

BoRit CAG meeting December 7th 2011 (draft minutes)

Meeting called to order by CAG Co-Chair Sal Bocutti approx 6.35pm.

Item 1: October 5th 2011 minutes approved

Item 2: Update from Eduardo Rovira (EPA Region 111 On-Scene coordinator)

Mr Rovira reported that work on reducing the slopes to the 3:1 ratio on the pile was behind schedule and would now not be completed until January, whereupon the site would be demobilized and equipment removed to the Park section of the BoRit site.

In the spring of 2012 the pile would be reseeded and the concrete mats used at the Rose Valley Creek section that were damaged by the floods of 2011 would be removed, the creek cross section made wider and banks repaired with cable concrete mats. The completion date for Rose Valley Creek works is scheduled for September 30th 2012.

Item 3: Rules Committee report

Sharon McCormick advised that 4 CAG members, Whitmarsh Township, Mercer Hill, the local Physician seat and West Ambler Civic Association had failed to achieve the necessary attendance criteria to maintain their presence on the CAG (at least 50% of annual meetings of which there were 8 in 2011). It was noted that Whitmarsh Township had not attended any meetings in 2011. This lack of attendance can affect quorum calls on voting issues and it was felt that the CAG should contact these constituents to ascertain whether they wish to attend in 2012 at a level sufficient to maintain their seats or whether they wish to relinquish their seats on the CAG. In view of the reduced schedule of CAG meetings to once every two months it was noted that this issue needs to be addressed every October. To this end it was suggested that a notice period of 2 months to fill vacant seats be written in to the rules and this was approved by a majority show of hands.

The current procedures for taking and distributing minutes were felt to be unsatisfactory by the rules committee, a view generally shared by the CAG based on experience during 2011. Tricia Taylor of EPA advised that EPA is able to provide a note taker on a regular basis if the CAG were amenable and that minutes could be issued generally within 3 working days. This generous offer was gratefully accepted by the CAG

Item 4: Website Renewal

It was noted that the web fees for Boritcag.org, hosted by Godaddy.com of \$113 for two years were due on February 13. It was suggested that CAG members donate \$10 each and Lynn Hoffman collected several donations and would solicit others as necessary.

Item 5: Work group Reports:

HERS Work group Meeting Summary, 11/28/11, 9:30 am

Participants: Jane Cero, Ana Pomales, and Lora Werner

We discussed the ongoing health education outreach activities, specifically the lunchtime talk at the Ambler Senior Center on 11/7/11.

Ted, Barb and Lora participated, and approximately 35 people attended. There was lively discussion and it was a good experience

We discussed research into the storm water and watershed mapping work that Temple Ambler is doing. Coincidentally, Dr. Featherstone presented at EPA in November and Ana attended his talk. His prior work was on the Sandy Run Watershed and he is currently working on the Wissahickon Watershed. He is available to discuss his work with EPA removal and remedial and the CAG.

The next work group call is scheduled for Monday January 24, 2011 at 9:30 am.

RR&M Committee Report on Oct 26,2011 meeting

The committee discussed various aspects of water quality, stabilization of Rose Valley Creek, safety issues at the WWP reservoir and recent floodplain studies. The following recommendations to CAG were made:

- 1) Requests CAG approve whatever process it takes to identify where wells 104 and 107 were (whether asking the Ambler Water department or the state department that issued the violations).
 - 2) Intends to meet with consultant Phil Getty (next meeting?) and report to the CAG
 - 3) Agreed about not concreting Rose Valley Creek. RR&M was not in agreement about what alternative treatment to suggest to EPA. LARGE rocks were preferred by 2 members.
 - 4) Recommends that the CAG encourage all authorities involved to put a grate over the entire Rose Valley after it emerges from the triangle at Tennis and Reiffs Mill Roads.
 - 5) Requests the CAG to strongly ask the EPA to use the 2010 FEMA maps in working with the ACOE to design the treatment for Rose Valley
 - 6) Requests CAG to request a reasonable schedule for the remaining work (both Removal and Remedial operations.)
- Gordon Chase was elected the new committee chairman to replace David Froehlich.

RR&M committee report on December 5th 2011 meeting:

The hydro-geologist Mr. Philip Getty gave input to the RR&M regarding clarification of the risks of groundwater contamination under Borit reaching public drinking water sources. Mr Getty suggested that more investigation by EPA/PA DEP would be necessary to determine the source and extent of the contamination and this would likely require monitoring wells off site of Borit and co-operation with Ambler Borough water department to determine the effect of their wells on Borit groundwater flows. Mr Getty provided questions he thought prudent to put to EPA to address these issues. Mr Getty also advised on options should contamination of public drinking water sources occur as they have done in the past at Ambler Borough wells 104 and 107 and recommended increased monitoring frequency of nearby wells to twice a year for all contaminants of concern.

The subsequent requests officially put by the CAG to EPA and accepted by Tricia Taylor as having been officially received by EPA at this meeting were as detailed below.

There is concern by the community surrounding the Borit Site that the contamination present in the underlying groundwater may pollute neighboring water supply wells. Therefore, we request information from you which will hopefully allay fears:

-Please provide maps depicting the outer extent of groundwater contamination plumes present beneath the Borit Site.

-Please provide explanation as to the mechanism for groundwater moving into the deeper aquifer horizon beneath the Borit Site to cause contamination.

-Have you determined whether the zone of influence or cone of depression from the neighboring public water supply wells in Ambler extend to the Borit Site? If not, are plans underway to define the cones of depression?

-Has US EPA conducted testing of the closest Ambler water supply wells for the contaminants of concern? Is monitoring being considered for the supply wells in the future at a frequency greater than the standard sampling interval required by PA DEP?

Goals for 2012 RR&M activities were set by the new Chairman (Gordon Chase) to include completion of hydro-geology studies suggested by Mr Getty, increased monitoring of nearby Ambler Borough wells, completion of capping and reworking of Rose Valley creek repairs and an evaluation of flood damage risk to Borit.

Matters arising from RR&M and HERS reports:

There were ensuing discussions following items raised in the RR&M and HERS reports.

Mr Rovira advised that there were ongoing discussions with various government agencies including The Army Corps of Engineers, local townships and (to be confirmed) FEMA (and Mr Featherstone referred to in HERS workgroup report above) regarding updated flood maps which are due to be completed in 2012 for the Wissahickon creek watershed, an issue of interest to RR&M in particular and CAG in general.

Mr Chase wished to clarify the situation with regards to a previous request for Ambler Borough well information and stated that the well locations were already known and so no further request was being made for well location information, merely information to correlate PA state well ID numbers with Ambler Borough ID numbers as the two organisations use different identifiers for the same wells. Ambler Borough stated they were not willing to assist with providing this information, apparently for security reasons.

The issue of protecting the Maple Street Sluice way by guard rail and/or grid covering was debated with concerns raised as to whether a proposed guard rail would be high enough to prevent cars from floating over it and rendering it ineffective. Mr Rovira advised that a swing gate is to be installed at the sluiceway which should assist with water flow.

Item 6: Observer comments.

Dr Ted Emmet introduced his new alternate Dr Pouné Saberi, a family practitioner

EPA observers advised that activity based sampling that had taken place on private property in Ambler earlier this summer was being evaluated and this evaluation would take several months more before the results could be advised to the CAG after first being discussed with property owners. The data collection phase of the BoRit investigation is considered by EPA to be almost complete and the risk assessment stage will commence in 2012. In response Sharon McCormick questioned whether the 'reservoir' would be subject to a dye test to ascertain the extent and location of the reservoir discharge as the reservoir is known to discharge through seeps in the reservoir wall along which runs alongside the Wissahickon creek. EPA at this time had no plans for a dye test but would be doing a risk assessment of the reservoir, but stated that this would not include a structural assessment.

Prior to adjournment, Susan Curry offered sincere thanks to Sal Bocutti who is stepping down as BoRit Co-chair and this was roundly applauded by all present.