

## PCB DREDGING COMMITTEE MINUTES

MAY 8, 2007 – 4:30 P.M.

Present: Chairman Lawler; Supervisors Wood, Richardson, Wormuth and Connors; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; George Hodgson, Environmental Services; Paul Pelagalli, Clifton Park Town Attorney; Press.

Chairman Lawler called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

**On a motion made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Wood the minutes of the November 14, 2006 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Mr. Hodgson gave a brief overview of the status of the PCB Dredging project as follows:

1. A new access road is being built connecting Rt. 196 in Kingsbury to the project processing and transportation facility.
2. During work this week, noise levels and air quality are being measured around the site as part of a comprehensive monitoring program.
3. Crews working for GE contractors began work Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, clearing way for roadway.
4. The access road will take approximately three months to complete with projected completion by June.
5. Construction of a bridge over Bond Creek will take place over the next several months, with more than three miles of access and internal roads paved and five culvert crossings built. Electrical utilities, water lines and fire hydrants also will be installed.
6. Construction is scheduled to take place during daylight hours, Monday through Saturday.
7. EPA has set a target date to begin dredging in 2009.
8. The nearby Champlain Canal will be widened by 65 feet to ensure that the non project related boat traffic can pass even when the barges are being unloaded at the processing facility during dredging.
9. Two transportation hubs will be built: a 1,450-foot terminal wharf and a rail facility with five miles of railroad track to support up to 450 rail cars.

10. Two large buildings will be built: a 41,000 sq. ft., structure that will contain 12 large custom built filter presses; and a 25,500 sq. ft., structure that will house a two million gallon per day water treatment plant.
11. The first phase of dredging is to be conducted 24 hours a day, six days a week, with a scheduled completion time in the fall of 2009.

Mr. Lawler said going back four years ago one of the items that was fought early on when GE and EPA were considering the Community Health and Safety Action Plans, was the quality of life measurements that they would take and the factors that they would consider in the quality of life. One of the things that a number of communities in support of Waterford and Halfmoon maintained again and again, was that this project will impact the community water supply in those towns, in addition to Mechanicville and Stillwater. The communities were assured four years ago that those concerns would be a top priority of the project, with a collective population of approximately 33,000, representing approximately 15% of the county population.

At this time we are the odd man out, he said. The 33,000 people that are collectively represented are caught between the environmentalist groups pressure to begin the project as quickly as possible and as cheaply as possible. As recently as December, consistently throughout the past three and a half years, the towns of Waterford and Halfmoon were emphatic with the EPA and in meeting with General Electric that they would not drink the water once the dredging starts. Mr. Lawler said in December when he attended a meeting the GE talking about options, he stated, under no circumstances would an option to treat the Hudson River Water at the Waterford and Halfmoon plants be acceptable to the communities.

Mr. Lawler said when asked, if the EPA would guarantee the water safety and assume the responsibility financially, legally and hold the towns harmless, there was no response.

Mr. Lawler said he no longer believes that the EPA is acting in good faith with regard to the communities along the river, as it relates to the threat to the public water supply in Halfmoon, Waterford and Mechanicville.

Mr. Richardson said that all the Mechanicville Schools are located in the town of Halfmoon and draw their water from the Halfmoon water supply.

Mr. Lawler said he would like the same consideration to the people drinking the water, that is given to the fish. The EPA is concerned that the PCB exposure to the fish is going to cause problems, yet they are comfortable with requiring the towns of Waterford, Halfmoon and the school children in Mechanicville to drink the water in the middle of the largest toxic dredging project in history. This is a total and complete disregard for public safety to the communities involved.

Mr. Lawler said the town of Waterford has already done extensive legal research accumulating a strong legal case. The record of decision, mandates the safety of the

public water supply. It is believed that the Environmental Protection Agency has not met that.

Mr. Lawler requested a resolution authorizing the reimbursement of legal expenses incurred by municipalities within Saratoga County for litigation related to the dredging of the Hudson River in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.

**A motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve a resolution authorizing the reimbursement of legal expenses incurred by municipalities within Saratoga County for litigation related to the dredging of the Hudson River in an amount not to exceed \$100,000. Unanimous.**

Mr. Connors suggested that all communities that are not already ad-hoc committee members, be appointed by the Chairman as such.

Mr. Lawler asked Mr. Hellwig to follow up with that request.

Mr. Lawler said the next CAG meeting will be held at the Administrative Building in Saratoga Springs at 1:00 p.m. on May 24<sup>th</sup>. He encouraged all interested parties to attend.

Mr. Hodgson said there will be a conference call meeting with the subcommittee Chaired by Julia Stokes, prior to the May 24<sup>th</sup> CAG meeting, regarding PCB Dredging and Navigation.

**On a motion made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Richardson the meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom