

# Lake Township Community Advisory Group

**Lake Township Community Advisory Group Meeting  
November 18, 2000**

**Committee**

**Members:** John Ondick, Patricia & Gordon Schorr, Ted Walls, Mike Pearch, Dan Clay, Tom & Freda Roberts, Larry Wittmer, Jr., Roy Leckonby,

**Press:** Tammy Proctor, Joy Dingman

**Also Present:** Sue ruley, Trustee; Carolyn Casey, Administrator; David L. Herbert, Legal Counsel; present via telephone conference call, Tom Shalala; present for portion of meeting, Ross Del Rosario, USEPA

The CAG meeting opened at 9:10 am. with introductions. Sue Ruley spoke about the history of the landfill. She mentioned that the companies involved have asked the EPA to consider installing a phyto cap instead of a plastic cap. She asked the group what they thought were the best options for the future of the landfill. She felt that without the groups input the plastic cap would be installed by this time next year.

David Herbert addressed the group next. He advised them that they must follow the Ohio Sunshine Laws and that all meetings would be advertised in advance. This group was formed to give input into future uses for the landfill site. The landfill site includes the acreage that was actively used as a dump, and the 17 surrounding properties previously purchased by the United States government. The current Record of Decision calls for the installation of a synthetic cap. A phyto cap is being considered at this time. If this would happen, additional water testing would be requested. An improved methane venting system and the installation of new monitoring wells is also being discussed. Mr. Shalala is evaluating water tests that were conducted in August. The next water evaluation will be at the end of November. Mr. Shalala will also evaluate those tests. The result of the PRP's survey showed that the bulk of the township would like to see some type of greenspace, not a plastic cap. The survey, however, may need to be more comprehensive and receive a larger response to be valid.

Sue Ruley related that the buildings in front of the landfill are being evaluated to be torn down. Debris in the buildings has been sent for testing. Underground storage tanks at 12600 Cleveland Avenue and other properties fronting on Cleveland Avenue were also discovered. Testing will hopefully be done on these tanks as Lake Township has requested it.

Dan Clay moved that the minutes of the CAG meeting of October 21, 2000 be approved as submitted. Seconded by John Ondick.

Ted Walls made a motion that John Ondick be the spokesperson for the Community Advisory Group. Seconded by Pat Schorr. Roy Leckonby was appointed as an alternate spokesperson.

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The group discussed developing a mission statement. A subcommittee was developed for this purpose, as well as developing bylaws. The members are John, Ted, Roy, and Dan.

Tom Shalala was contacted via phone in order to converse with the group, since he could not be present in person. He stated that Sharp and Associates have done an assessment on the buildings in front of the landfill on Cleveland Avenue (previously Uniontown Tire building, antique store, and warehouse). Asbestos has been found at 12600 Cleveland Avenue, so demolition of the buildings has been delayed. Mr. Shalala's first concern was that eight underground storage tanks have been discovered on some of the properties fronting on Cleveland Avenue. These tanks need to be analyzed and removed, and the water wells that go with the buildings need to be sampled and then properly abandoned. Sharp generated two reports on the investigation of these buildings. Sharp and Associates are the technical advisers for the PRPs. Tom was concerned that the direction of ground water flow is not yet clear. He also stated that off site migration of contaminants had occurred. There is vinyl chloride at the clean up level, which is the property line. Nickel was also found off-site. On-site contaminants are vinyl chloride and arsenic. Wells that had been impacted in the past are still affected today. Benzene concentration in the center of the landfill has gone up since 1998. Mr. Shalala was concerned that biodegradation may not be occurring. Good data from the PRPs is needed to clearly establish what is happening.

Ted Walls stated that if he were notified when the tanks at 12600 Cleveland Avenue were going to be removed, he would be available to take photographs.

It was suggested that the presentation made by the PRPs at the Uniontown Methodist Church on October 25, 2000 should be presented at the next CAG meeting. This presentation could be videotaped and made available to the cable TV companies for broadcast in the community and otherwise made available on tape for the public

It was discussed that the group could be eligible to apply for a Technical Advisory Grant. A TAG grant is used to access experts who can analyze and interpret information and data so that technical assistance can be provided to the group. This grant is available from the EPA for up to \$50,000.00. The CAG group currently has a \$100,000 grant through the township. This TAG grant must be applied for through a corporation (preferably non-profit). The accounting firm, Miller and Miller, have agreed to donate all or part of their services to help with this process, as will legal counsel. The TAG group would have to have a board of trustees with a president, vice-president, and a secretary/treasurer.

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The CAG decided to meet on the third Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. The next meeting will be December 16, 2000. At that meeting, there will hopefully be a presentation by the PRPs or at the following meeting.

At approximately 10:45 a.m. Ross Del Rosario, Project Director for USEPA Region V, arrived in order to discuss the landfill with the group. He stated that Oliver Wansley and Denise Battaglia were the best people to help the group with the TAG grant. Mr. Del Rosario indicated that the next round of sampling will be November 27, 2000; and the group can observe this work from outside of the fence area. If they have completed OSHA training, they will be allowed to go on the site. Mr. Del Rosario stated that he had pictures from the last round of sampling and that he would be willing to share those with anyone who is interested.

It was suggested that the group members have a card identifying them as part of the Community Advisory Group for when they go to the site.

Ross Del Rosario said that there are high levels of benzene at monitoring well #14, which could indicate several different problems. He felt that this should be addressed soon. He also indicated that the ROD could be amended. He stated that he is trying to find out if Bob Martin's report is a preliminary report or the actual report. He is using October 23, 2000 as the beginning of the comment period, which would mean December 23, 2000 would be the deadline for comment. In Martin's report he asked for three things: that a technical advisory group be formed, that there be more studies of the landfill, and that trenching be done. There is already a technical advisory group in place and trenching is not really considered a good idea.

The group expressed an interest in OSHA training in order to be allowed access to the landfill site. Ross Del Rosario informed the group that if they were interested in the training they should write him a letter and he could look into different sources for funding.

An updated list of addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses will be sent out to all members of the Community Advisory Group and others.