

**WEST COUNTY COMMUNITY TASK FORCE
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 16, 1999**

Location: University of Louisville
Time: Meeting began at 6:00 p.m., Arnita Gadson facilitator

ITEM: Earth Day at the Zoo, Sunday, April 18, 1999, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ACTION: Pennie is the coordinator for the WCCTF booth. Peggy Bolton, LaLetta Jenkins, Mayme Whaley, Jonathan Miller, and Linda Thomas have volunteered to staff the booth. Members of the Task Force will pass out brochures and "information wheels." They will also provide information on what the WCCTF is and its role in the community, as well as current and future projects. Anyone else interested in helping out can contact Pennie at 852-0965.

ITEM: Presentation to Rohm & Haas

ACTION: On Wednesday, April 14, 1999, at 6:30 p.m., members of the Task Force will give a presentation to Rohm & Haas. Peggy Bolton, LaLetta Jenkins, Bobby Hickey, and Arnita will be the presenters. They will discuss what the WCCTF has accomplished, is doing, and their goals for the future. ***Please note meeting day has been changed!**

ITEM: Air Quality Monitoring

ACTION: Visits to the air quality-testing lab at U of L are available. John Metaxas is the scientist who runs the lab. Please call for an appointment 852-2734.

ITEM: Community Based Environmental Protection (CBEP)

ACTION: A steering committee (from different agencies in Louisville) has been put together to address environmental protection in Louisville and Jefferson County.

ITEM: 501-C3

ACTION: Arnita would like the WCCTF to form a subcommittee to put together bylaws so that the Task Force can become a 501-C3 entity. Advantages: can apply for grants, accept donations, do fundraisers, etc. Jonathan Miller, LaLetta Jenkins, Bobby Hickey, and Art Williams agreed to be on the committee. The committee met on Monday, March 29th.

ITEM: Request

ACTION: Jonathan Miller from DuPont Dow Elastomers requested comments on other presentations that the Task Force has heard. He would like to tailor his presentation to meet the needs/interest of the Task Force. Arnita suggested including any information on new plans the company may have for reducing emissions, or information on any new processing the company may be doing. Peggy wanted to know what safety measures the company is taking to protect the public.

ITEM: Panel discussion on air pollution

ACTION: As Louisville's population grows, so does the air pollution problem. The Toxic Release Inventory published by the US EPA lists Louisville as the 28th most polluted city in the nation. Louisville has been in non-compliance with Federal Ozone Standards for the last few years. In an attempt to educate the public on the concerns about air pollution, what's being done to combat the problem, and what needs to be done to protect the community in the future, the Greater Louisville Sierra Club put together a panel discussion to address the air pollution issue.

Moderator: Cameron Lawrence, Executive Producer for Radio Programming for the University of Louisville.

Panelists:

Russ Barnett, Director of the Kentucky Institute for the Environment and Sustainable Development (KIESD)

Art Williams, Director of the Air Pollution Control District of Jefferson County

Wade Helm, Chairman of the Kentucky Conservation Committee

The Rev. Louis Coleman Jr., Director of the Justice Resource Center

Tom Herman, Corporate Environmental Manager at Zeon Chemical Company

Dr. Harrell Hurst, Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology at the U of L School of Medicine

Andrew Melnykovich, Environmental writer for *The Courier-Journal*

Russ Barnett: Discussed “the soup” that makes up our air, as well as the sources of pollution. Air toxins include: VOCs, metals, particulates, etc. Sources include:

- Point source: industry, power plants, or anything that comes out of a stack. (As defined under the Clean Air Act, emissions of over 10 tons of any one hazardous air pollutant or a total of 25 tons of hazardous air pollutants.)
- Mobile sources: cars, trucks, buses, planes, trains, and boats.
- Area sources: dry cleaners, area maintenance shops, gas stations, etc.

Art Williams: Three sources of ozone in Jefferson County:

1. One third of ozone is transported into Jefferson County
2. One third of ozone comes from biogenic sources (vegetation)
3. One third of ozone comes from human activities

The major concern is the health effects that are caused from air pollution. About 100,000 people in Jefferson County have respiratory problems. There are two principal strategies for dealing with air pollution:

1. The VET testing
2. Industry has cut NOX emissions by 45 to 50%

However, we still have a long way to go.

Wade Helm: Education is the key to being involved in environmental issues. Educate self, neighbors, and legislators.

Rev. Louis Coleman: Too much pollution is being emitted in Louisville and Jefferson County. They are monitoring neighborhoods where individuals are dying of cancer and respiratory problems. Kentucky ranks #3 in the nation for cancer mortality rates. He feels that these deaths are related to environmental problems.

Tom Herman: Rubbertown is continuing to reduce emissions. Drivers that push them to reduce emissions include:

- Regulatory agencies
- Public pressure
- OSHA regulations for employee safety

Rubbertown industries are very interested in the concerns of citizens within the community.

Dr. Harrell Hurst: There are three aspects of potential exposure to chemicals.

1. Adverse health effects. What are the chemicals? Airborne chemicals have the potential to move through the atmosphere.
2. What is the extent of exposure? “The dose makes the difference between a remedy and a poison.” Important issues are: extent of exposure; concentrations of exposure; and length of time period people are exposed.
3. What are the characteristics of the people exposed? What are the sensitive groups that might have the greatest problems from exposure?

All of the above effects go together in assuring the nature of the problem. It is a very complex analysis. Some of the major pollutants in Louisville are oxides of sulfur and nitrogen.

- Sulfur dioxide is an irritant that effects the mid-to upper- airway and causes bronchiole constriction in sensitive individuals. The main potential effect is chronic bronchitis.
- Nitrogen Dioxide is inhaled more deeply into the lungs and can cause a fluid buildup in the lung.
- Ozone is a deep lung irritant that causes inflammation. In severe cases, it can cause scarring of the lung tissue.
- Carbon monoxide blocks the interaction of oxygen with hemoglobin as the hemoglobin carries the oxygen from the lungs to the tissues.
- Particulates are fine particles that are transported over long distances as aerosols; they can pass deeply into the lungs. If these particles remain in the lungs they can cause Black Lung disease.

Asthma, which is increasing in the U.S., is an increase of reactivity of the airways. Any source of pollution that can cause inflammation can exacerbate the situation.

Andrew Melnykovich: We have made some progress in improving air quality in Louisville through programs such as the VET. Cutbacks in industrial pollution have helped as well. However, there has been a political back-and-forth on the issue of air pollution. When it comes to politicians, political will is the politicians' reading of what the public will is. The public will has been mobilized in opposition of proposals such as garbage incinerator in west Louisville; when Cosmos Cement wanted to burn hazardous waste, and to increase the VET fee.

Other questions were asked of the panelist, such as the benefits to VET testing and greater corporate responsibility to pollution problems.

ITEM: April Meeting

ACTION: Jonathan Miller of DuPont Dow Elastomers will give a presentation on emissions, processing, and safety at the plant.

Program adjourned at 9:00 p.m.