

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

MEETING MINUTES
Fairmont Community Liaison Panel
May 3, 2001

Attendees: Steve Cain, Nick Fantasia, Karen Gribben, Bea Hunter, Kevin McClung, Bruce McDaniel, Barbara Metcalfe, John Parks, Robert Sapp, Chief Rick Starn, Ron Swope.

ExxonMobil
Representatives: Art Chin, John Hannig.

Agency
Representatives: Rich Kuhn, Hilary Thornton, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Tom Bass, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP).

Contractor: Frank Markert, IT Corporation.

Guests: Griff Fowler; Steven Emsbo-Mattingly, Battelle; Megan Rice, Fox 46 News; Andrew Sutton, Fairmont Times West Virginian; Doug Taylor, Environmental Strategies Corporation.

Facilitator: Roberta Fowlkes, Ann Green Communications, Inc.

Minutes: Dan T. Londeree, Ann Green Communications, Inc.

The regular meeting of the Fairmont Community Liaison Panel (FCLP) was called to order by facilitator Roberta Fowlkes at 5:35 p.m. Guests introduced themselves.

Roberta reviewed the agenda, and there were no changes. The minutes of the April meeting were approved as distributed.

Other Business

Hilary Thornton said ExxonMobil, WVDEP and EPA have come to an agreement regarding a global settlement. He said the final agreement will be in the form of a Consent Decree, and this document is now being developed. He said all parties were pleased at the conclusion of the meeting that resulted in the agreement, and all parties want the project to move forward. He said the past cost issues were beginning to impact work at the site, and the parties heard from the panel that the community wanted all parties to work to reach a global settlement.

Hilary said the main parts of the settlement address past costs, redevelopment, and ExxonMobil's agreement to move forward with the Kipin alternative. Hilary said there also is a state component to the settlement. However, Tom Bass said he could not go into detail regarding this because the documents have not been completed. He said an official announcement would be forthcoming and the agreement will be very beneficial to the City of Fairmont.

Hilary thanked the panel for its input and hard work regarding this part of the process. He said the panel played an important role in getting representatives of EPA, WVDEP and ExxonMobil to sit down and reach an agreement.

Unfinished Business

Project Update

John Hannig said additional reseeded and erosion matting have been completed in the former locations of PSA 7 and the oxidation impoundment. He said this is to ensure the grading of the sloped areas is maintained. He said the Waste Management Area (WMA) consolidation would be addressed later in the meeting. He said ExxonMobil has decided to use the Kipin alternative, and work should begin within the next several months.

John said the timing for the Characterization Study of the Sub Tributary Area had been noted as "to be determined" for the last several months. He said this is an area with some evidence of contamination. Sampling had been planned to determine the makeup and origin of the material. John said the sampling was completed earlier in the day, and these samples will be analyzed during the next two months.

John reported on the status of redevelopment. He said the Broker Request for Proposal (RFP) process is in progress. He said ExxonMobil had contacted several Brownfields redevelopment experts, as well as traditional brokers. He said Brownfields refers

to lands that have historically been occupied by industry and are available for redevelopment. He said he and Art have been in contact with several organizations that submitted proposals, and he said he was impressed with two Brownfields redevelopers. He said one of these is located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and the other is located in New York City. He said both have excellent track records in taking previously-used sites and turning them back into productive sites. John said he hopes to choose a developer within the next few weeks. He said Brownfields redevelopers take a different approach to selling the property than do traditional brokers. He said if all goes well, he would like to bring the selected redeveloper to a panel meeting to discuss the details of the redevelopment process.

John said the Redevelopment Subcommittee is in progress and a report will be given by Kevin McClung.

Update on Possibility of Recycling Material Onsite

Art said he has recently met with representatives of Kipin to discuss details of the project. Art said he believes technologically, Kipin can do the job. He said he will not be comfortable with the financial aspect of the job until it is finished. He said this project will require moving 100,000 cubic yards of material. He said this material must meet an energy value of 7,800 BTU per pound, and this must be done by bringing an additive onsite. He said sampling has shown several samples above 8,000 BTU per pound and several that are below 4,000 BTU per pound. He said one additive being researched is coal. He said there are other options, and the panel will be presented with options regarding additives as the process continues. Art said the resulting material must also be rendered non-hazardous. He said it must meet certain standards set by EPA.

Art said once this work is complete, there will be two large holes onsite, and approximately 80,000 cubic yards of fill material will be needed to fill in these holes, costing approximately \$1 million. He said this is not an acceptable option. He said he must be creative and find a way to fill these two holes. He said he will enlist the panel's input regarding this issue. Art said he also must meet the challenge of transporting material to and from the site safely.

Art said he believes the landfills encompass 130,000 cubic yards of material, and of that amount, approximately 30,000 cubic yards is the soil covering on the landfill cap. He said this soil will be used as fill when the material is removed from the site. He said, of the remaining 100,000 cubic yards, 10,000 cubic yards would be water, and 10,000 cubic yards would be general debris. He said this leaves 80,000 cubic yards of material for recycling. He said any material left onsite will be non-hazardous.

Redevelopment Subcommittee Report

Kevin McClung reported on the Subcommittee meeting. He said the meeting occurred earlier in the day, and representatives of Senator Rockefeller's office and Senator Byrd's office attended. He said the Subcommittee reviewed issues regarding the West Virginia Development Office (WVDO), and concluded WVDO needed more specific information about the site. He said once this information is available, WVDO will be able to help market the site. He said WVDO is not currently marketing the site, but will place a link on their website that directs users to the EPA Project XL website.

Kevin said John led a discussion regarding Brownfields redevelopers and informed the Subcommittee the list had been narrowed to two organizations.

Kevin said the Subcommittee decided there were two key issues to be addressed before it can proceed:

- 1) Knowledge of which alternative will be used to clean up the site.
- 2) Knowledge of which Brownfields redeveloper will be chosen.

He said Bruce asked both representatives if there are any upcoming government incentives that could be used to redevelop the site. He said neither representative knew of any such incentive, but both committed to communicating with their offices regarding this issue.

In response to a question, John said the Brownfields redeveloper selected for the site will work with the Subcommittee, the panel, the WVDO and other government offices as the process moves forward.

Communications Update

Rich Kuhn presented results of the survey conducted by an EPA contractor. He said the purpose of EPA's survey was to implement a community involvement impact analysis project. He said this is part of the compliance for the Government Performance Results Act of 1993 to evaluate projects which receive federal funds. He said a secondary objective was to look at the results of this survey and make inferences on what type of impact community advisory groups are having on community relations efforts. He said the survey had a response rate of approximately 19 percent. [A copy of Rich's slides is enclosed with these minutes.]

John said the project is beginning to enter another phase of work using the Kipin alternative, and there will be a lot of work activity onsite. He said he believes the best way to

communicate this is through a fact sheet. He said he will work on a draft of this information to be distributed to the community.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be June 7, and will include a project update, an update on the recycling of material onsite, a redevelopment subcommittee report, and a communication update.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Next Meeting: **Thursday, June 7, 2001**
 Circle W Building
 5:00 p.m. – Refreshments
 5:30 p.m. – Meeting