

**Middleport Community Input Group
Meeting at Masonic Lodge Hall
January 11, 2007 – 6 to 7:30 p.m. (after 5:30 p.m. Dinner)**

In Attendance:

Village Mayor Julie Maedl	Facilitator – Ann Howard, RIT
Village Attorney Dan Seaman	FMC – Brian McGinnis
Village Coordinator Dan Dodge	FMC – Patt Fagan
Village Code Enforcement Officer Tom Arlington	FMC – Dana Thompson
Village Trustee Liz Bateman	Arcadis (BBL) – Sue Tauro
MRAG Co-Chair Pat Cousins	Faist Govt. Affairs – Tom Faist
MRAG – Margaret Droman	Arcadis (BBL) – Erin Rankin
MRAG – Dr. Susan Crafts	Geomatrix – Wai Chin Lachell
CAP – Dick Westcott	Arcadis (BBL) – Todd Farmen
CAP – Lisa Allen	Secretary – Glen White
CAP – Fr. Joe Badding	Carr Marketing Comm.
CAP – Christa Lutz	
CAP – Larry Lutz	

1. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review, New Information

- J. Maedl and B. McGinnis each thanked the community for continued strong attendance at meetings.
- B. McGinnis introduced new FMC Middleport Plant Manager Dana Thompson, a Niagara County native and UB chemical engineering graduate who has worked in a number of management positions with the FMC Tonawanda plant.
- B. McGinnis also introduced new meeting facilitator Ann Howard, an associate professor of public policy at Rochester Institute of Technology. She has served as facilitator for the Middleport CAP for a number of years.
- B. McGinnis introduced the two presenters on the main topic for the meeting – potential grant funding for Middleport in conjunction with FMC’s remediation projects. Sue Tauro is a grants and information specialist with FMC consultant Arcadis (BBL), and Tom Faist is an Albany-based attorney and state government affairs consultant and lobbyist for FMC and other clients.
- W. Lachell updated the group on the status of the Agencies’ study of potential soil vapor intrusion at the Royalton-Hartland School District Middleport campus. The Agencies have asked FMC to conduct limited additional sampling this winter to confirm the results of last year’s sampling indicating no significant soil vapor intrusion from groundwater.

- J. Maedl noted the School District had also remediated soil and contaminants from an acid drain where chemistry lab materials had historically been disposed. She asked that the Agencies provide the community with final results after the confirmatory sampling. W. Lachell noted FMC is concerned the acid drain remediation may have disturbed PCE or other contaminants and is discussing this with the Agencies.

2. FMC Update on Coe Property and Other Early Actions

- W. Lachell said FMC is preparing scopes of work for the early remedial actions on the Coe Property and Culvert 105 at Margaret Droman Park and will be submitting them to the Agencies for review. FMC is basing the Coe Property scope on input from near neighbors and this group's Dec. 11 meeting. FMC will prepare work plans after Agency comments on the scopes. The work plans will then be presented for public review.
- The Agencies are reviewing the FMC work plan for another early action, the second phase of the North Railroad Property.
- FMC is obtaining an agreement for site activities from Mrs. Coe, who lives in Arizona.
- Concern was raised about potential increased train traffic resulting from rail shipments of corn for a new ethanol plant in Medina. Additional traffic could increase noise and prompt residents to request a berm or other barrier to be included in the remedial design for the Coe property. FMC will contact Fallsview Railroad to determine the level of anticipated traffic from the ethanol plant.

3. Group Communication Strategies

- A. Howard asked what ideas the group had considered (per their homework assignment) for group communications with the general public, especially what the purpose should be and which communication vehicles to use. She reviewed a handout chart of possible communication strategies.
- The group's purpose was defined as to pro-actively move the environmental process in the village forward rather than waiting to react to FMC and the Agencies. During the Nov. 8, 2006, meeting, the Village requested regular meetings for more timely information, and FMC proposed that a "working group" meet regularly to inform and to obtain community input on remedial projects and potential redevelopment in those areas. In that way, the group can help the Village identify and leverage economic development opportunities in those areas. The group also fulfills EPA guidelines seeking community input in environmental programs.

After additional discussion, it was agreed to pursue the following communications approach to ensure Middleport residents are aware of the group's work and can receive input:

- For the group, P. Fagan has set up a new Web site (<http://middleport-future.com>) that can provide members with a place to access meeting and other information and for public announcements and input.
- P. Fagan will provide J. Maedl and D. Seaman the upcoming FMC newsletter article on the 2007 early actions, which mentioned the community input group. J. Maedl will compose a new article focusing on introducing the group and its purpose. J. Maedl will submit the article to the *Lockport Union-Sun & Journal*. P. Fagan will post the article to the new Web site, which will be mentioned in the article.
- Besides J. Maedl, the MRAG co-chairs will serve as the main contacts for the public. The public will be provided the option of leaving comments with the Village clerk, as well.
- At the next meeting, A. Howard will present a sample brochure for the group to consider as a printed piece that could be distributed at certain popular village locations or even mailed to all residents. A newsletter or flyer will also be considered.
- The group will wait to hold a public information session until it has been introduced via the newspaper article, Web site, and printed piece.
- P. Fagan took a photograph of FMC and community leaders at the meeting that can be used for the Web site and brochure.

4. Potential Grant Funding Overview

- B. McGinnis said FMC wants to be a good corporate citizen and has therefore pledged its resources, specifically its consultants with expertise on the grant process, to assist the village in obtaining funding for appropriate redevelopment of areas that FMC will remediate. FMC can also benefit by having earlier community input on projects and community support for certain end uses that can help FMC better shape remedial projects upfront and avoid having to undertake costly redesigns later on.
- S. Tauro reviewed a handout with a flow chart of the six steps in the typical grant application process, which usually takes 9 or 10 months.
- S. Tauro and T. Faist reviewed a handout identifying grant programs that potentially could provide funding for redevelopment of four specific areas – the Coe property, Norco property, canal area, and general village.
- S. Tauro and T. Faist said there is significant funding available in various programs from various agencies but that it can be very competitive, with dozens and even hundreds of applications.

- S. Tauro provided a handout of example grant-funded projects from around the state. In addition, T. Faist noted that in one program, Restore NY, the state recently awarded \$50 million of \$300 million, with additional rounds of awards coming in the future. (It should be noted that a number of villages around the state received awards of more than \$100,000, and a number received between \$500,000 and \$750,000.)
- S. Tauro said Middleport could be well positioned to be competitive for grants because the state looks for strong public-private partnerships, which FMC and the Village can represent. T. Faist noted the state also looks for community participation.
- T. Faist said the Village is also well positioned because of its Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) plan, which will serve as the “overall plan” the state often requires to tie together grant-funded projects.
- T. Faist said Middleport also fits the state’s current objectives of promoting economic development upstate and along the canal. He noted Gov. Spitzer has pledged to name a co-chairman of Empire State Development Corp. to be based in Buffalo and focus on upstate.
- W. Lachell noted the Village needs to be the applicant for the grant funding and that FMC cannot own the property.
- B. McGinnis said that in some cases in which a local funding match is required, FMC’s remedial work could fulfill the match requirement.
- T. Faist noted that FMC had brought state Canal Corp. Director Carmella Mantello to Middleport and that the Village and FMC should continue to invite the appropriate state officials (including C. Mantello’s successor) to Middleport and/or visit them in Albany if the opportunity arises.
- J. Maedl noted that Middleport has received small grants in the past, such as the recent \$22,500 Erie Canal Greenway grant. She said that with the LWRP and FMC’s assistance, the Village has a great opportunity to secure much larger grants.
- B. McGinnis asked the group to develop a “wish list” of possible projects while FMC works directly with the Village to begin planning the program.

5. Agenda and Homework for Next Meeting on Feb. 5, 2007 at 5:30 p.m.

- Follow-up on Group Communications
- Review Scopes of Work for 2007 Early Actions
- Review of Onsite Corrective Action Management Unit (CAMU) Options
- Review of Homework Assignment of Redevelopment Project Ideas
- Other “homework” assignments for the Feb. 5 meeting include: A. Howard to bring brochure example; P. Fagan to provide FMC newsletter article to J. Maedl and D. Seaman and update new Web site; J. Maedl to adapt article and “pitch” story to Lockport Union-Sun & Journal; FMC to check on Fallsview Railroad traffic projections.

- In addition, W. Lachell asked the group permission to invite Mr. Arnold to the Feb. 5 meeting so that he can hear about and provide input on the CAMU proposed in the eastern portion of the FMC property. Mr. Arnold owns the farmland abutting FMC's eastern property boundary. The group agreed, and P. Fagan/W. Lachell will invite Mr. Arnold.
- **Subsequent Meeting Scheduled for March 1**