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East Helena Lead Education and Assistance Program  
Advisory Minutes  
March 9, 2016  
City Hall  
East Helena, MT 59635

**Present:**

Ron Whitmoyer, Superintendent of East Helena Schools

Greg Hayes, PWT

Betsy Burns, USEPA

Jan Williams, LEAP

Daryl Reed, MTDEQ

Brian Obert, MBAC

Eric Seidensticker, MBAC

Jan called the meeting to order and asked if there were any corrections or additions to the January 13, 2016 minutes. Betsy asked that the date on CERCLA's Five Year Review be changed from November, 2016 to the end of September, 2016. Betsy motioned to approve the minutes, Daryl seconded. Minutes were approved with the noted change.

**Program Reports:**

RCRA – Betsy reported that the Corrective Measure Study (CMS Work Plan is finalized and will be posted to the Trust's website. The CMS Work Plan initial draft was done in 2011 and modifications that were incorporated into the second draft CMS Work Plan in 2014. Work detailed in the 2011 Work Plan has been ongoing and the results will be documented in the Corrective Measures Study Report that is scheduled for completion in 2017.

The ET cap should be finished in 2016 and removal of source material in the Acid Plant area (OU1 Rod) will be completed in 2016. Demolition of the car wash and sludge thickener building will be completed in 2016. The State of Montana and Lewis and Clark County supplied

comments on the Addendum to the 2015/2016 Work Plan and EPA will respond to those comments.

The METG is working with residents who want to abandon their wells and connect to City Water. The Trust will give residents half of the money up front and the other half after the well is certified abandoned. Residents will also receive a stipend for irrigation and domestic use costs if they are in the Controlled Ground Water Area. Members of the CGWA working group are: EPA, DEQ (Jim Stimson), Lewis and Clark County and DNRC.

Helena Sand and Gravel is continuing to do work on the plant site; hydro seeding the south end, north end construction and excavating the former lower lake area for the reconstructed PPC.

CERCLA – Betsy reported that a public notice for the 5 Year Review will be posted in the next few weeks. PWT is working on the road apron and flood channel remediation for 2016. PWT has provided a draft O&M plan for the repository. Additional investigation at the repository, which includes soil borings with leachability analysis and two sentinel groundwater monitoring wells, is scheduled for 2016. The Sampling and Analysis Plan for the railroad right of way for areas in Manlove moving west is being drafted and characterization should take place in 2016.

Betsy reported that she had received comments from MTDEQ to the East Helena School District asserting that the cleanup remedies implemented at the East Helena Superfund site are not protective of human health. EPA toxicologists responded to the East Helena School District and stated that there is no scientific basis for the assertion. Betsy went on to say that all elevated blood lead levels are investigated and that the county is working with the State Medicaid office and Head Start personnel to ensure the availability for area children to have blood lead screening done.

Brian asked if the acid plant storage tanks are going to be left in place, Betsy said that they are. Several companies have evaluated the storage tanks and the railroad spur for future redevelopment. Betsy went on to talk about land owned by the Trust. The beneficiaries (MTDEQ, METG and the USEPA) will have to come to some kind of understanding with regard to the land. The funds for the administration of O&M of the lands are dwindling and an understanding needs to happen before money runs out. If no understanding can be reached the matter will be sent back to Bankruptcy Court for resolution.

Betsy stated that a final RD/RA Consent Decree for American Chemet for abandoning wells (4 of 6) has been written. There will be pumping limits and flow restrictions on the remaining production and injection wells.

Brian introduced Eric Seidensticker, who will be replacing Brian, as Brian is the new Director of MBAC. Brian reported that MBAC put together a funding package for the Heritage Foods sale and that MBAC is helping Shalon Hastings establish a business in the old A&W building. Brian also stated that there is a developer who is interested in purchasing Trust Land, and is in preliminary review with MBAC.

Ron reported that enrollment in the East Helena Schools continues to increase, and that the projected numbers for the Mountain View Meadows is right on target. The projected rates were

.2 children per household in MT View Meadows and there are 22 students living in 100 new homes. Ron stressed that East Helena School District is trying to work with MTDEQ for the purchase of Trust land. East Helena needs the growth – pathway for the City and school district to be viable in the future. Ron stated that there will be a meeting held on March 15, 2016 with MTDEQ (Jenny Chambers, Bill Kirley), and East Helena School District to discuss how to move forward. Ron emphasized that East Helena School District is very frustrated with DEQ. Ron went on to say that the community is struggling with issues – relationship building – community building and community pain with the number of suicides happening in their community. East Helena students are committing suicide 300% above the state's average. How community building can help address suicide in their young people and find support for those who are affected by suicide.

Greg reported that the remediation of the road aprons and flood channels will be starting earlier than anticipated and that the work should be completed within 2 – 3 months. Greg went on to say that there are 35 properties on the list for sampling and that there are 16 road aprons that need sampling (15 of which are in Manlove addition). As of this time, one half of the access agreements for those properties had been sent out with the rest to be sent out soon. Two property owners on the Long Term Monitoring Program had finally sent in signed access agreements. There was a discussion on adding School District's property that is transferred from the Trust to the Long Term Monitoring Program.

Greg went on to report that the GIS interactive mapping site for the East Helena area is active and has gone public and that the site will be added to EPA's site. Greg informed the group that he had attended a realtor's luncheon, where approximately 80 people were in attendance, to give a presentation on the GIS mapping site. Greg shared data concerning how many hits the GIS mapping site had received so far. Greg also reiterated what Betsy had said about the East Fields repository sampling QAPP. The top two depth intervals would be checked for leachability all the way down to the southern perimeter. Greg also reported that the RA Completion Report for 2015 was complete and that the RR RD QAPP was in progress.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45.

The next meeting would be decided at a later date.