

WEST COUNTY COMMUNITY TASK FORCE
MEETING MINUTES (Amended)
February 17, 1998

Meeting was held at the Canaan Community Development Center, 2303 Dixie Highway. Meeting began at 7:00 p.m., coordinated by Arnita Gadson.

I. ITEM: Charlie Staff, Director of U of L's Food Processing Center

ACTION: Mr. Staff was formerly head of Brown-Forman's Technical Resources before coming to the University of Louisville. The Food Processing Center, part of the Speed Scientific School at U of L, is working toward zero discharges from food processing companies into the sewage system.

He is waiting funding for a project with Parallel Products, which will recover alcohol from their food products, and use it in making ethanol for gasoline. He has applied for a Challenge Grant from the West County Task Force Challenge Grant Program.

II. ITEM: Award and Challenge Grant Update

ACTION: Marilyn Sommers presented the Lake Dreamland group's request for an award grant. This would help fund a project to gather data from residents in the Lake Dreamland neighborhood concerning pollution and health problems over the years. This profile would help raise awareness of the environmental problems in the Lake Dreamland area. The Kentucky Division of Water will fund 60 percent of the \$79,000 needed to complete the project; Lake Dreamland group must find the other 40 percent.

III. ITEM: Chickasaw Lake

ACTION: Dennis Minks of the Louisville Office of Health and Environment spoke about the problems of dioxin levels found in fish in Chickasaw Lake.

Two-and-a-half years ago, the state, at Rev. Louis Coleman's request, tested fish and sediment from Chickasaw Lake to test for dioxin levels. Some dioxin was found (Arnita has the data). State said the fish are at a point where they couldn't be commercially provided, so the city decided to poison all the fish in the lake. This was done by introducing a 72-hour poison into the lake. After 72 hours minnows were introduced to keep down the mosquito population. This was done in early June. (A second poisoning was done because no one had contacted the fishery to not restock the lake.)

The lab used to test the dioxins was one that also tested for the manufacturers of dioxins, so the city went to an EPA-approved lab for the next set of test analysis. Meanwhile, the city went ahead and restocked the pond. They will retest in the spring to find out the uptake levels of dioxin, if any. There are dioxins in the lake sediment, but not at dangerous levels. If the dioxin levels are below the EPA limit, then no further poisoning of fish will be done by the city. If levels are high,

another poisoning will be necessary. May go to a catch-and-release program that would require people to put back any fish caught instead of taking them home to eat. City would probably have to do a monthly reminder to those fishing that their catch needs to stay in the Lake, otherwise no data can be recorded.

Soil samples from around the edge of the lake were tested—no high levels of dioxin.

Discussion ensued about testing fish for dioxin levels at other ponds in the Metro Parks system. Mr. Minks presented State Representative Porter Hatcher with a budget proposal to fund this testing. Dr. Tamburro mentioned that the VA hospital has a dioxin toxicology center, and may be available for analysis.

Arnita asked those who will be doing the testing to produce a written report of their findings, to be shared among the Task Force members.

IV. ITEM: State Representative Porter Hatcher

ACTION: Rep. Hatcher came to voice support for the West County Task Force and his concern for Chickasaw Lake study of dioxins in the lake. He supports future studies of other lakes.

V. ITEM: West Louisville Community Initiated Decision Making Project

ACTION: Kelly Knochel explained this project as an attempt to turn the tables on how health decisions for West Louisville residents are made. They started in September 1997 gathering information on what residents feel are the most important physical and/or mental health issues in the area. Invited WCTF to participate in providing information.

VI. ITEM: Score Cards for Industry

ACTION: Moved to a future meeting.

VII. ITEM: Senator Neal Update

ACTION: Arnita reported that Senator Neal feels money will come at the end of the legislative session. David Karem and Larry Saunders know about, so we should have their support.

VIII. ITEM: New Grants

ACTION: Pat Germany presented information on two new grants. One, known as the Impact Grant, will help citizens interpret data found in monitoring tests. Art Williams and Marilyn Sommers have read the proposal. This should be a partnership between the city and community groups. Art suggested the money could be used to help finance the Jefferson County Air Pollution Control District's Web site, which will make available all data the APCD publishes. He also raised the possibility of installing video cameras at several sites, which could

broadcast real-time video to the Web site. This could serve as the eyes and ears of the community. Those interested will work with Art on this Impact Grant.

The second grant is a pollution prevention (P2) extension of the basic grant currently funding the West County Environmental Center. It is for \$600,000. Russ said the WCTF is eligible to request this grant money.

Rosetta Fackler spoke about a \$20,000 grant that would have to address two environmental statutes: 1) the Clean Air Act; and 2) the Clean Water Act. The two goals of this grant could be: 1) building community capacity to identify local environmental justice problems; and 2) enhance community understanding of environmental and public health information systems. Deadline for submission is March 7. She asked for any ideas or suggestions for the grant from the members present.

IX. ITEM: Board of Aldermen Application

ACTION: Russ Barnett spoke about the Board of Aldermen's Capital Projects Expenditure Fund. He put together goals of the WCTF as application and focused on the cost of obtaining air monitoring equipment for West Louisville. Presented a prioritized list. This grant is to be used for capital expenditure costs, not ongoing items. Receiving these funds could work as seed money, helping the Task Force obtain other grants since community support could be demonstrated.

X. OTHER ITEMS

- Regional EPA Administrator John Hankinson took ill last month and couldn't make the February 4 meeting. The next available date is April 29.
- Christy Ullmer of EPA Region 4 will be at the next WCTF meeting on March 17, 1998.