

## Hoosick Area Community Participation Work Group (CPWG) Meeting Summary – February 22, 2022

| CPWG Member                          | Present | Excused | Absent |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|--------|
| Marianne Zwicklbauer                 | X       |         |        |
| Emily Marpe                          | X       |         |        |
| Eric Sheffer                         | X       |         |        |
| Mark Surdam                          | X       |         |        |
| Rob Allen                            |         |         | X      |
| Pat Dailey                           |         | X       |        |
| David Lukas                          | X       |         |        |
| Michael Hickey                       | X       |         |        |
| <b>Facilitator</b>                   |         |         |        |
| Nancy Pattarini, The Paige Group     | X       |         |        |
| Yvonne Scott-Younis, The Paige Group | X       |         |        |
| <b>Presenters</b>                    |         |         |        |
| Dr. Erin Bell, University at Albany  | X       |         |        |
| Ian Bielby, NYSDEC                   | X       |         |        |
| Barbara Firebaugh, NYSDEC            | X       |         |        |

**Note:** The February 22, 2022 public meeting of the CPWG was conducted via an online video/conference platform due to the restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. A press release reminder of the meeting date was issued to local media. A meeting date reminder and log-in directions were emailed to all community members that have signed up on the CPWG Listserv. Meeting-related materials may be found on the Hoosick Area CPWG website [www.hoosickareacpwg.org](http://www.hoosickareacpwg.org) and on the NYSDEC website <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/108791.html>

### Discussion Summary:

- I. Welcome – The Paige Group
  - a. Facilitator – The Paige Group
    - i. The Facilitator provided an overview of meeting protocol for online participation
    - ii. The Facilitator introduced CPWG Co-chairs Michael Hickey and Patrick Daily
  - b. Co-Chairs
    - i. Co-chair Michael Hickey provided an overview of the meeting agenda
- II. Settlement Update – Michael Hickey
  - a. Michael Hickey read a statement from Attorney Steve Schwartz
    - i. Fairness Hearing was held on 2/2/22 – The Judge issued a decision and Order Approving the Settlement on February 4, 2022.
    - ii. The timeline established allows 30 days for an appeal to be filed
    - iii. Once the effective date occurs, which is March 5, the settling defendants have ten days to fund the rest of the settlement (a preliminary fund had been created to pay for the administration, thus far).
    - iv. The General Administrator is currently processing claims for eligibility and appropriate documentation.

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1. If any claims are deficient, the General Administrator will contact the claimant by email and regular mail and seek any missing information.
  2. Until all such deficiencies are cured or the claims rejected because they couldn't be cured, there can be no distribution of the proceeds as the division of the amount among the claimants can only occur once the list of eligible claimants is final.
  3. At present, payments for property devaluation and Nuisance are expected to begin by late April or early May.
- v. Claims filed
1. 2,551 claims filed
  2. 798 claims filed for the Nuisance Settlement Class
  3. 1,516 property devaluation claims filed
  4. 1,274 claims filed for the medical monitoring settlement class
- vi. Medical Monitoring Program
1. Working with Petersburg to achieve economies of scale that will help reduce cost and prolong the programs.
  2. Working with the SWVMC Environmental Medicine Department to become the prime providers of medical monitoring both in Bennington, VT and at Twin Rivers in Hoosick Falls.

**III. NYSDOH/University of Albany Multi-community Health Study Update – Dr. Erin Bell**

- a. Recruitment
- i. In progress, invitations have been mailed
- b. Community Advisory Panel
- i. Hoosick Falls Reps: Emily Marpe, Loreen Hackett, Kathy and Ira Share
  - ii. Role
    1. Share community input and communication ideas
    2. Review communication materials, website, social media ideas
    3. Organize events to inform community members, answer questions
  - iii. Clinic is located at 140 Main Street
- c. What the study involves:
- i. Adults and children in Newburgh and Hoosick Falls will be invited to participate if they meet eligibility requirements.
  - ii. Study team plans to enroll 1,000 adults and 300 children.
  - iii. If eligible, adults and children will attend a one-time clinic visit. They will give a blood sample, a urine sample, and answer a health questionnaire.
  - iv. Children will also complete cognitive and behavioral screenings (possibly on a return visit).
  - v. All participants will receive a results report and reimbursement for each portion of the clinic visit they complete.
- d. Eligibility
- i. An adult aged 18 years or older who
    1. Lived in Newburgh or the Hoosick Falls area and used drinking water with documented PFAS contamination between 2005 and March 2016 in the Hoosick Falls area OR between 2005 and May 2016 in the City of Newburgh

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- 2. Were exposed through drinking water
    - 3. Were not exposed through environment or occupation
      - a. Worked as firefighter; trained as firefighter using AFFF foam
      - b. Worked at an industrial facility that used PFAS chemicals in the manufacturing process
  - ii. A child aged 4 through 17 years who has parent or guardian's permission and
    - 1. Lived in Newburgh or Hoosick Falls and used drinking water with documented PFAS contamination between 2005 and March 2016 in the Hoosick Falls area OR between 2005 and May 2016 in the City of Newburgh
    - 2. Was born to and/or breastfed by a mother that meets the adult eligibility criteria
- e. Recruitment
  - i. Potential participants will be asked to contact our study staff and complete an eligibility screen.
  - ii. Invitation letters will be in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole in Newburgh and Hoosick Falls, if needed.
  - iii. To finalize enrollment and schedule a clinic visit, participants are asked to call (833)-732-7697.
  - iv. Staff will also follow up with those that have received invitations.
- f. Clinic appointments
  - i. Once an appointment is scheduled, study team will mail a clinic appointment packet
    - 1. Appointment Reminder Card
    - 2. Informed Consent Materials
      - a. In addition to the main study, the New York Site will ask for consent to collect an additional blood sample and to receive access to stored blood samples from the DOH biomonitoring program
    - 3. Study Fact Sheet
    - 4. Appointment Prep Infographic
    - 5. Urine Collection Supplies and Instructions
      - a. Urine samples will be stored until lab methods are developed and the scientific evidence shows which PFAS tests will yield useful results
- g. Clinic visits
  - i. For Adults, the clinic visit will last approximately 1.5 hours and include the following:
    - 1. Sign-in
    - 2. Urine sample drop off
    - 3. Height and weight measurements
    - 4. Blood pressure check
    - 5. Blood sample collection
    - 6. Questionnaire completion, including residential, work, and medical history

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- ii. For Children, the clinic visit will also include a neurobehavioral assessment, lasting 1.5 to 2 hours. This can be scheduled on a different day, if needed. It will include:
      - 1. Memory games
      - 2. Sorting items
      - 3. Solving puzzles
    - iii. We will also ask for consent to access medical and school records
  - h. Clinic results
    - i. We will send samples to a lab to analyze for PFAS levels and health measures.
    - ii. We will mail a lab report with blood results, including the following for both adults and children:
      - 1. Cholesterol
      - 2. Thyroid hormones and sex hormones (in children)
      - 3. Kidney function
      - 4. Immune system
      - 5. Liver enzymes
      - 6. Lead, mercury, manganese, and cadmium levels (New York Site only)
    - iii. The report will also include urine analysis, including:
      - 1. PFAS levels
      - 2. Kidney function
    - iv. Participants are welcome to share this report with their primary care physician.
  - i. Clinic Visit Exit
    - i. \$25 gift card for blood pressure, and blood and urine sample collection
    - ii. \$25 gift card for questionnaire completion
    - iii. \$25 gift card for child/parent completion of the neurobehavioral assessment
  - j. Contact information
    - i. Text: 518-898-0276
    - ii. Email: PFAS@albany.edu
    - iii. Call Toll-Free: 1-833-732-7697
    - iv. Website: <https://www.albany.edu/sph/pfas>
    - v. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NYSPFASHealthStudy>
  - k. Comments/Questions
    - i. CPWG
      - 1. Q: Is it possible for the Medical Monitoring Program (MMP) and Multi-Site Study (MSS) to align efforts?  
A: University of Albany is scheduling a meeting with the Medical Monitoring team to discuss options/ideas for alignment and communication.
    - ii. Public
      - 1. None
- IV. NYSDEC Remediation Update – Following are excerpts from the presentation
- a. Water ROD Update
    - i. Responses from responsible parties have been received; discussions continue

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b. Remediation Activities

- i. River Road – <https://gisservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/dil/index.html?rs=442008>
  - 1. Draft Site Characterization Report and IRM Pre-design investigation (PDI) Workplan submitted and are under review
- ii. Landfill – <https://gisservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/dil/index.html?rs=442007>
  - 1. A Remedial Investigation report is being prepared to summarize the work completed in 2021
- iii. Columbia Corp – <https://gisservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/dil/index.html?rs=442005>
  - 1. Revised Site Characterization Report is under review
- iv. John Street – <https://gisservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/dil/index.html?rs=442049>
  - 1. Remedial Investigation has been reviewed and comments have been issued
- v. Interface Solutions – <https://gisservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/dil/index.html?rs=442059>
  - 1. Site Characterization Report was received and is under review
- vi. McCaffrey Street – <https://gisservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/dil/index.html?rs=442046>
  - 1. OU1 Remedial Investigation Work Plan is under review
  - 2. OU3 remedial investigation scope is being planned; work plan expected in the spring
  - 3. Risk assessments are still underway with summary reports expected later this year
- vii. Liberty Street – <https://gisservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/dil/index.html?rs=442048>
  - 1. NYSDEC recently approved the workplan for the Interim remedial measure on the stormwater drainage system at Liberty. A fact sheet will be issued, and the workplan will be posted in the repository.
  - 2. Additional surface water characterization work was proposed in offsite areas. That work plan was approved and work is ongoing.

c. Comments/Questions

- i. CPWG
  - 1. None
- ii. Public
  - 1. Comment: The village has had discussion with parties involved and welcomes an agreement to benefit the community for years to come, including the coverage of costs beyond the June 2022 date in the current agreement and all reasonable costs covered well beyond the standard superfund that lasts 30 years.
  - 1. Comment: The riverside property does not have river access and has many issues. The companies' obligation is to close the site, not redevelop it. The Army Corp of Engineers has a levy there and it is not an easy process to work with them/very complex. The village would like to make it look more attractive and give it some curb appeal but has other priorities and no funding source to redevelop the property; repurposing would take a long time.

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Response: A closure plan must be completed by responsible parties and a draft of the plan includes asphalt or vegetative cover. Prior to site construction activities, residents and village officials will be informed of the project through factsheets and door hangers for those in close proximity to the site.

**V. EPA Update**

- a. Lisa Wong, Remedial Project Manager (RPM) for the McCaffrey Street site, has taken over for John DiMartino

**VI. Other Hoosick Area CPWG Business**

- a. Hoosick Rising, Marianne Zwicklbaur – effects on the business community
  - i. Information is continually getting out that the local water is safe
    - 1. Business owners have minimal concerns, believe water is safe
  - ii. Business owners look forward to people coming to town and are trying to figure out how to get people to come to, or move to, Hoosick Falls
  - iii. Need to keep getting information out that they have a great filtration system
  - iv. New people in town never ask about the water – many are coming from bigger cities where they never knew what was in their water
  - v. Local real estate is doing well, very few homes on the market
  - vi. Local press is an issue
    - 1. Hoosick Rising wrote a letter to the local paper about positive perceptions in the business community and never received a response
    - 2. Had a long conversation with the Times Union and expressed positive perceptions – nothing was ever printed
    - 3. A journalist/food writer reviewed Bistro42 (and a few other restaurants) and wrote a great article about the area
- b. Member Recruitment
  - i. Two students will be joining the CPWG
  - ii. The Facilitator will issue another press release regarding the member recruitment process
- c. 2022 Public Meeting Schedule – Meeting Location/Format TBD
  - i. Tuesday, February 22, 2022
  - ii. Tuesday, April 26, 2022
  - iii. Tuesday, June 28, 2022
  - iv. Tuesday, August 23, 2022
  - v. Tuesday, October 25, 2022
  - vi. Tuesday, December 13, 2022
- d. Meeting Summaries posted on [www.hoosickareacpwg.org](http://www.hoosickareacpwg.org)