**nvironmental Advisory Council**

**Jefferson Hills Borough, Pennsylvania**

**Meeting Minutes**

**January 26, 2022**

**Attendance**

Lori Bartrug, Rick Moore, Terry Ackman, Tom Donohue, Joey Lynch were present. Ale Hakala and John Stinner on Zoom.

Resident & Guest – John Thatcher

Reorganization for EAC

Committee Chair – Rick nominated Tom second by Terry. Tom voted as Committee chair.

Secretary – Tom nominates Rick, second by Lori. Rick voted as Secretary.

**PFAS Discussion**

Terry prepared a writeup of potential PFAS issues in Borough

Tom shared some analytical results of surface water from the Westmoreland County Authority and a website referenced by the Corps of Engineers. However, they did not have information pertaining to PFAS.

Mr. Thatcher spoke about local info on PFAS and firefighting foam. There has been no training using Foam. Currently any delivery of Foam is treated as a hazmat response where there will be a cleanup. However, after cleanup there is no preferred method for disposal.

A bill is moving through state government that would require a replacement for foam with PFAS chemicals in them.

John Stinner discussed a large incident where foam was applied, and the turnout gear was destroyed by the foam.

John Stinner noted the borough should have the emergency response team prepare a plan for a response in the event of a PFAS foam arelease.

John T indicated that the 911 does log where incidents require foam and could only recall one incident years ago with a tank truck on route 51 where it has been used in the borough.

**US Steel Clairton Coke Works Air Quality update**

Kevin provided an update on the Citizens Advisory Panel. He referenced their good environmental record for the end of 2021 and affirmed the shutdown of their three oldest batteries in approximately 2 years to reduce emissions and their commitment to attain carbon neutral by 2050.

He also noted that the tour of the plant by the EAC would best be delayed until spring when there would be more daylight for an evening tour.

Kevin said that U.S. is investing $3 Billion into their new Arkansas plant and they have completed their entire permitting process for that facility within 9 months.

**Wetland Demonstration**

The EAC would like to see a wetland that could be used for educating the public about their value and functions.

Discussion of the old Sekulich Property, adjacent to Peters Creek Rd., on which an existing wetland was further developed.

John T asked if there is an organization to make sure maintenance continues.

John to check with the conservation district about this

Beams Run Trail.

A property located where the initially proposed trail is under new ownership. If the new owner would allow the trail, then the trail could go from Peters Creek to the high school. Tom sent a letter to the new owner expressing interest for an easement through their property for this purpose.

**Beneficial Use of Mining, Water Quality and Abandoned Wells**

Terry has potentially identified someone to open old maps from previous software versions.

Tom also talked with the borough engineer to potentially look into software for the files through Gateway if not too expensive.

Discussed that Ale was to have someone contact Terry about the availability of past water sampling data for testing a sorbent in the isolation of critical minerals from various water sources. This is a U.S. DOE project. Terry also discussed the potential for water sampling data from wells in the area.

John discussed the possibility of having a mutual agreement with the Borough since some of the sorbent testing could be on borough property.

Funding could support the R&D and data collection. Terry will continue the conversation with the DOE contact.

Ale will keep a look out for any grant potential for local use for mines and well plugging. There is also the old coal refuse pile at Ravensburg Bridge. Rare earth extraction could make it economical. It would be interesting to discuss with U.S. Steel this since they created it.

During the meeting Ale sent a link to information on the Bureau of Land Management's program for orphaned wells that's being supported by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/energy-and-minerals/oil-and-gas/federal-orphaned-well-program>

**Jefferson Hills Council**

John indicated that the new borough council would like a representative to speak to council meetings to provide update on borough issues.

**PA Adopt a Road**

Regards peters creek, US Steel didn’t know about the formal state application for adopting a road. Kevin will contact and inform them of the process Rick performed for the Scouts – not very difficult.

**Keep PA Beautiful month**.

John suggested to kick off that campaign it would be good to do a special dedication about the Troop’s adoption of the segment of Peters Creek Rd.

John may reach out to Waste management to also assist with cleanup of large-scale items.

Could align for open day of trout, i.e. cleanup the week or two before. March 26 would be a good time to have the scout cleanup.

**Waste Management program**

Discussed the new borough program

This is also added to the recycling report for the borough.

**Excessive Salt Use.**

There was a concern of the large quantities of salt used at the Port Authority Park and Ride

Joey to talk to Port authority about their salt usage. Tom to commence discussion with John about borough’s practices.

**Environmental planting discussion**

John Thatcher talked about a Book that should be of interest for the EAC.

Doug Tallamy - Nature’s Best Hope.

John indicated that it was very good read about planting native species. These tend to attract and support native wildlife, potentially less deer and thrive in native soils.

Lori – Motion to adjourn, Kevin second. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.