as included in the CAG packages. Ms. Todd provided a revised summary for the grant program. Ms. Todd stated that the City is looking for established relationships with other groups in the community. Ms. Todd stated that the CAG's support is very important.

Ms. Todd reported that, in terms of match, the City would be providing some dollars, the Douglas County Health Department would provide in-kind dollars, the University Extension would probably provide in-kind dollars, and the CAG may provide in-kind dollars. Ms. Todd stated that she has requested private donations from PRPs. Ms. Todd reported that ASARCO stated that they do not have any money, she was unable to reach Gould, and Union Pacific is reviewing the request. Ms. Todd stated that a bank has offered \$5,000 seed money and may be able to provide for a low interest loan program for homeowners who do not qualify for grant assistance.

Mr. Jones stated that during the SuperNOFA period, HUD could only encourage parties to apply for the grants. Mr. Jones stated that support letters and working with other organizations is important. Mr. Jones stated that a letter from the CAG would do a lot for the City. Ms. Council stated that comments on the draft support letter from the CAG should be forwarded to herself or Ms. Rawley.

Mr. Waldren motioned to submit the support letter to the City with input provided no later than Wednesday, May 18, 2005 from CAG members to finalize the letter. Ms. Deppe seconded the motion.

Ms. Weston asked if the City would be using a limited number of contractors, as in the past. Ms. Todd stated that capacity building is included in the grant application. Ms. Todd stated that the contractor pool would be open for applications for bids.

Mr. Feild suggested that for leveraging purposes, EPA could provide a letter stating that EPA would be providing interior cleaning. Mr. Jones stated that EPA's work would need to be differentiated from the City's work, so that EPA's work would not count against the City.

Dr. Rajaram suggested contacting other companies and individuals in Omaha for matching funds. Ms. Council stated that Our Healthy Community Partnership would be an excellent group to contact.

Ms. Deppe suggested asking hospitals to provide screening as part of their community service requirement.

Mr. Waldren's motion was approved, with Ms. Todd abstaining (9-0-1).

5. Education Subcommittee Update

Mr. Waldren provided an update on the Education Subcommittee. Mr. Waldren stated that he appreciated the maps provided by EPA at the Education Subcommittee meeting. Mr. Waldren stated that the Douglas County Health Department's outreach program is underway. Mr. Waldren stated that the University Extension CD-ROMs were available. Mr. Waldren stated that the Education Subcommittee is continuing to look for a home to use for demonstrations.

Mr. Jones stated that HUD had the opportunity to report on a success story and decided to feature the Extension's CD-ROM. Mr. Jones stated that Ms. Council was asked to comment on the disk. Mr. Jones stated that the story should be on HUD's website in the near future.

6. Comprehensive Plan Subcommittee Update

Ms. Deppe stated that Mr. Kevin Denker from the City would be attending the upcoming Comprehensive Plan meeting to discuss housing codes and how the codes relate to lead-based paint issues.

7. Update on NICE Award Luncheon

Ms. Council stated that she had the opportunity to represent the CAG at the award luncheon and was proud to accept the NICE Environmental Excellence Award on behalf of the CAG.

Ms. Council stated that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday, June 8, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. The location is to be announced.

Handouts Provided for the Meeting (May 11, 2005):

Draft Letter of Commitment for City of Omaha Lead-based Paint Hazard Control Grant Application (Provided by Ms. Jonah Deppe and Ms. Marian Todd)

City of Omaha Planning Department Lead-based Paint Hazard Control Grant Program Application to HUD, Summary (Provided by Ms. Marian Todd)

Information Regarding Health Concerns Survey (Provided by Dr. Adi Pour)

Letter from Senator Nelson Regarding CDBG Funds

Letter from Senator Hagel Regarding CDBG Funds

Community Action for a Renewed Environment (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Garden Hose Caution (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Agencies Share IDs of Homes with Lead (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Pitt Poisoning Prompts Warning (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Education Subcommittee Summary Notes from April 7, 2005

Comprehensive Plan Summary Notes from April 7, 2005

Kids Run Better Lead Free (CD-ROM) (Provided by Mr. Vernon Waldren)

EPA Update, May 10, 2005

Attachments to Minutes:

Sign-In Sheet (hardcopy to be delivered)