

Environmental Advisory Council
Jefferson Hills Borough, Pennsylvania
May 25, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Roll Call: Present: A. Hakala, K. Polick, T. Ackman, Online: L. Bartrug, T. Donohue, J. Stinner, S. Flores

Topics for Discussion:

Peters Creek Adopt-a-Highway: The Scouts have adopted their section of Peters Creek from Gill Hall Rd. to Waterman and kicked off their initial event this evening. State Adopt-a-Road Signs have been received and installed. U.S. Steel had also scheduled a cleanup from Waterman to the Patch but not sure if there State signage had been received. John to check on their application and completion.

US Steel Clairton Coke Works Air Quality update

- Clairton Plant 2021 Environmental Report Released. Tom encouraged members to read and comment. Report is online at:
<https://www.ussteel.com/documents/40705/71641/USS+Clairton+Works+Operations+Environmental+Report+2021.pdf/5734848a-2bbf-6448-9cab-7d008a23f160?t=1646082857897>
- Continuing conflict/additional fines; Allegheny County Health Dept. fined Braddock Plant
- Schedule a Tour of the Clairton Coke Works: Kevin to check with Mike, Plant Mgr.

Planning for Marcellus Gas Panel Discussion:

- Speakers, Ale Hakala, Dr. Judith Kaufmann (Lori/Christina to check Dr. Kaufmann's availability)
- Date: Wednesday June 15, 2022
- Location: Large Community Room?
(Once all are confirmed to be advertised on Borough's website)

Contact with EQT's Stephanie Paluda

- Not interested in attending an environmental panel discussion.
- Can offer a tour of their sites to EAC and Council members
- Planning a presentation in Union Twp. On their proposed wells there. Jefferson residents welcome to come there. Once a date is set they will inform us.
- The Union Twp. Sites will have their site pads constructed this year and drilling should commence in 2023.

Contact with PA DEP's Brian Schimmel

- Not interested in attending an environmental panel discussion as they don't have the expertise in health
- Willing to answer any concerns/questions related to the permitting/enforcement process that may arise from the panel discussion or public.

Reported Fish Kill in Peters Creek

- No additional verification or sampling of stream known at this time

Local environmental projects – Discuss practicality, implementation path, and funding opportunities prior to approaching Borough Council:

- Interpretive Wetland, Steps to get project ready? Peters Creek Watershed investigating a wetland property's ownership along Peter's Creek Rd., contacted Amy Miller at Conservation District for implementation ideas. Amy Proposed a field trip to two sites with interpretive wetlands and offered to come visit Jefferson Hills. EAC agreed to site visit the existing two interpretive wetlands in lieu of their June, 22nd meeting. Tom to reach out to Dan Giger at WJHSD to see if they are interested in exploring an interpretive wetland on their high school property.

- Plugging of abandoned gas wells from infrastructure bill; Not much info on abandoned wells in borough. Therefore advocating for funds from this bill not needed.
- Assistance with Beneficial Use of Abandoned Coal Mines: Awaiting Gateway's cost estimate and does it include a seat for map viewing work.
- Drainage issues along Walton Rd.: With a new rep in State Congress this fall, better time to approach him than the lame duck now.
- Push for state funding of research for alternative fire-fighting materials to PFAS foams for flammable material fires. This is a national issue, not so much to be affected by our advocacy.

Available Information from the PA Conservation Districts and the PA Environment Digest: Tom will pass on reports forwarded by John Thatcher. They have up-to-date information on environmental events and studies in PA

Other Discussion Items:

(not discussed – Rick Moore's info on the Ravensburg Bridge GOB Pile, see his email to members dated 2/28/22)

Next Scheduled Meeting: Wednesday June 22, Field Trip to Peter's Twp. And South Fayette Interpretive Wetlands

Meeting Close: 7:25 PM