

Brownfields Advisory Committee Meeting: 10/14/15

On 10/14/15, the inaugural meeting of the Brownfields Advisory Committee (BAC) occurred in the conference room at Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission's (SNHPC) office. Jack Munn, Chief Planner, facilitated the meeting and was attended by Michael McCluskey (NH DES); Jennifer Marts (NH DES); Stephen Heavener (CRDC); Deb Lievens (Londonderry); Brain Rose (Goffstown); Dave Poulson (Windham) and Laura Scott (Windham).

Jack Munn opened the meeting by describing the purpose of BAC and its general responsibilities and emphasized the important role BAC will play in the consultant selection process. Afterwards, it was stated by Jack Munn that a mandatory meeting of participating consultants was to occur on the afternoon of 10/15/15. After Jack Munn's initial remarks, questions were raised regarding the selection process of the consultants. Specifically, whether labeling the meeting as mandatory would exclude potential partners from the selection process and create an unfair environment. The question was answered together by Jack Munn and Michael McCluskey responding that the purpose of designating the meeting as mandatory was to cull non-serious candidates in order to effectively render the selection process more efficient.

Jack Munn shifted the conversation towards BAC's project goals and enumerated the procedural requirements that the EPA demanded. Jack then redirected the conversation to get clarification about brownfield remediation and asked Mark McCluskey and Jennifer Marts to explain the nuances and different qualifications that must be fulfilled to achieve additional funding for site clean-up. After explaining the qualifications, Jack Munn returned to the prior conversation and listed the EPA's requirements for the grant. Subsequently, Jack Munn described the three phases that the project will encounter. He continued by stating that there were 30 sites identified as potential candidates and listed a few noteworthy locations: St. Anslem (Goffstown), Derry center and Candia village. A question was raised whether additional sites could be selected for the project, to which Jack Munn and Mike McCluskey confirmed possible and continued to explain the average costs involved for each phase of the remediation process.

Another question was raised inquiring whether the grant would be jeopardized if there was a dearth of public participation in the program. Mark McCuskey responded, stating that the EPA was well aware of the probability of low household participation rates and would not penalize the grantees if such a situation arose, but demanded a plan of action from the BAC that addresses methods that proactively dispel such resistance. In addition, a question was asked about the extent of the property owner's liability for both site contamination and remediation costs. A discussion ensued, emerging that the property owner is liable for the property's state of condition, however, as Mark McCluskey elucidated, the EPA wanted to avoid confrontation at all costs and did not have the intention to pursue a legal course of action because it would be inutile to the programs objectives.

After that discussion, Jack Munn asked the committee to establish a date and location to have their next meeting. It was determined that the next meeting would take in December, exact date to be determined. After establishing the next BAC meeting, Jack Munn turned the floor over to Stephen

Heavener to explain the purpose of his organization; the possible funding avenues proprietors may qualify for, the requisites for funding and ended with a description of prior projects that his firm helped financed. After yielding the floor, the meeting was concluded.