

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

Minutes for Meeting Held
Wednesday, June 14, 2006, 9:30 a.m.
Omaha Police Department Southeast Precinct
2475 Deer Park Blvd
Omaha, NE 68105

OLS CAG Members Present:

Edna Brooks Pittman (Designee for Tommie Wilson)—*NAACP*
Sue Casteel—*Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry*
Brenda Council—*Facilitator*
Todd Davis—*Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality*
Bob Feild—*Environmental Protection Agency*
Ayesha Graves—*Mayor Fahey's Office*
Dr. Adi Pour—*Douglas County Health Department*
Chris Rodgers—*Douglas County Board of Commissioners*
Marian Todd—*City of Omaha Planning Department*
Rebecca Valdez—*Chicano Awareness Center*
Vernon Waldren—*Douglas/Sarpy County Extension*
Cammy Watkins—*Sierra Club*
Cheryl Weston—*Lead Safe Omaha Coalition*

Others Present:

George Barsom—*Citizen*
Joe Bateman—*Union Pacific Railroad*
Floyd Brown—*Citizen*
Kris Carter—*Lead Safe Omaha Coalition*
Mary Castaneda—*EPA Information Offices*
Lelia Coyne—*Citizen*
Connie Determan—*MFG, Inc.*
Felisa Dillon—*ASW*
Mike Felix—*Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality*
Dan Garvey—*Environmental Protection Agency*
Jennifer Gates—*MFG, Inc.*
Kathy Leinenkugel—*Douglas County Health Department*
Stacy Meacham—*MFG, Inc.*
Lyndsy Mlady Jenness—*State Senator Hagel's Office*
Steve Sanders—*Environmental Protection Agency*

Ms. Council announced that she would be leaving the meeting at 10:45 a.m. and Ms. Determan would facilitate the remainder of the meeting in her absence.

1. Discussion on Minutes from the March May 10, 2006 Meeting

Ms. Council asked for any corrections or additions to the May 10th CAG meeting minutes. Mr. Feild stated that in the fourth paragraph on page four, "Mr. Feild stated that he needs to be more prepared next time" should read, "Mr. Feild will prepare for CAG meetings in the future with the expectation that information shared will be made public." Ms. Brooks Pittman motioned to approve the minutes with the above change. Ms. Weston seconded the motion. The minimum number of votes required to pass a motion was not met, so the motion did not carry.

2. EPA Update

Mr. Feild reported that EPA is continuing to develop criteria for the amount of deteriorating lead-based paint present on a home that presents a threat to EPA's soil replacement. Mr. Feild stated that the criteria are not developed to a point that can be shared, but he is hopeful the criteria will be defined enough to share at the next meeting. Mr. Feild stated that there have been some miscommunications between the residents and the excavation contractors. Mr. Feild stated that EPA is preparing to develop criteria to allow the contractors to be more educated on the paint stabilization qualification process in order to properly convey the information to inquisitive residents.

Mr. Feild stated that EPA has completed sampling of all 43 small parks. Mr. Feild stated that the quality assurance data is not yet available, but will hopefully be available for the CAG by the next meeting. Mr. Feild reported that a statistically based sampling plan is currently being worked on, and it is anticipated that the preliminary sampling will begin next week. The preliminary sampling will be done in order to test the extent of and uniformity of contamination. Mr. Feild stated that he would share the sampling plan with the CAG when it becomes available.

Mr. Feild provided a list of the number of properties excavated to date.

Mr. Feild stated that health and safety work plans are being developed for all contractors. Mr. Feild noted that he was aware that the CAG had an interest in obtaining copies of these plans and will routinely provide these for the CAG as the plans are submitted.

Mr. Feild announced that a performance-based contract had been awarded to ASW for 425 properties in South Omaha. Mr. Feild stated that the full amount of the contract, with incentives, is \$5,656,219.76.

Mr. Feild gave a summary of the current status of the excavations. Mr. Feild stated that there are two contractors currently in the field. ECC is working under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers contract in North Omaha. Mr. Feild stated that 84 properties, left unfinished from last year, were completed, and a new contract to excavate additional properties is underway. Mr. Feild stated that 59 properties have been excavated by ASW in South Omaha this year.

Mr. Feild said that EPA is planning to excavate 1,000 more properties this season and total of 4,500 properties by 2008.

Mr. Feild stated that the Time and Materials contract with EMR has wound down, and EPA is looking to replace EMR with a new contractor to perform specialized work. Ms. Weston asked if EPA has a replacement contractor in mind.

Mr. Feild stated that EPA is interested in PRI. Mr. Feild stated that the EPA is looking to amend their interagency agreement, to access a task order contract. Ms. Weston requested that Mr. Feild clarify to the CAG if the contract will be handled as a task order.

Ms. Weston asked what the excavation crew's involvement is in the paint assessment. Mr. Feild stated that the residents were asking the contractors questions about the paint assessment and that the crews were making inaccurate statements regarding when paint stabilization will occur.

Mr. Feild stated that EPA had tasked Black and Veatch for 2,700 properties. Ms. Weston asked how many of those properties had now been completed. Mr. Feild stated that Black and Veatch had completed about 600 properties.

Ms. Weston asked why the protocol for sampling the large parks is delayed in timing. Mr. Feild stated that, typically, small parks (less than 6.5 acres) are divided into quarter-acre sections and then sampled. Mr. Field stated that this process would not be cost effective for the larger parks, so EPA tasked a statistician to develop a statistically valid plan to collect a manageable number of samples. Ms. Weston asked if this has been done before and if a previously designed plan exists to handle large parks. Mr. Feild stated that large park sampling has not been done in Omaha before and that EPA develops site-specific plans under such conditions.

Ms. Weston asked what the procedure was for providing property owners with the results of paint assessments. Mr. Feild stated that once the criteria are developed, letters will be sent out as soon as possible with an anticipated schedule. Mr. Feild stated that it is hoped that the paint stabilizations will be able to get out ahead of the excavation crew this summer so that the paint stabilization will occur before the soil gets excavated. Mr. Feild stated that EPA would be working with the City to schedule paint stabilization.

Ms. Weston asked what the status was on dust sampling. Mr. Feild stated that at this time, EPA's priority is paint stabilization. Mr. Feild stated that EPA will work with the City to organize the interior dust sampling after paint stabilization is underway. Ms. Weston asked if the property owner would need to be contacted again for dust sampling access agreements. Mr. Feild stated that property owners will be re-contacted to provide access for dust sampling. Ms. Weston asked if it was possible to combine these access agreements so that the property owners are not repeatedly contacted. Ms. Council stated that when residents that were approached last summer are approached again to sign another access agreement, they become confused about what they signed last time and how it differs this time. Ms. Council asked if it was possible to have property owners

sign agreements for both dust and paint at the same time. Ms. Todd added that an additional access agreement must be signed to authorize paint stabilization. Mr. Feild stated that EPA hopes to streamline the process in two years.

Ms. Brooks Pittman asked for an explanation of what is meant when the term “specialized properties” is used. Mr. Feild stated that when a contract is awarded, the contractor is given a list of 425 properties, and it is up to the contractor’s discretion to organize the order in which they will be excavated. In order to get high priority properties excavated as quickly as possible, it is necessary to keep high priority properties off of the performance-based contract list. Mr. Feild stated that a time and materials contract allows daycare or properties where a child with an elevated blood lead level resides to move to the top of the list to be excavated as soon as possible.

Mr. Davis asked for a status update on EPA’s information centers. Ms. Castaneda stated that she has been receiving positive feedback. Ms. Castaneda stated that she has had many Spanish-speaking individuals call to clarify details of the lead removal process. Ms. Castaneda stated that the center is continually growing. Ms. Dillon stated that they have received many walk-ins at the North Omaha information office. They have received many calls regarding a variety of things, including excavation, damage complaints, and other concerns. Dr. Pour asked if they had considered keeping a database with 5-6 categories to track public concern. Ms. Dillon stated that such a database is already in place. Dr. Pour asked if the information gathered in the database could be shared at the next meeting.

Ms. Weston asked what percent of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ is contract administrative. Mr. Feild stated that he would share the percentage at the next CAG meeting.

3. OHKA Update

Mr. Bateman provided an update on the Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance (OHKA). Mr. Bateman stated that everything is moving along fine, and office space has been secured at the neighborhood resource center owned by the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Mr. Bateman stated that OHKA is working with EPA and the State on the state cost share distribution. Mr. Bateman stated that a preliminary budget is being put together to file with the IRS to get the 501(c)(3) status. Mr. Bateman stated that the next OHKA board meeting is scheduled for June 27, 2006. Mr. Feild asked if the executive director had been publicly announced. Mr. Bateman stated that OHKA is waiting to announce the executive director when she arrives in Omaha. Mr. Bateman stated that OHKA will provide her resume at the next CAG meeting.

4. City HUD Grant Update

Ms. Todd stated that the City will complete four to five homes this month. Ms. Todd stated that there are several homes that are considered large homes with extensive lead throughout, and the cost exceeds standard costs. Ms. Todd stated that they are continuing

to accept and receive referrals. Mr. Bateman asked what defines a large home. Ms. Todd stated these homes have lots of windows with extensive use with lead-based paint, and must go through a City council approval process, which slows the process down.

5. NDEQ Update

Mr. Felix stated that NDEQ met with the OHKA, EPA, and the CAG Education Committee to discuss the need for more extensive education. Mr. Felix stated that, currently, the Interim Record of Decision provides little money for health education, but an amendment to the ROD is being discussed to increase the amount.

Mr. Waldren stated that Lt. Governor Sheehy hosted the meeting and discussed the critical nature of increase any money for education. Mr. Waldren stated that NDEQ had put together a list of questions and Dr. Pour, Ms. Council, and Ms. Determan met to answer these questions. Mr. Waldren stated that an emphasis needs to be placed on education at the OLS.

Ms. Council said that the CAG requested that \$1.2 million be used as the educational part of the ROD, which coincides with the ten percent required state cost share. Ms. Council stated that in order to pursue adopting the CAG's program, an increase in the amount budgeted in the interim ROD is needed. Ms. Council stated that there are three ways to accomplish an increase in the amount budgeted for education, which are currently being analyzed. Ms. Council stated that during the public comment period of the interim ROD, the CAG did not indicate a need for increased education spending, but during the last year and a half it has been determined that a need does exist. Ms. Weston asked if there were any community members present. Ms. Council stated that the Education Committee was represented by Mr. Waldren and she represented the CAG. Ms. Weston stated that those were all agency and institution representatives, not grassroots community members. Mr. Waldren stated that the information was conveyed to the Education Committee and its respective grassroots community members.

Ms. Weston asked if there was an EPA representative that attends the Education Committee meetings. Mr. Feild stated that Ms. Kring attends Education Committee meetings. Ms. Casteel stated that she updates Ms. Kring if she is unable to participate.

6. LSOC Update

Ms. Weston stated that a report was given for the headstart program and testing was done using volunteers. Ms. Weston stated that six individual hazardous materials training certifications were completed since the last meeting. Ms. Weston stated that an agreement with the City was made to provide additional HEPA vacuums. Ms. Weston stated that a notice was released announcing five new vacuums available for rental. Ms. Weston stated that LSOC will be hosting a healthy homes and healthy kids awards luncheon. The guest speaker will be Mr. Jon Gant who is with the U.S. Department of

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control Program. Ms. Weston stated that they are still looking for more sponsors.

7. Comprehensive Planning Committee Update

Ms. Weston stated that the Comprehensive Plan Committee focused on several tasks on the comprehensive plan matrix during a recent meeting. Ms. Weston stated that the Committee will assign dollar amounts to the matrix so that the process can begin. Ms. Weston requested that the next meeting is on July 10, 2006 at 10:30 am, at the Urban League Family Resource Center.

Ms. Castaneda asked if any hazardous materials training certification classes had been organized in Spanish. Ms. Weston stated that a class was cancelled due to lack of interest. Mr. Davis asked if there was space in EPA's information office to do the training. Ms. Castaneda stated that resources are available.

8. Grants Update

Ms. Council stated that a HUD educational outreach grant application was completed by the Douglas/Sarpy County extension on a very short time frame. Ms. Council stated that the application will serve as a template for future applications. Ms. Council gave a tremendous thank-you to the grant writers.

9. Education Committee Update

Mr. Waldren stated that the Committee drafted a letter to the Consumer Product Safety Commission. The Education Committee moved to submit the letter. Mr. Rogers seconded the motion. The motion carried (9-0).

Mr. Waldren stated that a display was purchased for use at the Omaha Children's Museum.

Ms. Valdez stated that a Latino conference is being held on September 23, 2006.

Ms. Todd stated that a group is needed to house and manage the exhibit. Ms. Todd stated that OHKA could be a central resource manager. Ms. Casteel suggested assigning the exhibit to schools for a week at a time.

Ms. Casteel stated that a curriculum for kindergarten through third grade was piloted at King Elementary School. Ms. Casteel stated that it is currently in the process of being edited and will potentially be ready for additional schools at the beginning of the school year. Ms. Casteel stated that a skit will be performed at a school assembly and packets with follow-up activities will be sent home with the students.

Mr. Waldren stated that the next meeting is July 11, 2006.

Ms. Valdez stated that Ms. Rajaraam analyzed data assessing Latinos' lead knowledge, and the Chicano Awareness Center is awaiting results.

10. Questions and Answers

Ms. Council stated that the next meeting will be held on July 12, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. The location is to be announced.

Ms. Weston stated that Mr. Gant should be included on the next meeting agenda. Ms. Weston requested that the August 9, 2006 meeting will be held at Salem Baptist Church.

Handouts Provided for the Meeting (June 14, 2006):

Draft CAG Meeting Minutes from 5/10/06

Approved CAG Minutes from 3/8/06 and 4/12/06

Comprehensive Plan Committee Minutes from 5/9/06

Education Committee Minutes from 5/9/06

Illinois HB 4853 (Provided by MFG, Inc.)

Asarco Bankruptcy Leaves Many Towns with Cleanup Mess (Provided by Ms. Cammy Watkins)

OLS CAG Education Committee Presentation (Provided by Mr. Vernon Waldren)

Mayoral Proclamation (Provided by Mr. Vernon Waldren)

2005 Blood Lead Presentation (Provided by Mr. Reid Steinkraus)

Attachments to Minutes:

Sign-In Sheet (hardcopy to be delivered)

EPA Update (hardcopy to be delivered)