

## Minutes

### Environmental Advisory Board

19 April 2017

### Ogden Dunes Town Hall

The Environmental Board met on 19 April 2017 at 5:35 pm at Town Hall. Attendees were, Susan MiHalo, Sue Adams, Kristine Sandrick, Doug Cannon, Chelsea Overholt, Jim Biancotti, and John Morris.

Krintine moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting of the Environmental Board, for 15 March 2017. Sue seconded. The motion carried.

Susan started with what she learned about the hexavalent chromium spill into Burns Waterway from the US Steel plant, and when she learned of it. The spill occurred, or was learned of, on 11 April 2017. The failure occurred in an expansion joint in a line that transports waste to a chromium treatment plant. This bypassed this treatment, and sent it to the waterway, and into the lake. Sampling was done at the ends of the town's beach, at NPS beaches, and the Indiana American Water plant was notified at 1:30 pm, at which point the town water supply was switched to the Gary plant. The town was then notified, and Susan was notified by Save the Dunes 4:30 pm. She then suggested to Tim Nelson that the beach be closed, since the NPS beaches were already closed. Jim suggested that when he worked at the US Steel mill prior to 2009, the treated chromium flowed to the Final Treatment Plant, and then to an outfall. Since then, a New Chrome Treatment Plant had been installed, and the treated effluent flowed directly to an outfall. Jim had heard that the recent sampling for chromium was less than 0.01 mg/L. Within the permit (IN0000337), the monthly average for hexavalent chromium, Cr(VI), is 0.17 lbs/day, given the concentration times the flow, while the daily maximum is 0.51 lbs/day. In a sample exceedance report, from 24 January 2017, the grab sample result was 0.033 mg/L, which calculated out to 2.37 lbs/day. Sue suggested, as she heard on NPR, that this was found out by virtue of a whistleblower in the mill. Susan suggested that in the event of an enforcement action from this event, the Town should have a representative at the table. She had distributed an example of a prior exceedance of the permit, and asked for help searching the IDEM virtual file cabinet for other instances. This is reachable by the link:

<http://vfc.idem.in.gov/DocumentSearch.aspx>

In any event, we need to better understand what the chain of command and notification is for future emergencies. Apparently, the notification came through Porter County Dispatch, which did not follow their own protocol. Where does the ODEAB fit in this scheme? That must be answered.

With regard to the potential shipment of petcoke to the Port of Indiana for transshipment, no new information is available. It probably is going to happen, but we are not even sure what kind of petcoke it is.

Regarding Dark Skies, Sue Adams met with the local manager of Indiana American Water on 29 March. She showed write-ups about Dark Skies and pictures of the light from the water plant, showing how it bleeds over to residential areas. She has no feedback from the water company, but will meet with them again next week. Sue has no new information about the LEDs and which brightness will be offered. She heard that Chicago is going to use 3000 Kelvin LEDs. NIPSCO says they don't know what they will use, but there is a possibility that they have already purchased the LEDs that will be used. Sue said the proposed ordinance goes before the planning committee tomorrow, but likely will bounce back.

Susan says there is no news for Long Lake Marsh.

The 2017 Beach Grant is needs to be signed by Tim Nelson electronically. Susan needs to learn how to find out when that happens.

There is nothing new on MS4 exemption.

Jim Biancotti was not in town for the last Septic System Coordination Workgroup meeting.

EPA contacted Susan about our Septic Smart Week, and want her to do a presentation. She will talk about pitfalls as well as successes. Some have complained that it cost money when they found their system was not in good shape. Code review is proposing a point of sale inspection.

We had discussed having a booth at the Memorial Day picnic. This will include information on recycling, septic awareness, and Dark Skies. The discussion turned to finding a draw, and having an enviroscape table for the kids to play with was suggested.

Doug raised the issue that Jim Matthys planned to cancel the town cleanup because the restrictions for the disposal had become too difficult. Doug planned to work with Ben Newton to work through the problems.

The updates to the website have been made. Kristine suggested the members' expertise be listed on the website.

Discussion of a budget will be necessary next meeting, as no time was available this time.

Susan moved to adjourn and John seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Submitted by John Morris.