

Minutes
Environmental Advisory Board
16 October 2019
Ogden Dunes Town Hall

The Environmental Board met on 16 October 2019 at 5:30 pm at the Ogden Dunes Town Hall. Attendees were, Susan MiHalo, Sue Adams, Jim Biancotti, Vicky Albritton, Kristine Sandrick, Chelsea Overholt, and John Morris.

Some additions to the agenda are: SOPs for the street department written many years ago should be updated for a new Street Department head; news about a community solar project; and an update on the lagoon closure plan for Indiana American Water.

Krintine moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting of the Environmental Board, for 18 September 2019. Jim seconded. The motion carried.

Updating response to the recent exceedances at the nearby mills, notification should be given to Eric Kurtz, the fire chief. In the National Response Center application, additional names that were suggested in the last meeting were added, including Jim Reeder, Mike Teeling, and Scott Lehmann.

For the Arcelor Mittal spill, the Environmental Law and Policy Center (ELPC) issued their notice of intent, giving Arcelor Mittal and IDEM 60 days to prepare a reply. We are waiting to see how IDEM responds, because they approved a permit wherein the monitoring frequency was reduced. Donation to ELPC gives the residents standing in a lawsuit, as the ELPC cannot represent the town. Susan made the point that when the National Park was affected, anyone in the nation could be a party to the suit, as the park is owned by all citizens.

There was a question whether the board should draft a letter for the town council to IDEM and Arcelor Mittal concerning the spills. Susan suggested waiting to see the report from IDEM on the event. We will keep it on the agenda for next meeting, primarily to let the parties know we are still keeping track of their actions.

USS Midwest Operation and Maintenance Plan status is still uncertain. Susan will send the link for the document to the group to note the changes. Jim will pay particular attention to this. IDEM reports still reference insufficient O&M documentation. Susan had provided inspection reports for the May 2019 and August 2019 incidents, and the USS response.

For Arcelor Mittal, it seems a power outage caused a blast furnace blowdown to overload the treatment facility, resulting in a cyanide and ammonia release. If this is an issue, some sort of backup power should be mandatory, plus accelerated sampling were such an event to occur. Self-monitoring is unsatisfactory in this case. Notification of downstream parties must be done.

A comment was made about the black material on the beach, as it seemed thicker than usual. Vicky said she had identified it as magnetite after bringing a sample home. She said this is common on many beaches.

Chelsea gave the report for the beach cleanup in September. Eighteen people participated, and 100 pounds of debris were collected. The weight was raised by the number of metal fence posts collected, and metal pins used to mount the ineffective snow fence thought to limit erosion of the banks. Approximately 1300 small styrofoam pieces less than 2.5 cm were collected, 55 cigarettes, and 76 small plastic pieces. Chelsea has a system to help in compiling the data, which she will pass on to the next person to do the job.

There is no news on the septic workgroup.

It will soon be time to write next year's beach grant. Susan is getting quotes from Microbac in case it is needed for collection, since Carson Costanza may not always be available.

There is nothing from the Lighting Task Force.

There is nothing on the MS4 exemption.

For recycling, Mike Teeling said at the last council meeting that weekly recycling will be maintained in the new contract. It may cost more, though.

Regarding Long Lake Marsh, Susan noticed fire lines set out for West Beach for a controlled burn, so she will contact Eric Kurtz to see if a partial burn can be done in the marsh.

For additional items on the agenda, Susan showed the SOPs prepared for the Street Department years ago, that need updating. These include handling of waste oil, municipal buildings recycling, and reducing waste. These will be distributed and discussed at an upcoming meeting.

Sue mentioned she participated in a call about community solar power sponsored by NIPSCO. This is in the brainstorming phase, and there will be another on 1 November.

Kristine found on the virtual file cabinet an update on the lagoon closure plan for Indiana American Water. IDEM, in their response, raised several issues that were noted in comments from the ODEAB to a previous version of the plan.

Sue moved to adjourn and Jim seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Submitted by John Morris.