

Newtown Creek CAG Steering Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 8, 2016
5:00 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.

Present

Ryan Kuonen
Willis Elkins
Leah Archibald
Christine Holowacz
Deborah Mesloh
Krysia Solheim
Mitch Waxman (by phone)
Kirby Webster (by phone)
Terrie Boguski (by phone)
Sarah Durand (by phone)
Sean Dixon (by phone)

Agenda

1. Update from Terrie
2. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Updates
3. July 6 CAG Meeting Agenda
4. September 7 CAG Meeting
5. General Comments

1. Update from Terrie

- **Terrie** is the Skeo technical advisor for Newtown Creek. She is authorized to review sampling data, prepare factsheets summarizing data to support the remedial investigation (RI) and feasibility study, review baseline risk assessments (human health and ecological), and assist the CAG with other technical information supporting the RI.
- So far, Terrie has reviewed the data and work plans for Phase 1 RI activities and written a summary of the data submitted. Skeo is currently reviewing it. Terrie will share it with the Steering Committee soon for review.
- The TASC contract is renewed in June each year; Skeo receives task orders to continue to work on ongoing projects. The process should be seamless, although paperwork sometimes causes brief service interruptions. If the Steering Committee has any new requests for services from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Skeo, this is a good time to communicate those needs to EPA.

2. FOIA Updates

- EPA notified **Sean** that the Steering Committee would have all documents requested on or before July 27, 2016. The information request covered all RI data collected to date, maps and communications between all parties involved in the sampling.
- How will the Steering Committee process that information? A lot of information will be available in July, and the Steering Committee needs to think about Terrie's role in

helping Committee members understand the information. For example, should Terrie look at draft reports from the FOIA documents or wait until EPA shares the materials?

- FOIA request materials will not include anything from dispute resolution efforts.

3. July 6 CAG Meeting Agenda

- The meeting will focus on a review of the CAG's draft guiding principles for the Superfund cleanup.
- One of the co-chairs will read the draft principles to the CAG. The Steering Committee will facilitate a breakout session with stations for every discussion point in the document. CAG members will be able to move among stations.
- **Kryisia** will post the draft principles on the blog and remind members to review them and bring their ideas to the meeting.
- The trustees – the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA), the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and the Department of Fish and Wildlife (F&W) – will present on the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) process. Sara and Willis met with NOAA, DEC and F&W representatives about the NRDA process, which is taking place at the same time as the Superfund process.
- The presentation will include background on the NRDA process, how it relates to the Superfund cleanup, and examples of NRDA in other places. The trustees would like to know more about the community's interests regarding natural resource recovery.
- **Sarah** will reserve a room at LaGuardia Community College for the meeting.
- **Willis, Ryan** and **Kryisia** will coordinate bringing post-it notes and markers for the stations.
- There will not be any technical information provided at the July 6 meeting, so Terrie does not need to attend.

4. September 7 CAG Meeting

- Mitch approached the Newtown Creek Group (NCG) for funding for a mixer on a historic fireboat on September 7. The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYS DEP), NCG, the CAG, and EPA will have about 20 representatives on board.
- Groups will be able to share their visions and goals for Newtown Creek during conversations with people onboard. Groups will not be giving presentations; it is strictly a mixer. NCG funding will cover food and drinks.
- The Steering Committee will invite 45-50 people from community boards and civics groups in Newtown Creek communities to visit Newtown Creek and meet with representatives from each group.
- The Steering Committee should focus on inviting community members who are underrepresented at CAG meetings to expand the group's support base and to continue to educate and inform people about the Superfund process.
- The goal is to make sure the Superfund conversation reaches people who will be directly affected by the cleanup.
- Mitch has already contacted several assembly members. They will forward invitations to organizations on the eastern side of the creek.
- If Steering Committee members have suggestions for people or organizations that should be invited, send them to Mitch.

- **Leah** will invite business representatives.
- The CAG meeting date will be moved to Wednesday, September 14, 2016.

General Comments

- Sean spoke to the New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) about fish advisories for Newtown Creek. NYS DOH does not have any new information that would change the fish advisories for Newtown Creek.
- Can **Mike** share the draft NYS DOH letter with the Steering Committee?
- NCG would like to present its data to the Steering Committee. **Willis** will follow up with NCG staff re: that meeting.
- All present Committee members were in favor of Katie Ellman joining the general CAG as an individual. **Kryisia** will add her name to the website.