

## April 10, 2013 Minutes

Meeting started at 7pm

Members Present: Ruth Caputo, Luis Henriquez, Martha Dahlinger, Catherine Niessink, Marty Sepanik, Bill Beck, Chris Barnes, David Harn (guest)

Excused members: Christin DeJong, Spencer Welling, Raoul Wadhwa

Spencer made some changes to the minutes from March. Martha proposed a few more additional changes to the minutes as well.

Catherine made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Martha.

David Harn, environmental quality analyst with the MDEQ, gave a special presentation on vapor intrusion.

- Overview of the MDEQ: Admin, air quality, remediation and redevelopment, water resources divisions
- Offices: environmental assistance, great lakes, oil gas and minerals, drinking water
- Others: Waste Management and radiological protection, environmental investigation section
- Movement of volatile chemicals from subsurface into buildings and human receptors such as petroleum hydrocarbons, chlorinated compounds, and methane
- Diagram showing migration of soil vapors from contaminated soil and groundwater plumes to indoor air. May enter through cracks in the foundation or openings for utility lines. Atmospheric conditions and building ventilation are known to influence this. Only difference with radon is that it is naturally occurring.
- Influences: depth to groundwater, distance from source, contaminant concentration, soil type, building construction, type of contaminant.
- MDEQ Guidance Document: Final draft came out December 2012, initial peer review draft was in February 2006.
- Tiered approach: screening level assessment, soil gas investigation, building-specific investigation, remedial actions.
- Screening Level Assessment: assessment of immediate risk, identifying sources (soil, groundwater, and vapor cloud), receptor evaluation (humans).
- Soil gas investigation: Collecting samples, evaluating soil gas data, unique conditions/exceptions. Common approach: available screening values for soil gas data, impacted by weather, soil type, several rounds may be needed to make sense of data due to variability.

- Building-specific investigation: interior building survey, assessment of immediate risk, sub-slab sampling, evaluation of sub-slab data, indoor air sampling, multiple lines of evidence.
- Sub-slab sampling: collected immediately below the building slab, good indication of VI, impacted by weather, soil type, intrusive so it may require recarpeting or resurfacing, several rounds may be needed. Number of sampling points depends on contaminant concentrations, proximity to source, geology, and building size.
- Investigate vs. presumptively mitigate: extra time and cost versus what it would cost to mitigate
- Response Actions: source area remediation, institutional controls, and building controls. You can seal leaks, building pressurization using HVAC, indoor air cleaners, passive barrier systems, subsystem membranes.
- Response action considerations: mitigation verification, consideration of air permit requirements, operation & maintenance and long-term monitoring.
- PHCs can be biodegraded with oxygen, bugs, etc.
- Technical and program support teams exist. Vapor intrusion just one of the areas that these teams cover.

#### Annual Report and Goals for coming year

- Asked Parks Board about working with us on our goals regarding Eliason Reserve and they declined.
- Ruth needs to get it to Chris by Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### Greenathon

- April 27<sup>th</sup>, 11am to 3pm. Marty, Catherine, Martha, Ruth, and Tim have volunteered to help.

#### Purple Loosestrife Beetles

- \$500 is our limit and that includes up to seven releases plus shipping. It may go slightly above \$500 but donations into the program should help cover what goes over the \$500 limit.
- Dig and pull suggested for later this year
- Marty moves to follow last year's program regarding beetle purchases. Seconded by someone. Passes.
- Austin Lake also purchases beetles and West Lake does a dig and pull.

#### Eliason Reserve

- Tour on the weekend of April 20<sup>th</sup> and April 21<sup>st</sup> possibly.

#### Garlic Mustard Pulls

- Ruth will work with Sarah and Friends of the Parks to set some dates for Garlic Mustard pulls.

### Portage River Watershed

- Trying to get the watershed eligible for grant funds
- Lots of new members from downstream in the watershed have been attending the meetings.
- Jeremy Rowland from Chris's office will come in and do a presentation on the council.

### Lake Associations

- Ruth will be making a presentation at their annual meeting at the end of April to the Gourdneck Lake Association.
- Still working on West Lake. Marty is handling Austin Lake.

### Goals

- People should be working on this year's goals. We will be updating at EB meetings.

### New Business

- Two wells in St. Joseph County have gone dry in the past year or so.
- Portage's water table: correlation between surface water and groundwater table but Portage's aquifer levels seem to still be strong. Aquifer levels are much more dependent on pumping level than climate, rain, etc.

### Announcements

- Wild Ones meeting on habitat fragmentation. Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013.
- Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Portage District Library. Author of "Thousand Mile Walk on the Beach," Loreen Niewenhuis, will do a presentation on the geology, hydrology, etc. of Great Lakes.
- Riviera Theater in Three Rivers, MI. Trashed at Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 3pm and next Tuesday through Thursday at 6pm. A Place at the Table is also showing on hunger and children on Friday, Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, and next Tuesday through Thursday at 8:30pm.
- Tim is discussing with Hinman regarding the Phragmites in the retention basin between the Trade Centre buildings.

Adjournment at 8:27pm

/s/ Tim Winslow