

CIAC

February 15, 2011

DELAWARE PUBLIC ARCHIVES

Dover, DE

Members Present: William Pelham, Jay Julius, Pam Meitner, Bruce Allison, Bethany Hall-Long, La Vaida Owens-White, Marvin Thomas & Harold Truxon. **The Quorum was met.**

Members Absent: Douglas Corey, Robert Frederick & Brian Lewis.

Others Present: James Brunswick, Gail Henderson, Jim Poling and Terri Brixen of DNREC. Sarah Bucic of the DE City Environmental Coalition, March Chura and Marion Young of Main Street, Mark Chura of Delaware Greenways, Semia Hackett, Bill Swaikeck, and Cathy Smith of the Delaware Transit Corporation, Joseph Farzina and Stephanie Wright of Delaware Aerospace Education Foundation, Paula Holloway of Delaware Museum of Natural History, Kate Zaidan of the Clean Air Council, Steven Denbel and Kathy Werrell of the University of Delaware, Semia Hackett of Duffy's Hope, Jim Black of the DE Ecumenical Council on Families and Children, Jim Flaherty of the Smyrna Public Library Guild, Matt Chesser and Mike Moyer of the Friends of Lums Pond, Lyle Jones of DNREC Watershed Stewardship, and Dolores Slatcher and Charles Anderson of the City of Seaford.

I. Meeting Called to Order

Mr. Pelham called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. Meeting Protocol Review

The protocol was mentioned as in evidence on the backside of members' nameplates.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOTION was made by Ms. Meitner to approve the meeting notes of December 7, 2010 with a second by Mr. Thomas. All in favor and the motion passed.

IV. Grant Review

NEW CASTLE COUNTY

Delaware City Environmental Coalition

Sarah Bucic stated the pollution levels will be monitored independently at DE City Refinery. These results will be added to existing data to confirm DNREC findings and to enhance confidence, but they are not intended to be conclusive. The monitoring will be done during two weeks in March before DE City Refinery opens and after their open. The monitoring will be done downwind and upwind of the refinery and in a residential area. Monitoring will be done on

a ball field and on a highway close to a school. An independent engineer will review and tabulate the findings. A consultant, Jim Black, will assist in creating a white paper for examination. The coalition wants to form a collaborative effort with industry, business, workers and volunteers to address health and environmental concerns. The public health and home aspect of the grant is to conduct a home health assessment and to provide low income home owners with health remedies. They are aiming to get an independent assessment of the air and to move DE City forward. The DE City Refinery is the largest refinery ever built and is one of Delaware's major polluters. The refinery is number 7 in the nation for the onsite release of chemicals. When the refinery shut down unknown amounts of hazardous air pollutants were released and resulted in the creation of the Coalition. The community surveys will help to develop a working relationship with state organizations and to address Delaware environmental policies.

DE City Main Street

Mark Chura said that they used a report generator to attract \$675,000 in monies. Rt. 9 is one of six recognized scenic highways which runs from New Castle to Dover. Capital funds in the amount of \$600,000 were acquired for ecological restoration. One of the three projects of ecotourism is the restoration of 18 acres along a branch of DE City. The connector piece ties DE City and the marsh system and would be used as a national recreation trail all the way through the state. The three pieces are ecological, forestation and wetlands restoration. Delaware City is doing the wetlands restoration piece and they have the funds in hand to do the other two pieces. The grant monies will go strictly for underground restoration and reforestation work and the other monies would go for project management. They do not have the project management to leverage the \$600,000 needed to build the projects. They are requesting funding in the amount of \$62,800 which would be applied to reforestation and habitat restoration work documented through the ecotourism plan for the DE City Branch Canal area. They could leverage the \$600,000 in funds to accomplish the work on the branch canal and projects such as Dragon Run Park to increase tourism and economic development.

Ms. Metiner asked if as an alternative they could plan to take \$62,800 for project management and put that into DE City branch canal and reforestation and remove invasive species.

Mark Chura said they have identified projects but do not have the staff to implement them. Their current staff is made up of volunteers except for one low salary program manager. They want to engage people from the area and residents of Delaware City for the planting and for the removal of invasive species.

DE Greenways

Mark Chura said they been talking with communities up and down the byways and the issue of sea level rise was mentioned and Route 9 was recognized for its function as a dike. He also talked with David Carter from DNREC who said there is currently no agreement between state agencies on what should happen with climate change and Route 9. There will be a western migration of wetlands and from the planning standpoint the questions are what lands should be preserved, and what lands should limitations be put on as far as development. They want to use the Core Management Approach like what was done in Red Clay to keep it from flooding. This is an emerging issue. They have talked with DE Coastal Management and the University of Delaware and put together a basic knowledge handbook to help people understand issues relative to climate change.

Ms. Meitner asked why his salary was billed differently with the DE Greenways and the DE City Main Street.

Mr. Chura said one included overhead and the other did not.

Mr. Brunswick said there is an internal problem in that DNREC's Coastal Programs will not be available to sponsor the program because they are overloaded with work. He asked if Mr. Chura has spoken with State Parks about sponsorship.

Mr. Chura said he was not sure what to do and that Coastal Programs was the logical choice. There are a lot of folks working on these and he is not sure how to go about getting sponsorship.

Mr. Brunswick asked why this project is urgent.

Mr. Chura said that it is never too early to start looking at land acquisition. The State Open Space program does not take into account western migration. They want to be more proactive in identifying key strategies and not in an emergency situation where agencies are pointing at each other. This is the appropriate time to do the work.

DE Transit Corporation

Semia Hackett said there has been an outcry from residents and business owners for over 10 years to start a pilot service to extend service on Route 25. They want to provide service on Route 25 from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. so residents can get medical treatments, have access to drug stores and access to recreation. Residents are currently using the Park and Ride and driving their own vehicles. WILMAPCO and DART surveyed residents in 2009, and 64 percent of the people said that public transportation was their greatest need. The ridership for the extension is there. They received letters of support from WILMAPCO, letters from residents, the Mayor and the City Council to extend the service for the residents of Delaware City.

Ms. Meitner asked why they submitted a 2 year plan instead of a one year.

Ms. Hackett answered it takes 2 years to get accurate measures. They would not need the 2 year investment to get it up and running or to justify it. They would increase the resident's quality of life by increasing their access and mobility. All surveys and testimony indicate they would get enough riders to justify it and the standard is 10 passengers..

Ms. Meitner asked how many buses will be running from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Ms. Hackett answered their survey of over 250 people showed that residents who are working later hours are very interested in the longer hours. A commuter service would not meet the needs of the people. The plan is for 26 trips a day and they have identified where trips are needed.

Ms. Meitner asked if after a year they decide to cut back what would happen to the remaining money.

Ms. Hackett said they would give it more of a chance.

Mr. Brunswick asked what they would do if we were not able to provide funding.

Ms. Hackett said there would be no service extension to DE City. Any expansion requests for a new area usually gets knocked off the budget. They have been successful with obtaining contributing partnership and large organizations have helped with private funding. They do not have an exact game plan and are continuing to look for grant opportunities.

Mr. Julius asked if building a bus stop is a necessity.

Ms. Hackett said that a bus stop is not a necessity but it would be nice for older people who might want a place to sit down.

Mr. Brunswick asked if they had applied for any federal funding.

Ms. Hackett said they did receive Transit Enhancement Funds for other bus stops which would not be reallocated to extend the service area.

Mr. Thomas asked if DE Transit sees this as a high priority.

Ms. Hackett answered because this is a new access area it is placed very low on the annual budget. Fixed routes have been using most of the money because they are less costly than Para transit. The majority of the cost of Para transit is the labor, no matter what size bus is used.

DE Aerospace Foundation

Joseph Farina said the DE Aerospace Foundation is a nonprofit organization of 250,000 people in DE and neighboring states who provide inspiration and motivation to students and teachers to care for the earth. The foundation focuses on earth systems and how we can affect those systems through the use of technology. In the first building, the environmental outpost, people tour the earth systems and learn about the environment, science engineering, and technology. The foundation is currently installing a system of positive energy which generates electricity and produces more electricity than is used. They have not had to pay an electric bill, and are getting credits. Phase 1 is operational and they are working on the infrastructure of a geothermal system for heating and cooling. This system does not a boiler or a cooling tower. The geothermal system consists of eighty 400 foot wells, and piping from the wells into the building and back. This application request is for the geothermal system outside the building. The system will decrease the electrical need by 340,000 kilowatts areas a year with a savings of \$34,000, and a reduction in green house gases. They have not found a sponsor. They have spoken with Scott Lynch in the Energy office but because there are in the DE Electric Cooperative limits they cannot receive funding from the Energy Office. A USDA grant of \$50,000 for Sustainable Energy may be available in which they pay back funding from energy savings but will take years. They have submitted for a number of grants. They have dug two tests wells to find the depth of the water and designed the 80 well system. They have three buildings on the site, and the excess energy in the larger building will pay for the electricity in the storage building. Currently, the outpost is a zero energy building.

Mr. Pelham asked if the University of Delaware has shown any interest.

Mr. Carino said that John Burns led them to the Sustainable Energy Utility.

Mr. Thomas asked how many visitors who are shown how energy can be saved by the geothermal system have money to install the system in their homes.

Mr. Carino said that many of the visitors given information on how to save energy in their homes show an interest and do ask questions.

Mr. Pelham asked if row houses can use geothermal systems.

Mr. Carino said that there are community townhomes with geothermal units.

Mr. Brunswick said that they have raised \$550,000 capital funds out of the 8 million needed for the project.

Mr. Carino said they received federal monies from NASA for construction but most federal monies are focused on program and not facilities. The capital budget is separate from the operational budget. They would use the monies as an incentive for further funding.

Ms. Meitner asked if there is any piece that would be enough to get the project started. The mechanical room is over \$100,000 to sustain the 80 wells. What would it cost for just the wells?

Mr. Carino said the geothermal system has to be built all at one time.

Clean Air Council

Mr. Rogers said they resubmitted this year's application because they received funding from Reggi for green air gas. The Council deals with the problem of diesel engines on the road. They are working to bring together groups to leverage funds and to have a project in the pipeline when the monies are available. Delaware is a non attainment for pollutants which results in significant health issues such as cancer and obesity. The Council also brings relevant parties to together to address issues of diesel. They used last year monies to create a website and email servers which brought groups together. They want to continue the project over the next year and provide a space for interested parties to talking about reducing pollution from diesel emissions through the use of emerging technologies in their fleets.

Mr. Pelham asked if there was any duplication between what the Clean Air Council is doing and what DNREC is doing.

Mr. Rogers said they help reduce duplication and DNREC's Air Quality people attend their meetings.

Mr. Brunswick said they did not include reporting on grants received.

Mr. Rogers said they will provide that information.

Mr. Brunswick asked if they are still doing the tugboat retrofitting and the LED light exchange.

Mr. Rogers said yes, they are partially funded and the tug boat retrofitting has a zero return for the company which provides no real incentive.

Ms. Owens White asked what they would do if they don't get this money.

Mr. Rogers said it would be difficult to do the project with no other possibilities for funding.

DE Museum of Natural History

Paula Holloway said the museum is Delaware's only nature and science center. The museum's purpose is to excite people about the natural world through exploration and discovery. They want to inform children and parents about natural habitats and make them stewards of nature. The average visitor age of the museum is from birth to 10 years. These visitors cannot drive so they bring their parents and grandparents. The nature room is for children from birth to 6 years old with an emphasis on habitats and nature. The woodland habitat has a learning tree with learning flaps about the need for trees. The woodland habitat also opens up with a pond, then a stream, and then a meadow. The children learn about the purpose of bats and other live animals. They are planning to add discovery boxes for ages 2 to 4, 5 to 7, and 8 to 12 year-olds with a parent child interaction component. There are three discovery boxes in each habitat for a total of 12. The boxes deal with air and water quality concerns for each specific environment. The museum sees about 77,000 visitors a year and the education department services 20,000 children through indoor tours, scouts, coastal programs and summer camps. The discovery boxes can be used in these educational programs also. They are asking for money to produce two permanent pieces of activities that show children how the cloud fills with water and dumps it and a display about bird feet and bird food.

University of DE

Cathy Werrell said the University is working on environmental literacy which includes showing how pollution is measured and how to tie the fundamentals of science, education and technology. They want to add some elements to what they already have, including 2 one week sessions for 7th to 10th graders with on hands activities. Their environmental component includes water resources and water purification and they would like to design and implement an air pollution activity. They also want to add a 3 day environmental camp for middle school students and environmental activities for K-12 teachers. They want to develop a lending library for lesson design, purchase solar car kits, and purchase a hydrogen fuel cell.

Steve Dentel said that the CEPF monies come from pollution violations which should not have occurred in first place and the violators have heavily impacted the Colonial School District area. The impact of water and air pollution will be addressed with different age levels of students through 21 lab exercises. These lab exercises will require tools, computers, air samplers, a webcam, a microphone, and oxygen meters. All the materials will be available on loan to schools and to DNREC. University of Delaware is providing \$80,000 in match for the \$77,000. This is the first time all overhead and fringe benefits has been waived. They will be supporting graduate students for a full year and they need two years of commitment.

Mr. Brunswick asked about the high price of the 4 computers, 2 laptops and the professional conference.

Mr. Dentel said the price includes the addition of software such as spreadsheets, graphics, and image analysis. The attendance at a professional conference at the cost of \$3,000 was a way to get the word out beyond Delaware about the work being done here.

Duffy's Hope

Semia Hackett said Duffy's Hope is a youth and community based program. They want to start a garden to provide fruit and vegetables to the youth of the community and to eventually start a produce stand. This would provide hands on experience for at risk youth and increase their awareness and knowledge of nutrition and fitness. The \$25,000 is for a contract consultant, soil testing, a nutritionist, supplies, equipment rental and pre and post surveys.

Ms. Ownes-White asked if they have identified possible sites for the garden.

Ms. Hackett said they have identified two sites been talking with community. One is at the corner of Spruance and 8th and the other is on 9th street. They are collaborating with an existing garden on 9th street in an attempt to take ownership or to lease it.

DE Ecumenical Council on Children and Families

Rev. Hall said the council is designed to help increase residents access to health care services and to public health education. Faith communities are a good vehicle to do public health education because they are trusted. They are working with DNREC and EPA and have agreed on a number of projects related to the environment concerning home safety and ground level ozone. They hope to turn this into a year round project in New Castle County in which they train people to help provide health education on poor air quality, environmental justice, and reducing the use of ozone from cars and gas lawnmowers.

Mr. Brunswick asked when the conference will be held and what the subject matter is.

Rev. Hall said the conference will be on Air Quality and they plan to work closely with Terri Brixen to determine speakers. The conference will mostly likely be held in the summer.

Ms. Hall-Long said the Council is will respected and they have always met all of their objectives.

Smyrna Public Library Guild

Jim Flaherty said they want to build a regional library in the Smyrna area to serve the Smyrna Public School region. The current library is in very small facility. They found an ideal site of 5 ½ acres with the Smyrna City Park and the North Smyrna Elementary School nearby. Phase I of their project is to do the environmental assessment of the site. The site used to be used by Litton Industries for manufacturing. The land has stained soil and stressed vegetation, suspected landfill areas onsite and adjoining surface water body impairment. The site was investigated in 1988 and found to have pesticides and chlorinated solvents in the soil. They want to take the site assessment to the next level and to protect the Guild from potential liabilities. The State has offered the brown fields programs but the property is owned by someone else. Without this money the Guild is not going to be able to buy the property. The property owner does not believe there is anything wrong and wants \$1 million to sell. They want to come to him and say we want to evaluate the property and negotiate a true value of more like \$500,000 and then take the property through superfund and have it evaluated and cleaned. The purpose is not to provide a negotiated point with the seller. They cannot do any work without a purchase agreement. The community needs a library and the town has not stepped forward to provide one. The site is truly an ideal location and this grant is the keystone to buy the property.

Friends of Lums Pond

Matt Chesser said they want to provide an 8 mile multi use pedestrian walkway around Lums Pond intended to provide safer access into the park for residents of the surrounding neighborhoods..

Mike Moyer said they would use greenways to tie communities in with the natural areas. They want to tie in large areas where people can walk and see scenery and go to the boat rental. They will harden some of the trails so people can also ride bikes. They plan to do some fundraising and get more community involvement.

Ms. Owens-White said they need \$50,000 for the planning and the total project will cost \$1 million dollars?

Mr. Chesser said with the plans and costs estimate they will put together a package to apply for federal grants.

Ms. Owens-White asked if they have any corporate support.

Mr. Chesser answered none in close proximity, but there are some in surrounding areas.

Ms. Owens-White said they would rather pay for implementation than plans.

Mr. Moyer said they would start with a stone trail because it does not have much of an impact on storm water. There is no handicap accessibility and no unified type trail for all types of users. They would start with critical connections between segments and trails.

Mr. Brunswick asked what other sources they have for acquiring funds for planning.

Mr. Chesser answered that planning funds are hard to come by. There might be some funds from other sources but it is very limited. This will be a great community project and will be done with help from DNREC Parks as partners.

Mr. Pelham asked if DNREC's Parks annual budget could include a line budget for this.

Mr. Chesser answered that there are no monies for planning.

DNREC Watershed Stewardship

Lyle Jones said they want to put buffers along Silver Lake Park and to improve DNREC native plants, storm water, eliminate invasive species and to enhance qualities of Mirror Lake. They plan to knock about 10 trees that are not functional or are invasive. They plan to put in a rain garden in between DNREC and DEDO and in the back of DNREC.

City of Seaford

Dolores Slatcher said the City of Seaford purchased a golf course in 2010 for recreation. Phase I of their project is to do the necessary engineering, surveying and soil testing or irrigation

Mr. Pelham asked where the water is coming from for the treated wastewater.

Ms. Slatcher said only the 1st nine of the golf course will use irrigateion The back nine has fly ash on it. The water will come from groundwater and ponds on the site. The city needs to replace their old irrigation system.

V. Community Involvement Advisory Council Discussion

MOTION was made by Mr. Truxon to approve the applications of the City of Seaford, Delaware Ecumenical Council, Duffy's Hope, Museum of Natural History and DNREC's Watershed Stewardship with a second by Mr. Julius. All in favor and the motion passed.

Everyone agreed to continue reviewing the remaining applications at another meeting.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

s/Gail Henderson

Gail Henderson
Administrative Specialist II, DNREC

The notes of this meeting are not intended to be a verbatim record of the topics that were presented or discussed. They are for the use of the Community Involvement Advisory Council members and the public in supplementing their personal notes and recall of presentations.