

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

Minutes for Meeting Held
Wednesday, January 14, 2009, 1:30 p.m.
Northeast Police Precinct
4316 N 30th Street
Omaha, NE 68111

OLS CAG Members Present:

Bob Feild—*Environmental Protection Agency*
Dr. Adi Pour—*Douglas County Health Department*
Vicki Quaites-Ferris—*City of Omaha Mayor's Office*
Stephen B. Jackson—*Nebraska Office of Minority Health*
Crystal Rhoades—*Neighborhood Center for Greater Omaha*
Chris Rodgers—*Douglas County Board of Directors*
Stacey Stricker—*Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality*
Vernon Waldren—*University of Nebraska, Lincoln Extension*

Others Present:

Emily Brummund—*Senator Johanns' Office*
Mary Castaneda—*EPA Public Information Center*
Katy Childers—*Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance*
Lelia Coyne—*Citizen*
Willie R. Clay—*PE Engineers*
Tiffany Frezelle—*EPA Public Information Center*
Laura Hardesty—*Cadmus Group*
Debbie Kring—*Environmental Protection Agency*
Jan Lambert—*Environmental Protection Agency*
Louis Latimer—*Senator Nelson's Office*
Bill Lukash (proxy for Marian Todd)—*City of Omaha Planning Department*
Brendan McEntegart—*Conestoga-Rovers & Associates*
LaFonda McGee—*Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance*
Amanda Micek—*Conestoga-Rovers & Associates*
Morghana Price—*Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance*
Jennifer Rawley (proxy for Jeff McDermott)—*Conestoga-Rovers & Associates*
Reggie E. Robinson—*Department of Housing and Urban Development*
Kelley Sanders—*PE Engineers*
Steve Sanders—*Environmental Protection Agency*
Reid Steinkraus—*Douglas County Health Department*
Che Thompson (proxy for Kara Eastman)—*Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance*
Clare Watson—*Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance*
Cheryl Weston—*Lead Safe Omaha Coalition*

1. Discussion on Minutes from the December 10th Meeting

Mr. Feild noted a typo on page three.

Ms. Thompson motioned to approve the minutes with the noted correction.

Ms. Rhoades seconded the motion. The motion failed due to a lack of quorum. Later in the meeting, the motion was revisited and unanimously passed (9-0).

2. EPA Update

Update on Proposed Plan Comment Period

Mr. Feild stated that EPA extended the public comment period for the proposed plan. The original deadline was extended to December 31, 2008, and then to January 15, 2009. Mr. Feild encouraged anyone to submit concerns, questions, or comments in writing so EPA can officially respond to comments.

Status of Administrative Orders

Mr. Feild stated that EPA has not yet moved forward on issuing any Administrative Orders. Mr. Feild stated that EPA will notify public officials as well as the CAG before issuing orders to ensure there are no surprises. Mr. Feild stated that the purpose of the Administrative Orders would be to secure access to perform sampling at any remaining properties in the focus area. Mr. Feild stated that EPA anticipates issuing orders for the sampling in the coming year.

Mr. Feild passed around a handout with soil replacement and paint stabilization updates. Mr. Feild stated that paint stabilization and soil replacement operations have been shut down due to weather. Mr. Feild stated that both contractors achieved their objectives for soil remediation for the year, replacing yard soil at 400 properties. Mr. Feild reported that Prudent was able to perform paint stabilization at all 700 assigned properties; and PPE was able to complete paint stabilization at 230 of the 300 properties, for a total of 930 properties stabilized. Mr. Feild stated that more structures were painted than the property number indicates, as all structures on a property are painted, including garages, etc. Mr. Feild stated that EPA anticipates that the lead-based paint assessments will continue throughout the winter. Mr. Feild stated that EPA hopes to generate a backlog of assessed properties to quickly begin paint stabilization in the spring.

Dr. Pour asked Mr. Feild how many paint assessments still need to be performed. Mr. Feild stated that, using EPA's assessment criteria, about 40% of assessed properties are determined to be eligible for paint stabilization. Mr. Feild stated that to meet a goal of stabilizing paint on 1,000 properties per year, EPA would have to conduct around 2,500 paint assessments per year. Mr. Feild stated that he is unsure if an upper limit of 1,000 paint stabilizations is appropriate for next year; therefore, EPA is going to attempt to conduct as many lead-based paint assessments as possible.

Ms. Weston asked if the total number of properties where the City stabilized paint is added to EPA's total, paint was stabilized at over 1,000 properties during 2008. Mr. Feild stated that including the City's work, the total number of properties where lead-based paint was stabilized in 2008 is approximately 1,100 properties.

Ms. Weston asked Mr. Feild if he thinks EPA will set a goal of replacing soil at 800 properties during 2009. Mr. Feild replied that EPA anticipates increasing soil remediation and paint stabilization work in 2009.

Ms. Weston asked Mr. Feild if there is another option year left in the contracts for soil remediation. Mr. Feild stated that, currently, Prudent and Coastal Environmental have each signed to a three-year contract. Mr. Feild stated that 2009 will be the final option year for the current soil remediation contract. Mr. Feild stated that the paint stabilization contracts are also three years in length. Ms. Weston asked Mr. Feild if EPA intends to use the same contactors for the final year. Mr. Feild stated that EPA would be unlikely to change contractors for the final year.

Ms. Thompson asked Mr. Feild if the contracts for paint stabilization are performance-based, and if there is an issue with PPE not completing its assigned number of properties for the year. Mr. Feild replied that the contracts are performance-based. Mr. Feild stated that any problems PPE faced were not likely to force a change in contractor.

Mr. Waldren asked Mr. Feild if EPA has a timeline for releasing the Final Record of Decision (ROD). Mr. Feild stated that he does not have a timeline. Mr. Feild stated that EPA had hoped for a mid-January release, but the comment period extension hampered that plan. Mr. Feild stated that the timeline depends upon the extent of comments received.

Ms. Weston asked Mr. Feild how the Final ROD will change from the Interim ROD. Mr. Feild stated that the document is called a Final ROD because it is intended to include the remaining properties not covered under the Interim ROD. Mr. Feild stated that changes could be made to the Final ROD after it is released.

Ms. Kring distributed "Renovate Right" brochures and directions for printing the brochures off the Internet.

3. OHKA Update

Ms. Thompson provided an update on OHKA activities. Ms. Thompson stated that OHKA will be moving into new office space at 5006 Underwood Avenue.

Ms. Thompson announced that OHKA has several new staff: Americorps members Morghan Price, LaFonda McGee, and Clare Watson; EPA grant coordinator Katy Childers; and two recently hired CLEARCorps members.

Ms. Thompson stated that the Americorps members will be focusing on education.

Education Committee Update

Mr. Waldren provided an update on the Education Committee. Mr. Waldren stated that the Education Committee is evaluating whether or not to move the committee's meeting schedule to every other month.

Ms. Thompson announced that do-it-yourself training on cleanup following home repair for residents of ZIP code 68111 will be offered February 28, 2009 at the New Community Development Center. Tyvek suits and respirators will be provided as part of the program.

Ms. Thompson stated that OHKA is working with the Neighborhood Center of Greater Omaha to create doormats that encourage people to remove their shoes.

Ms. Thompson stated that Ms. Watson will be going to Spring Lake Elementary School on February 2, 2009. Ms. Watson will be presenting information to the staff and principal on how to help prevent lead poisoning. Ms. Watson will also be working with Head Start to provide educational materials.

Ms. Thompson stated that Ms. Randi Nelson, as part of her capstone project, is studying the barriers to adopting lead education materials in the classroom.

Ms. Price stated she is beginning to meet with churches and community members.

Mr. Waldren stated that there are still educational materials available through the UNL Extension.

Mr. Waldren stated that the HUD grant reports are due in the coming weeks. Mr. Waldren stated he continues to work with Mr. Dave Pantos from Legal Aid of Nebraska on a lead brochure. Mr. Waldren stated that the CAG will get a full report on the grants.

Mr. Waldren stated that, according to a follow-up survey given to attendees of Lead Safe Work Practices training, a majority of the trainees are having their children tested for lead. Mr. Waldren stated that the results suggest that those children not getting tested are often times either too old or too young for testing. The results suggest that some parents have changed their children's eating habits and how they maintain their home. The training included contractors, realtors, and workers. Mr. Waldren stated the one group the survey was unable to get a strong response from was contractors.

Ms. Weston asked if educational magnets are available from the UNL Extension. Mr. Waldren replied that he would check.

Ms. Weston asked Mr. Waldren how he attempted to contact the contractors to follow-up on behavior changes. Mr. Waldren replied that he contacted them through hard copy mail, and that only three responded out of eleven. Mr. Waldren stated that if Ms. Weston has contacts with the contractors it would be helpful to utilize them. Mr. Waldren stated that one of the main questions being asked is: "Are you using Lead Safe Work Practices?"

Housing Committee Update

Ms. Thompson stated that the Housing Committee will meet on February 10, 2009.

4. City Update

Mr. Lukash read an update on City activities provided by Ms. Marian Todd. In 2009 under the City's Lead Hazard Control Grant, 154 houses were painted; under the Lead Hazard Reduction Grant, 9 houses were painted.

5. Douglas County Health Department Update

Mr. Steinkraus stated that the nuisance ordinance defining lead-based paint hazards as a nuisance was unanimously passed by the City Council with a 6-0 vote, with one councilmember absent. Mr. Steinkraus stated that the ordinance went into effect January 7, 2009, which was 15 days after the vote took place.

6. Other Group or Agency Updates

None.

7. Grant Updates

None.

8. Questions and Answers

Mr. Waldren asked when the CAG would prefer to meet: in February or March. He asked if it was prudent to set a tentative date for February to allow for the possible release of the Final ROD. CAG members agreed to meet on March 11, 2009, with the meeting location to be determined.

Ms. Weston noted that Ms. Thompson had asked at the last meeting for an update on the TAG grant that Lead Safe Omaha Coalition (LSOC) received. Ms. Weston stated that the report does not have to be filed until 30 days after the end of the grant period, which is March 2009.

Ms. Thompson asked if LSOC had submitted any comments to EPA on the proposed plan, and if the comments would be made public. Ms. Weston stated that any comments will be included by EPA in the Final ROD.

Handouts:

Draft CAG Meeting Minutes from 12/10/08

Final CAG Meeting Minutes from 11/12/08

Letter of Support for Amendment to the Nuisance Ordinance to Include Deteriorating Lead-Based Paint as a Hazard

EPA Response to Renewed Request by Union Pacific Railroad Company for Extension of Public Comment Period (Provided by EPA)

Public Comment Period Extended for Omaha Lead Site (Provided by CRA)

EPA Seeks More Input on Lead Cleanup (Provided by CRA)

Sustainable Resources Center Announces \$1.5 Million Grant to Protect Children in Minnesota from Dangerous Lead Hazards in the Home (Provided by CRA)

\$3 Million to Be Awarded to Support Communities and Reduce Pollution (Provided by CRA)

Obama's Choice to Direct EPA is Applauded (Provided by CRA)

City Shuts Field over Lead Concern (Provided by CRA)

Mom's Suit Faults her Former Landlord over Boy's Lead Poisoning (Provided by CRA)

News from CPSC (Provided by CRA)