

Town of Dewey Humboldt
Environmental Issues Advisory Committee
MEETING MINUTES
October 4, 2011, 3:00 pm

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** *The meeting was called to order at 3:20pm.*
2. **ROLL CALL:** *EIAC Committee Members Bob Bowman, Floyd Wright, Doris Cellarius, and Chair Treesha deFrance were present.*
3. **CONSENT AGENDA** - All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the Town Committee and will be enacted by one motion.

3.1.Minutes. Minutes from July 28, 2011 Regular Meeting. *Floyd Wright made a motion to approve 3.1 Minutes from the June 30, 2011 Regular Meeting, Bob Bowman seconded the motion and the minutes were passed unanimously.*

4. **REGULAR AGENDA – Unfinished Business** - Discussion and Possible Action on any issue which was not concluded, was postponed, or was tabled during a prior meeting.

4.1 Monika O’Sullivan, EPA – update regarding Iron King Mine- Humboldt Smelter Superfund Site Issues. *In addition to Ms. O’Sullivan, EPA representatives Claire Trombadore, Chief, AZ Superfund Division, and Sarah E. Mueller, Assistant Regional Counsel were in attendance. Tina LePage, ADEQ, was also present. Ms. O’Sullivan updated us on the EPA residential removal action that is in progress since Sept. 12, 2011 to address 14 residential properties. Four have already been cleaned. Some will have 1-2 ft. of soil with elevated arsenic and/or lead removed, others will have hot spots cleaned only. Additionally, the current remedial work includes relocating the small tailings pile on residential property to the main tailings pile, and applying a temporary sealant on the ash pile. Ms. O’Sullivan said EPA has a new fact sheet that will be distributed at the Town Council meeting Oct. 4, 2011. Discussion was had regarding the questions and replies from EIAC to EPA from the EIAC 7.28.11 meeting. Topics included the reasons for additional background sampling that will occur, the status of operating businesses on the site and specifically the status of North American Industries, its current operations and if it needs an ADEQ air permit for them. Ms. LePage will look into this matter. Also, the legal protection offered by EPA to “Bona Fide Pro Purchaser”, regarding future development of cleaned land and the purchaser’s potential liability. Comments from the public brought up the issue of who is responsible for disclosure of Superfund status in real estate sales (Bart Brush). This is not an EPA function; the property seller’s disclosure statement form is where this should be disclosed. Bob Bowman, who is a realtor, offered to write the Board of*

Realtors and share his concerns that some realtors do not know or do not disclose the Superfund status of some properties. Also discussed was the 8.31.11 EPA Community Meeting, regarding how the community is very focused on their exposures and health concerns and how to address this with the help of other agencies and handouts and perhaps meetings with those other agencies present.

5. REGULAR AGENDA – New Business –

5.1. Discussion and Possible Action on matters not previously presented to the Committee. **Dr. Walt Klimecki, University of Arizona, Possible University of Arizona study of exposure to metals from contamination sources.** *Dr. Klimecki explained the interest at U of A to do a health investigation here, and his group has received the necessary funding to proceed. The main questions for the study will be are metals moving off the source areas, are they moving near or into residents homes, and ultimately are they entering residents bodies. The extent of the study will be limited by its funding, but will likely include both environmental and human testing. The design will be more specific in 1-2 months, and Dr. Klimecki will come back and meet with the town (EIAC and Town Council) to present the study. Dr. Klimecki is interested in participating in meetings with citizens to discuss heavy metals and relative risks, and other health-exposure-risk topics the community is concerned about.*

5.2. **Sarah T. Wilkinsin, University of Arizona, Iron King Mine Tailings Air Quality Study.** *Ms. Wilkinsin is the Research Translation Coordinator for the NIEHS (National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences) Superfund Research Program at the U of A (UA SRP), thereby the conduit from the U of A to the community and other agencies. She was in attendance to explain the study Dr. Eric Betterton has begun on the main tailings pile “Characterization of wind-blown dust from tailings and other mining operations in the Southwest. Two towers were installed recently to collect dust samples, which will then be analyzed for their size and metal contaminant contents. This is in coordination with another UA SRP project that began 2 years ago by Dr. Raina M. Maier, “Phytostabilization of mine tailings in the Southwest: plant-soil-microbe interactions and metal speciation dynamics”, a project to develop re-vegetation to stabilize mine tailings with plants as a cap to limit dust and sequester metals. In another phase of Dr. Betterton’s study, the 2 towers will be moved closer to the vegetation on the main tailings pile to assess the impact of the planting strategy. EPA will consider the results of this program when selecting a permanent remedy for the tailings pile. A third UA SRP Ms. Wilkinsin mentioned is the Gardenroots Project; Monica Ramirez-Andreotta began a few years ago to study garden vegetable, soil and water samples from Dewey-Humboldt gardens to determine the levels of metals in home grown vegetables. The samples have been collected and will be analyzed the next few months. Like Dr. Klimecki, Ms. Wilkinsin is also interested in participating in or facilitating community meetings to discuss resident’s health and exposure concerns and to distribute literature the UA SRP creates on relevant subjects such as arsenic, etc. Discussion was had regarding the Community Coalition of Dewey-Humboldt, how a cooperative relationship between the Town government, community and the Coalition is desirable but needs some nurturing. The chair thanked the U of A scientists for their interest in our community, and the benefits their work will bring to our situation.*

6. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC. *None at this item.*

7. ADJOURN. *The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.*

Treesha deFrance, Chair

ATTEST:

Judy Morgan, Town Clerk