

# ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT POLICY COMMITTEE

NIRPC- Lake Michigan Room

February 2, 2017

**Members/Guests:** Geof Benson, Deb Backhus, Lauri Keagle, Jennifer Gadzala, Kevin Breitzke, Ellen Kapitan, Nick Janzen, Will Farrellbegg, Michael Kuss, Jeff Edstrom, Tim Kingsland, Reggie Korthals, Richard Morrisroe, Tim Zorn, Natalie Johnson, Kay Nelson, Leslie Dorworth, Brenda Scott-Henry

**NIRPC Staff:** Kathy Luther, Ty Warner, Meredith Stilwell

## Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Benson called the meeting to order at 9:15 am with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions.

## Approval of December 1, 2016 EMPC Minutes

On motion by Kevin Breitzke and second by Richard Morrisroe, the December 1, 2016 EMPC meeting minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

Due to difficulties connecting with EPA for the presentation through Go to Meeting, Chairman Benson called for announcements.

- South Shore Clean Cities Annual meeting is February 14, 2017 at Blue Chip.
- Kevin Breitzke recommended watching Senator Ed Charbonneau's bills (SB 511 & SB 416) that affect water use throughout the State.

Chairman Benson called for public comment.

Kay Nelson reviewed deadlines at the State House for the month of February, and announced there were no staffing changings at the upper level of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) with the new administration. The Asian carp issue is still ongoing.

Reggie Korthals announced the 185 permitted municipalities for stormwater in Indiana (MS4) are rolling into the 501c3 Indiana MS4 Partnership. There will continue to be an annual meeting in May to provide federal and state compliance information, technical assistance and an opportunity to network. Information and registration are available at [www.indianams4.org](http://www.indianams4.org).

## Presentations:

### a. EPA Superfund Work in East Chicago at the USS Lead Site – *Jaime Brown, EPA*

The USS lead site was added to the Superfund List in 2009 with two operable units, the residential area (OU1), which is split into 3 zones, and the former USS lead smelter (OU2). While EPA has had a presence in this area since the mid-80's, the overall site falls under the remedial program. If during the remedial investigation an issue is uncovered that warrants an immediate or time critical removal, the portion is referred to the removal program to take care of the risk to human health and environment and the remedial program continues with their investigation. Between 2008 and 2011, 29 properties were excavated and in 2012 EPA issued a record of decision (ROD) for the entire site. The zones were initially established by identifying

potentially responsible parties (PRP). There is an area left in Zone 2 for which EPA is negotiating with the PRPs to provide money to take care of.

The initial consent decree covered Zones 1 and 3 activities and remedial action was ready for Zone 1 in May/June 2016. Issues were faced regarding clean up in Zone 1 with residents still in place, due to the high levels of lead found. Since it was unknown how long the remedial action would take, interim actions were taken. Zone 1 responses have included sampling of indoor dust, cleaning of residences, resident interviews, community air monitoring and sampling. Over 600 samples have been collected. 270 homes have been cleaned and 37 residences have declined cleaning. While a lot of area has been covered there are still areas where property owners have not been located or access granted.

In Zones 2 and 3 properties deemed as high priority have over 1,200 parts per million (ppm) lead and/or over 68 ppm of arsenic in the top 6" of soil. Properties with women of child bearing age or children under the age of seven in the home are also considered to be high priority. In 2016, 17 properties were identified as high priority for cleanup in Zone 2 and 38 in Zone 3. For 2017, 71 properties have been identified in Zone 2 and 33 in Zone 3. Soil cleanup for these properties will begin in the spring and EPA is meeting with potentially responsible parties for reimbursement. Indoor dust sampling has been done for both Zones 2 and 3. Out of 66 residences sampled for contamination, 32 required cleaning and 18 have been completed to date. Indoor dust sampling will resume in the spring where cleanup is planned and cleaning will be conducted after soil cleanup is complete. Sampling results and cleanup status on a block by block level can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/uss-lead-superfund-site>.

The presenter spoke on the East Chicago issue of lead in the water, but clarified he was not an expert on the subject. Lead comes from a variety of sources including service lines and associated galvanized iron pipe, brass plumbing fittings/fixtures, and leaded solder. East Chicago has a large percentage of service lines made of lead. Tests were performed on a pilot basis out of abundance of caution. EPA used sequential sampling which involves a set of samples, collected one right after another, that capture all of the water in the plumbing from the kitchen tap to the water main. The sampling is for diagnostic purposes to determine the source of lead. Flushing after completion of soil cleanup significantly lowered lead levels at some homes with high lead. EPA is reviewing data/information to determine whether excavation is affecting lead levels in zones 2 and 3. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management has been working with the City to optimize the dosage for the corrosion control treatment which forms a protective coating on the interior of the pipes and East Chicago is exploring funding for replacing lead service lines. EPA is also doing research to help identify homes with lead services lines. It was noted an upcoming meeting would feature a presentation by Peg Donnelly from EPA on the subject.

Meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.