

**Regional Brownfields Partnership of
West Central CT**
c/o VCOG, Main St., RR Station, Derby, CT 06418
(203-735-8688)

Quarterly Meeting

Regional Brownfields Partnership

Thursday, September 11, 2008 - 2:00 p.m.

at

Waterbury Regional Chamber
83 Bank Street, Wtby.
(directions attached)

Agenda

Welcoming Remarks – Rick Dunne, Executive Director, Valley Council of Governments

Business Portion –

1. Approval of Minutes of June 12, 2008 RBP Meeting
2. Financial Report (Handout)
3. Project Report – Arthur Bogen
4. Approval to Apply for EPA Grants – Arthur Bogen
5. Targeted Site Assessment Grant Award to Bristol
6. (a) Discussion of At-Large Member Vacancy
(b) Fill Vacancy of At-Large Position

Presentation –

Guest Speaker: Jacques Gilbert, DEP will give a presentation on the Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Program

Minutes of Meeting
Regional Brownfields Partnership of West Central CT
Thursday, September 11, 2008
at Waterbury Regional Chamber

RBP Representatives Present: Beth Lynch, Ansonia; Robyn Bugbee, Bristol; Elizabeth Stocker, Newtown (proxy for Dick Eigen); Maura Martin, Thomaston; Roy Cavanaugh, Watertown; Karen Spargo, NVHD, VCOG; Sam Gold, COGCNV; Francis Pickering, CCRPA; Jeff Rouleau, Waterbury Chamber; Rob Michalik, Rep. Murphy's Office; William Purcell, Greater Valley Chamber; Robert Halgreen, NVP.

Others Present: Arthur Bogen, Jan Jadach, VCOG Staff; Jacques Gilbert, CTDEP; Keith Shortsleeve, LBG; John Albrecht, Metcalf & Eddy; Aaron Silva, BL Companies; Justin Malley, City of Bristol;

Welcoming Remarks: Arthur Bogen, VCOG Environmental Planner, welcomed everyone to this quarterly RBP meeting, and noted that Rick Dunne, VCOG's Executive Director, is ill and could not be in attendance. He then asked that all introduce themselves. Roy Cavanaugh, RBP Chairman, then took over for the business portion of the meeting. He called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m., the Pledge of Allegiance was said and he then asked for a moment of silence in honor of the victims of the Sept. 11th attacks.

Approval of Minutes: The Chairman called for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2008 meeting.

Motion: by Robyn Bugbee; – To accept the minutes of 6/12/08 as presented. **Second:** Beth Lynch; **Vote:** Unanimous

Financial Report: Robyn Bugbee, RBP Treasurer, presented the financial report and gave a brief explanation, indicating that the report is broken down into information about our Hazardous Materials Grant and our Petroleum Grant. She briefly went over the balances in each. She also said we have received the majority of funds for our administrative billings. Robyn ended by saying we do not have a lot of money left but we do have some funds left for doing investigative work.

Motion: by Karen Spargo; – To accept the Financial Report as presented. **Second:** Beth Lynch; **Vote:** Unanimous

Project Report: Arthur Bogen began by informing those present that we still have some projects open. We have just received an extension to finish projects up. The on-going open projects are in Plymouth and Bristol. He also wants to inform the towns that EPA at the end of its budget year will call organizations if they are in need of some funds. We received a call, we worked with Robyn Bugbee and got an award for the Bristol site.

Arthur went on to say the RLF is making its first loan. The Cook Industrial Park in Ansonia has been a manufacturing site since the 1880s. A private investor purchased it years ago and had space available. A company wanted to come into town and the RBP worked on the project. Some EPA funds were arranged for assessment, DECD funds for additional assessment and then some special DEP grant funds to do some remediation on

the site. The balance will be handled by EPA RLF. The site is approved and will go forward. This site had to deal with a variety of contaminants and there was incredible cooperation between EPA and DEP. The new employer has increased employment by six people and needs to hire more. However, he has cash flow issues. His bank cannot give him an operating line and SBA cannot give him a loan until the site is clean. When he gets this certification for the cleanup done, he will become ISO certified. This is exactly what brownfields is about—EPA, DEP, DECD and RBP working together and creating a big success story. Arthur noted that the VCOG board met yesterday and voted to approve the loan.

Approval to Apply for EPA Grants: Arthur Bogen said that EPA has announced a new round of grants in the Federal Register for assessment and cleanup. We were not awarded a grant the last time but we found in the debriefing that we missed by only one point. We were told that we did not do a good job describing the LEP program which we can rectify the next time. The other critique was a problem we still have. We need some specific projects to move ahead. Arthur said he and Robyn have been discussing a few sites and it looks like we have a site in Seymour but it may be able to have a grant all by itself. He told the members that if they have a possible site, to let him know. He said we need to decide today whether or not we should apply for grants in this round. This is a budget issue for VCOG. The dues do get stretched a number of different ways. We need to decide if we should line up the hazmat grant and also one for petroleum. He said we can write one in a generic way but we do need projects. Arthur also said he spoke to Karen Spargo about clusters of areas of concern for the most disadvantaged population. He went on to say the submission date for the grants is November 14th. Sheila O'Malley and Robyn Bugbee give a lot of time editing and looking at drafts so the deadline is mid-to-late October to get projects in. He noted that this applies to the CEDS towns also. Any town that is contiguous to an RBP municipality can apply for membership and then submit a site. Roy Cavanaugh asked Arthur if we could recover some of the points. Arthur thinks we could get some points back in the LEP section; however, the sustainable development portion is very rigorous. Also, they are asking for partnerships that are different than in the past. They want environmental justice questions addressed. They want it to be really participatory.

Robyn Bugbee said she thinks we do have good partnerships. We do fairly decent community outreach and participation. Maybe we haven't explained that particularly well in past applications in part because they never really asked for that—just for who the partners were and for contact information. There is a different slant on this year's application. She thinks we have things in place; we just need to write about it better. They were very picky and there are some minor things that can be beefed up this time. She continued that having specific sites would help but she thinks we should go ahead. Roy asked about working with Waterbury to get sites. Arthur said that EPA is encouraging Waterbury to go on its own because it has the demographics. It is a mid-sized city that they have never gotten an application from. Robyn said she would encourage CCRPA to get a dialogue going with New Britain. Arthur said he spoke with Ken Malinowski, the development director there and he is thinking about coming in with a site. Liz Stocker mentioned she has a site in mind for Newtown but she's not sure if it is ready.

There being no other discussion, the Chairman then entertained a motion to authorize RBP staff to apply for EPA grants.

Motion: by Maura Martin; – To authorize staff to apply for the new round of EPA grants;
Second: Robyn Bugbee; Vote: Unanimous

Targeted Site Assessment Grant Award to Bristol: Robyn Bugbee said this is the Sessions property located on Riverside Avenue. It has been in existence doing plating operations since the 1880s. That operation ceased in 1990. It is currently utilized by a number of small renters. They are in tax arrearage. A Phase I and II have been done on the property through the City's previous brownfields assessment demonstration grant. One recommendation was that additional assessment be done. The estimated cost for additional assessment is \$300,000. The estimated remediation cost is \$700,000. Robyn continued that the more we can characterize what is there as well as the extent of it, then we can hopefully lower the estimated cost of remediation. It is not a particularly attractive property for developers but it has historical significance for Bristol.

Keith Shortsleeve of LBG asked if it would make sense to go after a grant that can be used for all the communities for an inventory of sites so that they can narrow down the sites. Arthur said that in 1997 and 1998, we got money to do that so he doesn't think it would fly since we are not doing it for the first time. Arthur then informed the group that on September 16th in Hartford, EPA will be there discussing the new grant formats and answering questions.

Discussion/Action re At-Large Member Vacancy: Roy Cavanaugh indicated we have a vacancy in our at-large membership. Carol Burkhart-Lyons has retired from NVP and this created the vacancy. He expressed appreciation for her years of service, saying her presence will be missed. Robert Halgreen has been nominated for this at-large position. Roy then read aloud the letter nominating him for this position. He then introduced Mr. Halgreen who spoke for a few minutes, giving his background and indicating he thinks he can be an effective member of the RBP. The Chairman said he appreciates Mr. Halgreen's interest in joining the organization and he asked for a motion to approve this.

Motion: by Sam Gold; – To accept the nomination of Robert Halgreen for the At-Large Member position with the RBP. Second: Beth Lynch; Vote: Unanimous

Motion: by Sam Gold; – To send a letter of appreciation to Carol-Burkhart Lyons for her years of service. Second: Robyn Bugbee; Vote: Unanimous

The Chairman then brought to a close the business portion of the RBP meeting by requesting a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn made by Beth Lynch, seconded by Karen Spargo. Unanimous. The RBP meeting ended at 2:55 p.m., following which the guest speaker, Jacques Gilbert, Supervising Environmental Analyst from CTDEP, gave an informative presentation on the Underground Storage Tank Petroleum Clean-Up Account (UST Clean-Up Account) Program.