

**Middleport Community Input Group
Meeting at Masonic Lodge Hall – Part II Meeting Summary
March 9, 2009 – 6:45 to 8 p.m.**

In Attendance:

Bill Arnold – CIG Chairman	Norma Christiansen – Resident
Elizabeth Storch – Resident	Dick Owen – Resident
Larry Lutz – Resident	Lynn Andrews – Resident
Christa Lutz – Resident	Janet Lyndaker – Resident
Dick Westcott – Resident	
Pat Cousins – Resident	Ann Howard, RIT- Facilitator
Betty Whitney – Resident	Dan Watts, NJIT – Technical Consultant
Harold Mufford – Resident	Jim Pasinski, Carr Marketing Communications – Meeting Notes
Julia Maedl – Resident	

1. Discussion: Part I Meeting

- A. Howard asked for resident feedback on the first part of the meeting.
- J. Maedl stated that the Middleport Village Board had drafted a resolution on the Corrective Action Objectives and noted that it had been sent to the Agencies. She noted that the resolution hit on many of the same points that the CIG has raised. She further noted that the resolution was drafted by the village attorney (Dan Seaman) and was subsequently reviewed by the village board. She stated that village board members all agreed that the objectives lacked a sense of urgency and wanted it to include a statement about the need for the remediation to move forward. A copy of the resolution will be provided to the CIG.
- B. Arnold noted that the Corrective Action Objectives should be finalized shortly depending on any additional comments from the Town of Royalton and Roy-Hart School Board.
- B. Arnold noted that the EPA Region 2 Environmental Quality Award application has been sent it. He has not heard any news on the award as of yet.
- A. Howard requested feedback on the Home Value Assurance Program (HVAP) presentation given by FMC in the first part of this meeting. A resident stated that MLS data did not compare apples to apples. Another resident stated that showing properties from outside of the village boundaries skews the data. A. Howard noted that FMC had stated that they would provide to the CIG revised MLS data showing only properties sold in the village proper. A resident stated that the new program is not anywhere near as good as the Price Protection Program (PPP). A resident stated that FMC's goal with the new program is for the company to no longer own homes in Middleport, which is not necessarily a bad thing. The resident stated that the PPP worked well for those homes in the study areas but it does nothing for those outside of study areas even though the arsenic

issue affects every homeowner in the village. A resident stated that they see both sides of the issue; some homes that entered FMC's PPP were in very bad shape and FMC did a lot of work to improve those homes and the village is now seeing the value of the improvements that were made.

- A resident stated that a stigma remains attached to Middleport even though there are no health dangers because of arsenic. A resident stated that Middleport is holding its own despite the stigma and real estate data proves that.
- A resident stated that the health and diversity of wildlife in the area shows that Middleport is safe.
- A resident stated that the HVAP program is a good program but there remains a perception outside of Middleport that the village is contaminated. The resident stated that they recently spoke to a home appraiser who said that homes sell well in Middleport but there is a stigma there. The resident stated that they would like to see FMC data on exactly how many properties FMC bought and sold through the PPP.
- A resident stated that National Grid did more damage to the village than FMC ever did with their recent tree trimming in the village. Another resident encouraged those concerned to contact Jim Bennett at National Grid to complain about the tree trimming.
- A. Howard asked if anyone had comments on the revised project schedule that FMC presented at the first part of the meeting. A resident stated that they agreed with B. Arnold's comments about the need for even more dates to be included in the schedule. A. Howard noted that the revised schedule with additional dates and explanations for delays is a significant accomplishment for the CIG and the CIG will need to monitor Agency and FMC activities in the context of the proposed schedule.
- A resident stated that the 45-day public comment period listed by the Agencies might be unnecessary. Another resident stated that the Agencies might consider a waiver to 30 days on certain documents after the upcoming RFI public comment period plays out. Another resident stated that they should put pressure on legislators to shorten the public comment period, if necessary.
- D. Watts noted that the state and the EPA would both need to agree to any waiver for the public comment period and that a rationale for the waiver would be needed. He stated that there is a good argument to be made in Middleport.
- B. Arnold announced that the CIG members can attend a meeting with new State Assemblywoman Jane Corwin. He noted that he would like as many CIG members as possible to attend. The meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 20 at 1:30 p.m. in the Village Hall. He stated that he talked with Jane Corwin and she is interested in the issues in Middleport.
- A. Howard noted that there was a miscommunication in regards to the CIG calendars that were supposed to be handed out at this meeting. She stated that they will be available at the April meeting.

2. Proposed MCIG Newsletter

- A. Howard noted that a recommendation was made previously that the CIG consider drafting a newsletter. She stated that there were comments about not all community members having access to the Internet and a newsletter would be a good opportunity to let more people know about the CIG.
- A resident stated that the first version of the newsletter could talk about the CIG, who the group is, what they are doing, and how people can get involved.
- A resident stated that the newsletter could show the CIG making up one part of the triangle along with FMC and the Agencies.
- A resident stated that it is good to communicate with village residents but some people will ignore the newsletter.
- A resident stated that the newsletter is a good idea but it should not start until the actual CMS remediation work begins in Middleport. Another resident agreed and stated that the newsletter would be ideal when there is something to actually report.
- A resident stated that the newsletter should be made available at the village hall, library and businesses rather than mailing it out.
- It was agreed that a newsletter may be more appropriate as more activity related to the preparation of the CMS is underway.
- A. Howard stated that the CIG would play a significant role as community input is required in the CMS.

3. MCIG Survey

- A. Howard noted that this is the third year of the CIG and it is important to get a sense from CIG members in regards to the group overall. For that reason, the CIG members are requested to complete surveys at this meeting.
- CIG members were provided surveys and completed them.

4. Additional Discussion

- J. Maedl noted that the village no longer has the services of Sue Tauro, a grant writer whose services were funded by FMC. There was a brief discussion regarding FMC's termination of support for grant writing services and the MRAG funds and expenditures for the MCIG. Mayor Maedl will report on this at the April meeting.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CIG IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 14. ALL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD FROM 5:30 to 8 P.M. AT THE MASONIC LODGE.

PLEASE SAVE THESE FUTURE MEETING DATES:

- **The May meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 6.**
- **The June meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9.**