

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**MEETING NOTES**

**SMYRNA AREA REST STOP CONFERENCE ROOM**

**August 21, 2012**

**Members Present:** LaVaida Owens-White, Pamela Meitner, Marvin Thomas, Harold Truxon, & Dr. Jay Julis.

**Members Absent:** Robert Frederick and Chairman Bill Pelham.

**A quorum was met with five members present and two members absent.**

**I. Meeting Called to Order**

Vice Chair Owens-White called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.

**II. Meeting Protocol Review**

Vice Chair Owens-White read the protocol.

**III. Review/Approval of Meeting Notes**

**MOTION was made by Dr. Julis to approve the minutes and a second was made by Mr. Truxon. All in favor and the motion carried.**

**IV. CIAC Concerns**

**CIAC Vacancy**

**Mr. Brunswick** said there are 3 vacancies on the Council and that Mr. Emory has begun the process with the Governor's Office in filling them.

**CIAC Meeting Recording**

**Mr. Brunswick** reported the Phillips 9500 digital recorder would cost \$399 and the Phillips conference microphone would cost \$198. He said the Council would also have to line up a Policy for public access to the recordings.

**MOTION was made by Mr. Julis to record future meetings of the Council and a second was made by Mr. Truxon. The motion did not carry all five members voted against the motion.**

## **V. West End Neighborhood Initiative**

**Paul Calistro**, Executive Director, spoke about the Westside Grows Together Neighborhood Revitalization Plan.

**Mr. Brunswick** said he is coordinating DNREC's involvement in the West End Grows Initiative. He said that representatives from five DNREC Divisions participated in an August 1 tour of project sites. Each Division is prepared to contribute to the initiative based on their own mission and resources. The participants in the tour included the Division of Watershed Stewardship who said they may be able to assist with storm water management projects, and with funding from the Financial Assistance Branch. Waste and Hazardous Substances, Brownfields program will look into a site investigation and possible remediation at the Rodney Street reservoir. Fish and Wildlife is exploring the possibility of stocking the Cool Springs reservoir for recreational fishing. Parks & Recreation identified playground that could be developed and the Children in Nature program could contribute to the initiative. In the Office of the Secretary, representatives from Enforcement may be asked to install cameras at Judy Johnson Park to catch the people responsible for illegal dumping around the Third Street side of the park. It's a great example of the resources that DNREC can contribute to well-organized community partnership.

## **VI. Secretary's 2012 CEPF Funding Determinations**

### **DE City Environmental Coalition**

**Mr. Mark Chura** said the original application had 2 parts, the Industrial Collaborative and the Bucket Brigade. The Industrial Collaborative part did not gel. He said that Main Street is playing a larger role in the administration side and now has a paid position for Coordinator instead of a volunteer. The \$10,000 that the Industrial Collaborative was going to donate will now go away. Mr. Chura met with the Secretary and the project management cost is different by 7,500 dollars since Sarah Bucic is not volunteering her time for the professional oversight. Dr. Amy Roe will now be providing professional oversight of 7 hours a month. She will be checking sampling and conferring with Main Street on a monthly basis. The original grant award was \$50,880 and they are just moving money around because of personnel changes and strengthening the bucket brigade.

**Mr. Brunswick** reviewed the Secretary's funding decisions. He said that nearly all the CEPF grantees received less than their original funding requests. The only exceptions to the funding reduction were the small grants awards; the Delaware Nature Society's \$2,485.00 Young-Patterson Tax Ditch Restoration, the \$5,471.00 Connecting Air and Water project, and the Delaware Ornithological Society's \$6,000 Fort DuPont Restoration project. The reductions in funding for the remaining projects are due to the Secretary's decision to fund one organization which was not among the CIAC's funding recommendations. The CIAC did not recommend the Delaware Greenway's Betts Farm Site Sustainability and Community Participation project. At the time we reviewed it, it was not recommended because there was no up-to-date audit. The audit was underway at the time of the Grant Review Subcommittee meeting, but it was

completed and submitted in time enough for the Secretary to take it into consideration with the Council's other recommendations. Delaware Greenways was seeking \$93,000.00 for the project, and the Secretary awarded \$45,000.00.

**Mr. Brunswick** said the only other funding decision that was not made as the Council had suggested was the \$28,000.00 Clean Air Council project. When we took a look at it, the 2011 Clean Air Council funding request was largely for staff support. The project is not complete. There are still two Diesel Difference meetings to be held. There is still a substantial amount of project funding remaining. The project has been extended until December 2012. The 2012 project budget is just as staff intensive. All but a small percentage of the budget is for meeting and consumable supply expenses. The Clean Air Council had also received funding from two other DNREC sources in both 2011 and 2012. In 2011, the Clean Air Council also received RGGI funding from the Energy Office's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Initiative. The Council received Coastal Zone Act Offset funding for the Trinity Trucking Project in January 2012. The Secretary declined to fund the Council in 2012 given all of the DNREC resources that have been committed to Clean Air Council projects, and considering our limit on staff and administrative costs.

### **Penalty Deposit Analysis Update**

**Mr. Brunswick** said it is impossible to project how much will be available in 2013 until Fiscal Services reconciles the administrative costs and the funding going into and coming out of the account. He prepared a history of the penalty deposits since the Community Environmental Project Fund was founded in 2004 for the Council's review which included a graph showing the general trend of penalty deposits. The Council began 2012 with \$325,645 in Penalty Funds and awarded, \$318,807, which leaves approximately \$7,000.00. There have been three penalty deposits since the 2012 grant cycle began. The largest was a January 2012 deposit of \$62,500.00 from a DuPont Edgemoor civil penalty. There was a \$1,250.00 deposit from a Pat's Aircraft Systems civil penalty in March 2012. The final deposit to date is \$6,250 from Royal Pest Control. Altogether \$77,000 will be added to the fund in 2013 with some other penalties that are pending. There is really no recognizable pattern to penalty deposits. The size of the penalty deposits varies each funding cycle, but the frequency of penalty deposits has been down the past few years. Since the inception of the CEPF, the council has awarded \$3.85 million dollars to community environmental projects. The largest grant award went towards the \$1.3 million Branch Canal Greenway project in 2006.

### **Ombudsman Report**

**Mr. Brunswick** said he drafted the 2012 report which the Secretary will review before he brings it to the Council.

**Mr. Brunswick** said he is the Delaware Representative on the Board of the Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project (SERCAP). In 2012 the Department supported a SERCAP application to the EPA Small Grant program. The proposed project would assist ten Sussex County Homeowners Associations. The community onsite waste disposal systems in these

communities are failing because a small number of homeowners cannot keep up with utility payments. The Department first identified the problem and has offered potential policy solutions to it in a White Paper it published last year.

**Mr. Brunswick** said the grant has been favorably reviewed by the EPA. SERCAP has to provide some written assurances to the EPA, and SERCAP anticipates that it will receive the \$25,000 Environmental Justice Small Grant award. SERCAP will provide wastewater system management and financial management training. The Department will provide some technical assistance to the project. SERCAP staff will explore some of the policy recommendations the Department has made in the White Paper. Mr. Brunswick has asked the Onsite Waste Water Treatment section staff for some help with initial research and he will represent DNREC and provide some help with community outreach. He said there may be some delays with project implementation since Deanna Capagnini, the SERCAP staff person, is out indefinitely on medical leave.

## **VII. Open Forum**

**Mr. Thomas** asked if there is a likelihood that a number of local residents will oppose the project.

**Mr. Brunswick** answered that a person has been hired as the coordinator of CAPO permits and he will communicate with him/or her.

**Mr. Truxon** gave an update on the drinking water problem. He said someone from the Office of Drinking water was sent to test the water, and he is waiting on the results of the testing.

**Mr. Chura** said that looking at the Councils recommendations for DE City projects; the Council has been a major contributor to Delaware City. He said as their projects come on line, if the Council would like to come to DE City, Main Street would coordinate a meeting and tour for the Council.

**Ms. Meitner** asked if a speaker had been selected for the October meeting.

**Mr. Brunswick** said he asked the Secretary to attend the October meeting to discuss the funding process and to give an update on DNREC's issues. He is waiting to hear if the Secretary can make it.

**MOTION was made by Mr. Julis to adjourn the meeting and a second was made by Mr. Thomas. The motion carried with a unanimous vote at 11:18 a.m.**