

**EPA Housatonic Citizens Coordinating Council Meeting
Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield Public Library
Pittsfield, MA**

**January 28, 2010
5:30 to 6:15 pm**

Meeting Summary

Participants: The list of participants is included in Attachment 1.

Introduction

Patrick Field, Facilitator, Consensus Building Institute, opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda. Due to the inclement weather that hampered some CCC members' ability to attend the meeting, he suggested that review and approval of the September 23, 2009 CCC meeting summary be deferred to the April 2010 CCC meeting. He also noted that this meeting's materials and updates would be available on the EPA/CCC website (<http://www.epa.gov/NE/ge/publiceventsandmeetings.html>) and reviewed at the next CCC meeting, as requested.

Update on Remediation Projects in Pittsfield

Dean Tagliaferro provided updates on several remediation projects. He noted that, in addition to the ongoing Rest of River work, there would be cleanup work outside of the River ongoing through 2012. His presentation can be found on the EPA/CCC website listed above.

Building Demolition—East Street Area 2 North

Dean reported that there are ongoing demolition activities on the twenty-acre GE owned site. GE has completed demolition of the buildings, and is now crushing and segregating debris, which should be complete by summer 2010. Once work on the site is complete, GE will explore transferring the land to PEDDA. He added that work in the area formerly known as 40's Complex is substantially complete. GE is now in the process of submitting long-term maintenance plans and completing final reports on their work in that area.

East Street Area 2: South

EPA approved a conceptual plan from GE, and GE submitted a final Work Plan to EPA in November 2009. EPA and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP) are currently reviewing the plan, and anticipate an addendum to the plan in spring 2010. Remediation is expected to begin late June 2010 with 20,000 cy of material to be removed and taken to an offsite disposal facility. Two hundred feet of pavement adjacent to the riverbank will be removed and replaced with grass or vegetation. There will also be installation of 4.8 acres of an engineered barrier and the abandonment of several storm drains that are currently in the NPDES system [that is, subject to GE's NPDES Permit].

Silver Lake

EPA approved conceptual sediment and bank cleanup plans, and GE is expected to submit a final Work Plan to EPA on February 1, 2010 for combined sediment and bank cleanup. Since this is the first combined plan, the work plan will be complex and likely require an addendum. The remediation is

intended to begin late 2010 or 2011. The general public will be able to comment on the Work Plan, which EPA will email to the distribution list and post to the EPA/CCC website. Dean noted that it will take EPA at least 45 days to review the work plan and that public comments will be considered in the review.

Unkamet Brook

The West Area conceptual work plan has been approved by EPA and MA DEP with an addendum to the conceptual cleanup plan due March 15, 2010. A final cleanup plan is tentatively due on October 15, 2010. The remediation is anticipated to begin in late 2011 or 2012.

In the Brook Area - Remainder, an addendum to the conceptual cleanup plan is due February 1, 2010, with the final cleanup plan due October 15, 2010. Remediation is tentatively scheduled for late 2011 or 2012.

GE NPDES Permit Status

GE's NPDES permit required the submittal of a wet weather ambient water monitoring plan. GE recently submitted this plan which proposes the collection of periodic water samples upstream and downstream of permanent outfalls. Specifically, at Unkamet Brook permanent outfalls, sampling must be done twice a year during significant rain events. On the East Branch, upstream and downstream sampling must be done twice a year as well.

Rest of River

Dean Tagliaferro provided an update on the Rest of River status.

He explained that EPA sent GE a Conditional Approval Letter for GE's Work Plan for Evaluation of Additional Remedial Alternatives on January 15, 2010. The letter is posted on the EPA/CCC website and was sent to the email distribution list. The Corrective Measures Study (CMS) as described in the Work Plan and modified by the conditions in this letter, is now due to be submitted by GE to EPA for approval in July, 2010. Once the CMS is received, EPA will solicit public comments and likely proceed to approve or conditionally approve the CMS. At this point, EPA will proceed to develop its own cleanup proposal. EPA's proposed cleanup plan will be open for formal public comment before EPA makes a final decision. The public can then appeal the final cleanup plan.

Dean added that EPA expects an interim submittal from GE describing their proposed methodology for evaluation of 6 example areas.

A CCC member thanked EPA for its January letter to GE.

Updates on MA DEP lead activities in Pittsfield

John Ziegler, MA DEP, provided updates on MassDEP lead activities including:

Dorothy Amos Park/West Branch

The West Branch remediation was completed in early November 2009, after some delay due to high water issues. Excavation was done using isolation cells and approximately 900 cy of sediment was removed primarily from 1-3 feet depths (with a maximum of 6 feet) along with approximately 430 cy of river bank soil from 1-6 feet depths. The site has since been restored, with input from MA Fish &

Wildlife on river bottom structures, and is consistent with Pittsfield Conservation Commission orders. Riverbank erosion and invasive species control plans are in place with ongoing monitoring. There may be additional work done on the site if erosion is evident in the spring. MA DEP is now waiting for a final report from GE, which it anticipates will be submitted in the near term.

PEDA Site Development

Construction of a stormwater quality basin on the 30's complex on East Street was completed in November 2009. At this point site development is complete with the exception of additional landscaping, which will be done in spring 2010.

A new outfall to Silver Lake was located through a box culvert at a former outfall location. Discharge to Silver lake is managed under the existing NPDES permit. PEDA had to get conditional approval for the water quality basin because the area is covered under an existing Grant of Environmental Restriction and Easement (ERE). MA DEP conditionally approved the water quality basin construction in April 2009. MA DEP's approval requires an amendment of the ERE to reflect the new site conditions and site activities and uses.

A CCC member asked if MA DEP conducts monitoring to ensure that the flow moves through the water quality basin. John responded that there was one reported incident where water was not flowing properly during a storm event, and that MA DEP took immediate action to improve erosion control in that area. MA DEP made regular inspections during construction and subsequently inspected the work, which it believes has been completed sufficiently.

Commercial Street

Fifteen commercial properties on Commercial Street were remediated in Fall 2008 and one in Spring 2009. MA DEP is waiting for final reports from GE, which it anticipates will be submitted in Spring 2010.

Meeting Scheduling

Patrick Field reminded participants that the next CCC meeting would be held on April 28, 2010 at the Berkshire South Regional Community Center (Auditorium) in Great Barrington, MA (5:30 pm start). Another CCC meeting is scheduled for September 29, 2010 at the Berkshire Athenaeum in Pittsfield, MA (5:30 pm start).

EPA is also organizing a charrette on river restoration in mid-late spring 2010. The charrette will be held in MA and in CT and be open to CCC members and the public. At the event, participants will be asked to develop their visions for river restoration.

Additionally, EPA will look into coordinating an informal site tour for CCC members and the public of the river to view river restoration in summer 2010.

Other Agenda Items

Susan Peterson, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP), shared that after a long period of travel restrictions, she received permission to attend this CCC meeting and hopes to be able to attend others in the future. She added that despite the travel restrictions, CT DEP has continued to be involved in the cleanup process and that CT DEP staff have been actively following activities and

responding to documents. She added that GE completed the 2008 Fish and Aquatic Insect Monitoring report for the State of Connecticut, which is available on the EPA website or by contacting her directly.

Public Comments

Mark Jester, League of Sportsmen, expressed concern about a recent article in the Berkshire Eagle that indicated EPA had decided on a cleanup alternative- to remove PCBs from the upper Housatonic River. He noted that given experiences on the Hudson River cleanup site, he was concerned about the ecological impact of cleanup processes on the river. He noted that previously he asked EPA to provide more details on the impacts of restoration, and was pleased that EPA had asked GE to study the impacts of restoration alternatives. However, he is concerned that EPA has already made up its mind about the cleanup alternative.

- Dean Tagliaferro clarified that EPA has not determined which cleanup alternative it will support. He noted that EPA believes that successful restoration can occur, but emphasized that EPA has not made a decision. He added that the public will be able to comment informally on the CMS and there will be a formal public comment period on EPA's cleanup plan once it is developed.

**EPA-Housatonic Project Citizens Coordinating Council
Attendance January 28, 2010**

Name	Organization	Email Address	Attended
<i>Members</i>			
Valerie Anderson	Hous. Clean River Coalition	Vander4@verizon.net	
Thelma Barzottini	Citizens for PCB Removal		
Barbara Cianfarini	Citizens for PCB Removal	bcianfar@hotmail.com	
Michael Carroll	GE-MTC	Michael.carroll@corporate.ge.com	X
Gene Chague	Trout Unlimited; Berkshire League of Sportsmen	JG_Chague@hotmail.com	
Jeff Cook	Downtown Pittsfield	jcook@cohenkinne.com	
Shep Evans	Hous. Valley Association	shepevans@yahoo.com	
Sarah Flynn	Hous. Clean River Coalition	ethansarah@verizon.net	
Lynn Fowler	Housatonic River Commiss.	lynnfowler@att.net	
Benno Friedman	Sheffield	Benno2@verizon.net	
Tim Gray	Hous. River Initiative	housriverkeeper@verizon.net	
Judy Herkimer	Hous. Env. Action League	healct@snet.net	
Bill Hines	PEDA-City of Pittsfield		
Charles Kilson	Schaghticoke Tribal Nation	Cekemt731@earthlink.net	
Rene Laubach	MA Audubon	rlaubach@massaudubon.org	X
Andrew Madden	MA Dept. for Fish & Wildlife	Andrew.madden@state.ma.us	
Caleb Mitchell	Pittsfield.		
Dan McGuinness	NW CT Council of Govts.	Nwccog1@snet.net	
Susan Peterson	CT DEP	susan.peterson@ct.gov	X
Dennis Regan	Housatonic Valley Assoc.	dregan@hvatoday.org	
Andy Silfer	GE	Andrew.silfer@ge.com	X
Susan Svirsky	U.S. EPA	Svirsky.susan@epa.gov	
Eva Tor	MA DEP	Eva.tor@state.ma.us	X
Dean Tagliaferro	U.S EPA	Tagliaferro.dean@epa.gov	X
Jane Winn	Berk. Envir. Action Team	jane@thebeatnews.org	X
Dale Young	MA Natural Res. Trustees	Dale.young@state.ma.us	
John Ziegler	MA DEP	John.Ziegler@state.ma.us	X
<i>Alternates</i>			
Audrey Cole	HEAL	healct@snet.net	
Tim Conway	U.S. EPA	Conway.tim@epa.gov	X
Dick Gates	GE	Richard.gates@corporate.ge.com	X
Dave Gibbs	Housatonic River Initiative	Dgibbs@verizon.net	
Samantha Lefenfeld	Housatonic Valley Assoc.	slefenfeld@hvatoday.org	
J.Connell	S.Berk. Chamber of Comm.	Jennifer@clarkandgreen.com	
Michael Makes	Pittsfield Cons. Comm.	djtjrinc@berkshire.rr.com	
Gayle Tardif-Raser	Mass Audubon	gtraser@massaudubon.org	

Additional Attendees

Mark Jester	Berkshire County League of Sportsmen
Kevin Mooney	GE
Rod McLaren	GE
Harold Nelson	
Ben De La Mater	Berkshire Eagle
Scott Campbell	Weston Solutions
Kate Harvey	Consensus Building Institute
Patrick Field	Consensus Building Institute
Jim Murphy	US EPA
Chuck Anastas	Durand & Anastas Environmental Strategies