

West Deptford Environmental Commission
Minutes
9 December 2013

Present: Dave Sileo, Dave Keller, Ed Komczyk, Sam Cianfarini, Miriam Reichenbach and guests: Kathleen Scherf and Gina Carolla

Absent: Ernie Kraus, Joe Nahas, and Terri Wallowitch

Dave Sileo called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Sam Cianfarini swore in Miriam Reichenbach as a member of the Environmental Commission.

The approval of the minutes of October 2013 was duly moved and seconded. Unanimously approved.

Old Business

Ed reported that he is waiting to hear from the Mayor regarding citizen recognition for Tom Zander.

Dave Sileo reminded the group to monitor the growing web site and email him with suggestions. Additionally, since proposed projects need to be reviewed and approved, they should all be forwarded to one committee person for safe-keeping. Miriam will receive all proposals and bring them to the committee. Each sender will receive an automatic response acknowledging receipt of the proposal.

ERI Update: Ed contacted the DVRPC regarding the West Deptford ERI. The DVRPC has a high quality template it uses for such projects and would be willing to complete our ERI for the discounted price of about \$10,000. If the committee is interested, it may be possible to get WD onto the 2014 fiscal year calendar. Considerable discussion regarding local funds (open space money and/or industry)), budgeted funds (2014 budget) and RFPs followed. Sam reminded the group that the existing Open Space money might be used for monarch butterfly gardens, clearing paths at Strawberry Vale, planting mountain pinks, etc., but we may need other funding for the ERI. Also, he intends to put two motions before the township committee: 1) put money in the 2014 budget to fund the Environmental Commission projects; 2) put the cost of producing the ERI out for RFPs.

Ed informed the committee that the two Daves gave a great presentation at the CAP meeting where they shared our old ERI and Deptford's recent ERI with the group. There was much interest in the documents and many expressed the need to update WD's quickly.

Dave Keller: motion that the Twp. Committee budget an amount not to exceed \$15,000 to develop an ERI in 2014. Seconded by Ed Komczyk. Approved unanimously

Dave Keller: motion that the Twp. purchasing agent put together an RFP for the ERI. Seconded by Dave Sileo. Approved unanimously.

Sam requested that we provide the purchasing agent with a template for creating the necessary RFP. He also suggested that committee members might attend the Twp. meeting on 16 January.

Adopt-a-Park: no report.

Dave asked that all committee members renew their commitments to attending meetings and performing the work of the committee.

New Business

Harry Smith resigned from the committee. Terri Wallowitch intends to resign from the committee.

Sam updated the members on his conversations and meetings with Solvay regarding local drinking water. All but well #3 showed no measurable contamination levels of PFNA. Though there are no current NJ contamination level guidelines, Well #3 tested slightly lower levels (38 ppt) of PFNA than the soon-to-be-adopted guideline. Suggestion: close well #3. Sam also requested Solvay: test the blended water supply (local water, 40%, and American Water, 60%); establish a base line of contamination; and continue periodic testing of all water.

Sam will present two motions to the Twp. Committee at the next work session in December. 1) the Twp. will request the DEP to establish a guideline setting the maximum acceptable contamination level, and 2)

the Twp. examine the engineer's report regarding additional precautionary measures on the issues surrounding PFNAs and other matters.

Dave Keller reminded the group that though Solvay no longer uses the products which produce PFNAs, contaminants like PFNA are ubiquitous in our environment.

Sam asked that someone on the committee handle a potential donation of 6.6 acres to the Twp. Green Acres program. Ed offered that we could probably get assistance from the SJLWT in examining any liabilities and accepting the donation of the land for \$1.

8:05 p.m. Sam had to leave.

Dave Keller also had an extensive report on his conversations with the NJDEP and Solvay. See attached appendix for details.

Dave Sileo and Dave Keller reported on their presentation to the CAP. Ed explained to the group who the CAP is, how these CAPs came into being, and what they report at meetings. At the Mantua Grove Citizens Advisory Panel, the local industries share their OSHA, DEP and EPA reports. In addition, they usually mention if they are hiring and for what positions. For more information, see the mantua Grove CAP web site.

Dave Sileo pointed out that there are many grants to examine. Perhaps we can find one or more to fund future projects.

Westville ANJEC Meeting: Dave Sileo, Ed and Miriam attended the meeting dealing with storm water basins and the ways in which they can be made a useful part of the local environment. Dave suggested we talk with the Twp. Committee about redefining what we do in WD with our detention basins. Perhaps we could create an adopt-a-basin project. Core logs, rain water collection barrels and mowing practices on the local golf courses also became part of the discussion.

Dave Keller reminded the group that we need to make plans for Earth Day. Perhaps create several projects for Strawberry Vale.

Ed reminded Dave Sileo that our meeting dates for January and February are legal holidays, so the Municipal Building will not be open. The group decided to retain the dates and move the meetings to Riverwinds.

This group needs to seek out new, qualified members for the Committee as well as alternates.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Appendix A

Below are notes from conversations that David Keller had with NJDEP and Solvay from 11/19-11/20/13. These conversations pertain to PFNA groundwater contamination in West Deptford. These notes were written by David Keller and read aloud on 12/9/13 at the West Deptford Environmental Commission meeting.

On 11/19/13, I spoke with Erica Bergman of NJDEP. She is a case manager at NJDEP and is aware of the Solvay groundwater contamination issues. Erica Bergman's contact number is 609-292-7406. She informed me of the status of Solvay monitoring for PFNA:

Solvay met with the DEP on 9/6 and worked on a plan to sample within 5 miles of their plant. They hired a 3rd party company to consult with and take water samples. They collected water samples from WD wells on 10/30/13. Solvay has gotten the results back and is doing a QC procedure.

I asked Erica the following questions:

Question 1: What were the levels of PFNA that were detected near Solvay?

Answer: In 2007, 2008, and 2009, several hundred parts per trillion (ppt) were detected on the Delaware River. Also, in October at well #7 in Paulsboro there were readings of 150 ppt PFNA. Curiously concentrations have gone up at this well.

Question 2: How do these levels compare to ambient levels?

Answer: Ambient levels are mostly non-detects

Question 3: Will the state issue any kind of guidance to the municipalities concerning PFNA?

Answer: PFNA is a large compound and is less degradable. By default, 40 ppt (or 0.04 ppb) is recommended as a preliminary health based guidance number for long term exposure. This is the preliminary health advisory used for PFOA. The health advisory for PFNA will likely be lower. This is an emerging contaminant and there is no MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level). None of the Perflouronated compounds are technically regulated. This was the end of my conversation with Ms. Bergman.

Note that according to Solvay, they stopped using PFNA in 2010.

On 11/20/13, Geoff Pass of Solvay, spoke at the Mantua Grove Citizens Advisory Panel meeting. During that meeting he said the following in regards to PFNA testing in West Deptford:

Collection of water samples was witnessed by a LSRP for NJDEP. 40 % of WD public drinking water comes from wells, 60% comes from American Water. American Water treats their water with a carbon filtration. Six wells were tested and all are below 40 ppt but some of these were above non-detect. They will release this data.

On 11/20/13, I spoke with Geoff Pass of Solvay at the Mantua Grove Citizens Advisory Panel meeting. I asked him the following questions:

Question 1: Sources for PFOA and PFNA may be different. Have you sampled the GCUA effluent or the leachate from the Gloucester County Landfill which the GCUA receives?

Answer: We have not. We will be sampling the river.

Question 2: Did you test for multiple perflouronated compounds?

Answer: Yes. C8-C13

Geoff also said that all samples will be taken by mid-December and that a workplan was submitted to NJDEP. This was the end of my conversation with Geoff Pass of Solvay.