

# **BoRit CAG Meeting Minutes February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016**

**Upper Dublin Township Building, 6.30pm.**

**Meeting called to order by Co-Chair Bob Adams.**

**Minutes of December 2015 CAG meeting approved.**

## **Item 1: Whitpain Park parcel update (Jill Lowe, EPA).**

The regrading of the Park parcel continues as per the weekly reports published on the Boritcag.org website<sup>1</sup>. Work was halted during the heavy snow event at the end of January but the overall schedule for completion remains unchanged at 'mid-summer' 2016. Whitpain Township CEO Roman Pronczak advised that the existing fencing along the park parcel would be removed when the project is completed and allow for access to the park by the general public.

## **Item 2: Ambler Piles maintenance update (Greg Voigt, EPA).**

A powerpoint presentation was made by Greg Voigt (full presentation available on the boritcag.org website<sup>2</sup>) detailing the findings of the latest quarterly inspection and the proposed remedies to issues found. CAG members expressed their approval and thanks for the increased site inspection frequency from the previous annual visits to the now quarterly visits. Greg also advised that aerial drone observations may be possible in the future once FAA regulations with the US ACE/EPA have been formalized.

CAG member Sharon McCormick questioned whether this increased frequency of inspections suggested that there was a major problem with the Ambler Piles site. EPA responded that this was not the case but that in view of the age of the site and the observed settlement issues, fencing issues, trash and tree falls, that a quarterly inspection was now deemed more appropriate. GPS locators on the Pile plateau suggest negligible movement of the Pile cap over time.

## **Item 3: TASC request regarding FS report (Carrie Dietzel, EPA).**

The search by EPA consultant SKEO Solutions for a suitable person to review the FS report resulted in SKEO being unable to find a single person to meet all requirements requested by the CAG. Therefore SKEO are proposing two consultants with differing skill sets who will contact CAG co-chairs in due course to review the FS report and co-ordinate their findings into one response.

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1 <http://www.boritcag.org/about/operations.html>

2 <http://www.boritcag.org/about/presentations.html>

#### **Item 4: EPA (Jill Lowe) response to questions from CAG members on FS report.**

A written response was posted to the boritcag.org website<sup>3</sup> covering the written questions submitted by various CAG members in 2015. Each originator of the questions is requested to review the answers and report back to the CAG co-chairs should there be further issues arising from these responses.

#### **Item 5: 'Alert' detection device presentations to CAG and ASTM 01/13-14 2016**

CAG Co-chair Gordon Chase reported on the two presentations and one demonstration of the 'Alert' real time asbestos detection device given to the general public at a special CAG meeting on January 13<sup>th</sup> and to a private technical audience at the International Asbestos Testing Laboratories in Mt Laurel NJ the following day.<sup>4</sup> The general public presentation can be viewed on the boritcag.org website.<sup>5</sup>

Discussions arising from these presentations resulted in the University of Hertfordshire (UoH) (inventors of the Alert device) acknowledging that the proof of concept device demonstrated (which was initially designed for indoor use where large numbers of fibers may be released into a confined space) could be adapted to more appropriately accommodate the scenario that exists in Ambler where an unconfined outdoor space with presumably low numbers of fibers exists. UoH are confident that such a device can be constructed to satisfy the Ambler Superfund site scenario and provide effective permanent real time monitoring of the ambient air for asbestos fibers.

As a result, UoH are drafting a research project to submit to the CAG (and interested parties) detailing their requirements to produce a monitoring device(s) suitable for the Ambler area. This should be received by the CAG co-chairs in time for the next CAG meeting (April 2016). In the meantime CAG co-chair Gordon Chase has approached the township CEO's of Whitpain, Ambler and Upper Dublin, as well as State Representatives Mary Jo Daly, Todd Stephens and State Senator Greenleaf, all of whom have offered their support to bring the possibility of a real time monitoring device to Ambler.

CAG co-chair Gordon Chase submitted that the likely cost of such a research project (expected at less than \$100,000) might be funded out of the current removal budget, which so far has expended approximately \$24 million and would represent less than 0.5% of the removal budget. Unfortunately EPA (Jill Lowe) advised that the removal program is not permitted to spend funds on 'research projects' and as such the CAG would have to look for funding elsewhere. CAG co-chairs will discuss with UPenn the possibility of getting some of the \$10 million NIH grant allocated to this research and other cag members were requested to network with their contacts for possible sources of funding.

#### **Item 6: Opening Ceremony of Waterfowl Preserve April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016**

David Froehlich of the Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve (WWP) confirmed that there would be an opening ceremony at the reservoir on Earth Day. The permanent fencing along the waters edge is

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3 <http://www.boritcag.org/about/correspondence.html>

4 Attended by ASTM D22.07 committee chair Frank Ehrenfeld, EPA Technical Review Group staff (Chuck Nace), as well as CAG Members Jill Lowe and Lora Werner and UPenn representative Brigid Cakouros..

5 <http://www.boritcag.org/about/presentations.html>

now in place and the temporary street chain-link fencing on Maple street along the reservoir section will be removed in the spring. The permanent fencing will prohibit access to the water and the two adjacent BoRit parcels from the reservoir property.

**Item 7: Fencing behind (ex) McDonalds (removal of green plastic sheeting).**

CAG co-chair Gordon Chase inquired as to whether it was possible to have the unsightly green plastic sheeting that covers the chain link fence behind the (ex) McDonalds restaurant (now demolished) removed. EPA advise that this fencing is private property and not installed by EPA as part of the BoRit site fencing. As such any request would have to be to the owner of the property.

**Item 8: Work-group reports.**

There were no work-group reports this meeting.

**Item 9. AOB.**

CAG member Diane Morgan requested (in absentia) that an independent minute taker be employed by the CAG to take minutes. CAG co-chair Gordon Chase has advised Diane the CAG charter section 1VE<sup>6</sup> requires that the minutes be taken by EPA, PA DEP, CAG co-chairs or other volunteer. EPA and PA DEP have expressed satisfaction with the minutes being taken by co-chairs and as such this practice will continue.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned approx 8.30pm.

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6 <http://www.boritcag.org/about/mission.html>