

CAG Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2011

Sharon McCormick mentioned that the August minutes need to include the statement of CBA's concerns concerning the BoRit site. Bob Adams noted that the minutes had been amended to include that. (Note: August minutes will be recirculated.)

FAILURE OF THE CCMs at ROSE VALLEY CREEK

Eduardo Rovira, EPA's On Scene Coordinator, gave a power point presentation on the damage that occurred during Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee to the Concrete Cable Mats (CCMs) that were installed along Rose Valley Creek as part of EPA's Removal Action.

Eduardo expressed what may have led to the rippling and uprooting of the CCMs:

- The Army Corps of Engineers said at its peak hour Lee was close to a 500-year storm event.
- The CCM's were not fully anchored, nor was every loop clamped to the next one.
- The plans were designed to withstand a 100-year storm event.
- The damage seems to have resulted from extra water that backed up behind a vehicle and other clogging materials stuck in the narrow channel near the site which led to extraordinary water flow and flooding outside the channel of Rose Valley Creek.
- Repair plans include: anchoring the sides, additional clamping, and filling in the cracks with concrete to form a solid concrete bed and wall. It may be beneficial to place a bed of concrete in the creek bed bottom to alleviate CCM's being lifted out of place.
- These plans are not firm yet.

Post-presentation discussion included the concerns and comments that follow:

- Eileen Fournier noted that the 100-year floodplain maps are out of date. No one was able to confirm which year the plans were last updated.
- Dave Froehlich noted that the natural flood plains upstream fared better in this storm.
- Mr. Froehlich and other CAG members were not in favor of the solid concrete solution, noting that water tends to flow underneath a solid concrete structure via hydro-geological pressures; and any flow under the concrete can erode ACM contamination. EPA acknowledged that such water flows do happen, and frost heave concerns were similarly acknowledged. In addition, it was noted that with the open CCM's, we can clearly notice a breach in

materials but that with concrete slabs you might not notice failure. Parallels were drawn to the concrete revetment at the Ambler Asbestos Piles along the creek toe.

- Eduardo mentioned that Ambler Borough is discussing straightening out two 90 degree bends upstream on the Rose Valley Creek at the base of Tennis Ave. This has been causing a back up farther upstream.
- Some members felt that the flooding is due to upstream land use management mostly in townships above Ambler. Other members thought that this was in the natural floodplain.
- It was agreed that the two simultaneous storms assisted in higher levels of water saturation in the ground, leading to more runoff.
- Eileen Fournier and other members expressed that if the Whitpain pile had not been dumped upon, that it might serve as a natural flood plain. Talk about restoring this area to the original floodplain elevations to alleviate water back-up and asbestos erosion was mentioned. However, it was not agreed upon that the higher elevation of the Whitpain pile could have contributed to the flooding experienced in West Ambler in that the flooding occurred upstream of the area mentioned.
- Lynn Hoffmann asked EPA if there were a plan B to alleviate additional failures, or if other forms of technology would be used during the Removal Action, or would be addressed in the Remedial phase of EPA's involvement.
- Eric Cheung questioned if EPA was trying to give the community what it wanted.
- Eduardo completed by stating that he is open to input about alternative measures to prevent further failures, that decisions might not be implemented before next Spring since work cannot proceed in the winter.
- It was decided that the RR&M group would discuss and propose more favored solutions for the CCMs.
- Susan Curry expressed serious concern about the integrity of the reservoir berm. If the berm collapsed, a lot of ACM material could be exposed. The concrete wall seemed intact per Eduardo's photos. RR&M will address this concern also.

Scope Expansion –

Ted Emmett was not present – Issue was postponed to a later agenda.

CAG Email Protocol –

Do not give out CAG members' email addresses or use CAG email addresses for use other than CAG business. Best practice: Put CAG addresses in "blind copy" or "bcc" when corresponding with non-CAG members (for example, when Sharon replied with one Libby CAG correspondent who then replied all including CAG members who were startled to get an email from the Libby correspondent).

Group Reports:

- **RULES COMMITTEE**– Reviewing details on readopting. Many inconsistencies noted regarding election of CoChairs, and other voting. For example, no quorum is required for Co-chair elections. Rules don't state whether or not agency members vote for co-chairs; they have abstained in the past. Reported that Oct. meeting should set aside time for membership issues, such as attendance and members currently in jeopardy of dismissal. Rules Committee will address inconsistencies in the Rules document regarding election processes, including co-chair elections and will report its language corrections recommendations to the CAG hopefully by December CAG meeting
- **HERS** –Discussion took place on the cancer registry update and related community health outreach on the site, asbestos, and health. A presentation for the Buxmont Nurse Practitioners Association will be held at Doylestown Hospital on 9/8/11, and a lunchtime meeting at the Ambler Senior Center is being scheduled. The bulk of the workgroup meeting was spent discussing the groundwater concerns raised by Gordon Chase. Gordon feels the CAG does not have enough information about the hydrogeology under the site and any potential connectivity to public or private drinking water supplies. The HERS workgroup agreed to propose to the CAG that a discussion on groundwater concerns should be added to a upcoming CAG meeting agenda.
- **COMMUNITY AWARENESS** – WEB fees may be due soon –Lynn Hoffmann will notify all soon re: date
- **RR&M** – The committee had not met recently and there was no report. Bob Adams mentioned a desire to apply for a TAG grant for water hydrologist to study possible future contamination of Ambler drinking water sources.
- **FUTURE USES** – No report.

Other Business

New excavation: Susan Curry noted that “excavation” activity was being reported in the Weekly Reports at the Kane-Core site – and that the CAG was not given any notice, nor had it been mentioned in prior plans.

Cancer Registry: Susan Curry suggested that the CAG send a letter to elected officials to begin to collect additional data on past residences and past occupations for asbestos related illness/deaths so that a fuller understanding of long term and contributing factors could become possible. Community Awareness was tasked with writing the letter per Eileen's suggestion.

West Ambler victims of the flood: Sharon Vargas asked if anyone wanted to help West Ambler victims of the flood whose homes were devastated to contact her after the meeting.

Secretary Note Taker -- Sharon McCormick expressed that past notes were inadequate as a reference when the Rule Committee was seeking clarification for how things were done. The CAG needs a reliable, and consistent note taker. Various suggestions were offered. No resolution; no clear person or group is accountable to find what we need.

EXECUTIVE SESSION;

The annual election of a new Co-Chair to replace Sal Bocutti for a 2-year term was held. Dave Froehlich was elected. Nominees were: David Froehlich, Gordon Chase, Otis Hightower, and Lynn Hoffman. Members present to vote: Susan Curry, David Froehlich, Bob Adams, Sharon Vargas, Peter Amento, Eileen Fournier, Sharon McCormick, Eric Cheung, Sal Bocutti, Bernadette Dougherty, Michelle Naps, Lynn Hoffman, Beth Pilling, Joanne Slade (for Upper Dublin Twp), Peter Lowry, Gregory Kucinich (Whitpain Twp)

Agency members were asked to follow previous established protocol and asked to abstain from the election process.

Up-coming CAG Meetings:

1st Wednesday of every even-numbered month.