

## MEETING NOTICE

Regional Brownfields Partnership  
(Quarterly Meeting)  
Thursday, March 8, 2007  
1:00 p.m.

Derby City Hall  
**(Aldermanic Chambers - 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl.)**  
One Elizabeth Street, Derby  
(directions attached)

## AGENDA

1. Acceptance of Minutes of June 29, 2006 NVBPC Meeting (Att.)
2. Financial Report (handout)
3. Report on Status of Projects – Arthur Bogen
4. Update on Grant and Program Opportunities – Arthur Bogen
5. New Business:
  - Discussion regarding dues structure for municipal members – Rick Dunne (handout)
6. O’Sullivan’s Island, Derby Update:
  - Housatonic Restoration Application
  - Demolition and Assessment Project
  - Federal Clean-up Request
  - Tour of O’Sullivan’s Island \*

**\*Note:** Following the meeting, we will walk to the O’Sullivan’s Island site which is a short distance from City Hall (you will be permitted to drive if you so desire). Please wear sensible footwear and make other provisions based on the weather.

**REGIONAL BROWNFIELD PARTNERSHIP OF WEST CENTRAL CT  
THURSDAY MARCH 8, 2007  
At DERBY CITY HALL  
DERBY, CT**

**MINUTES**

**RBP Representatives Present:** Roy Cavanaugh, Watertown; Robyn Bugbee, Bristol; Elaine LaBella, HVA; Edward Jurzynski, Beacon Falls; Richard Eigen, Newtown; Bill Kuehn, Plymouth; Patty Finn, Derby; Beth Lynch, Ansonia; Karen Spargo, NVHD, VCOG; Ron Skurat, Seymour.

**Others Present:** Arthur Bogen, Rick Dunne, VCOG Staff; Mayor Anthony Staffieri, Derby; Dave Rogers, NVHD; Richard Minnick, Beacon Falls

All rose and pledged allegiance to the flag.

Introductions took place after which Chairman Roy Cavanaugh called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

**Minutes:** Motion: by Robyn Bugbee – to accept the minutes of 6/29/06 as presented.  
Second: Bill Kuehn; Vote: Unanimous

**Financial Report:** Treasurer Robyn Bugbee reviewed the financial report; the hazardous materials grant money is encumbered except for \$240.87. After encumbrances the petroleum grant is left with \$32,321.80. Motion by Richard Eigen to accept the financial report; Second: by Elaine LaBella; Vote: Unanimous.

**Status of Projects:** Mr. Bogen provided a handout dated 2/1/07 with the list of projects being worked on. With regards to Cook Industrial Park, he hopes to hear favorable results from DEP tomorrow for the grant for clean-up. This would help the site realize its maximum tax and employment potential for the City of Ansonia.

The Derby projects (160 Elizabeth Street and 46 Commerce Street). We are working with the DEP to reach a final number on what will be requested for additional bonding to complete radium clean-up. Looks like an additional 1.5 million is needed to finish everything because of the tremendous amount of asbestos to be removed.

The Murtha site has since been withdrawn from this report dated 2/1/07.

Motion: by Robyn Bugbee to accept the report as presented; Second: by Ed Jurzynski; Vote: Unanimous.

**Update on Grant & Program Opportunities:** Mr. Bogen provided a handout of seminar and grant opportunities to alert communities. The list included contacts and websites for what is out there.

The Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) grants deal with reducing toxicity in the environment. We applied for additional hazardous waste and petroleum from EPA. We passed through the first round; we are still under consideration for grant funding. There won't be a decision until sometime in April, with the announcement in early May.

**New Business:** Rick Dunne addressed everyone regarding dues structure for municipal members. It is \$800.00 a town per year which has never actually been collected. Oxford has decided not to be involved. We never really budgeted or anticipated receiving the full amount for VCOG. We will be having a meeting with Carl Stephani to discuss the inclusion of the CCRPA towns. Most of them have not been active or participated with the exception of Bristol.

Our actual dues revenue is \$14,400.00. In reality \$10,400.00, as \$4,000.00 is uncollectible. The dues are primarily for salaries.

The two EPA grants that were written this year came out of the brownfields dues @ \$3,091.05.

The extra project costs have to do with the 10% match on a per project basis. We don't take money from one project because there are excess funds in that project and put it where we need it. We go to the brownfields dues—thus the \$846.16 cost.

Member inquiries are projects towns ask for that don't become projects. We put staff time into them. We go out to the field; Arthur goes up to DEP to look at the public files of the site.

Administrative is the big dollars; for the staff to run the brownfields partnership, prepare for meetings, minutes, quarterly reports for grants and the revolving loan fund, periodic reports by agreement and statutory reporting requirements. The \$745.25 expense is what the group approved to cover the brownfields conference.

There is an overrun of \$1392.04 that the dues won't cover. Any of the 10% fees that don't get used for projects that close for that project will go to cover this bottom line of costs. We are not recommending a dues increase at this time.

This is the verification time on our new petroleum application and our new hazardous material application. That means we will not have another opportunity for two years to seek funds for assessments. We have a lot of projects we've assessed over the years that have become economic development activities for our member towns. We are going to look to access more money for Ansonia and O'Sullivan's Island in Derby.

Derby borrowed money from our DECD loan fund to demolish and remove old slabs from the old Fire Training School, so we could get under it and do additional assessment. We're administering the project. The DECD will reimburse the agency costs. If we don't get the assessment money, we have opportunities to advance some of the assessments and take on projects for towns. Mr. Bogen added the new brownfields grants will run for two years.

**O'Sullivan's Island Update:** Mr. Bogen said the first EPA grant selected was for O'Sullivan's Island. It is a high priority and showing considerable movement and progress. At one time, it was an island. Over time, Route 8 was built and attached the island to the main linear. Virtually everything across the street is filled. Its small island was filled from industrial waste and road dumping. In 1985, 986 drums were removed with toxic and hazardous waste in them. Some clean-up remains. Progress has been made. We are preparing the application for additional funding for a Congressional initiative to help with the clean-up. Hopefully, we will get funding to correct some of these long issues.

There was a question about the GE-funded sums available for Housatonic Restoration projects. Rick and Elaine have been active in guiding them to make sure projects get heard.

Mr. Dunne added we are the CT Trustee's Advisory Group. The Trustee of CT is the DEP Commissioner. We advise her. We don't get to pick the projects. Our goal is advising the CT Commissioner.

Mr. Bogen added we developed an extensive second application to submit in June for the demolition. Mr. Bogen then explained the layout of O'Sullivan's Island to the group.

Mr. Dunne stated this project has no billings; the staff time is from VCOG by four local community dues. Elaine said the four neighbors from a municipal maintenance point of view are very stable and do a lot of good. Mr. Bogen said hundreds of people a day use the greenway. We encourage people to use that in their zoning changes and future development to secure the long-term health of the waterways. 40% of the Naugatuck Valley's watershed is covered by buildings, parking lots and development.

Mr. Dunne added in terms of sustainable use for the DOT, you would have to fight to approve porous paving. They want asphalt, concrete or dirt. They now have new drainage requirements to do the wrong thing to the river, to drain it into the river. Talk about it to the right people. Derby's plan calls for unimproved trails for more porous paver material. Mr. Bogen said we are looking to raise support for this project to fill out. It will be a regional facility as voted ten years ago. When we send in our June application, we would like to include a petition which is supported by many hundreds of people to consider when they evaluate this project.

Mr. Dunne asked for the City's support by having the Greenway Committee be on the trail to get signatures before June. One concern on our application is if there is limited access to the site. The town will need to certify that the park space be open to anyone.

Mr. Cavanaugh asked if this project is 319 eligible. Ms. LaBella said probably not. The goal for 319 is focusing on getting impaired streams and walkways off the impaired list. The angle to play is the impaired walkway. Mr. Bogen said probably not, because this has coastal management and may not qualify at all.

**Demolition and Assessment Project:** The program will lead to the fullest characterization of O'Sullivan's Island that we're going to make in terms of its contamination and how we will move forward.

**Federal Clean-up Request** This is a liability issue. The communities used the Fire Training School. Should the regulators act against Derby to clean it up, then Derby fiduciary duties compel them to sue 20-25 other municipalities and state and federal agencies for their share of clean-up costs. The solution is to do this without litigation. We will take the final information from the demolition and assessment project and request as VCOG to Congressional delegations for the '08 budget. We're looking at \$1.5 – 2 million for clean up. We got news yesterday from Congresswoman DeLauro's office that it is being submitted from her office. We got word today from Senator Lieberman's office as being submitted for funding. Mr. Bogen said we should get endorsement for appropriation requests, like HVA. It is an historic legacy of contamination. The Fire Training School was caused in the last decade.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:04 p.m. Motion by Richard Eigen with a Second by Elaine LaBella. Vote: Unanimous.