

WORKGROUP MEMBERS - FYI

Sarah
(especially p 4 !)

Royal Commission on the
Future of the
Toronto Waterfront

Memorandum
Note de Service

RECEIVED SEP 25 1990

Commission royale sur
l'avenir du
secteur riverain de Toronto

To: Environmental Audit Steering Committee
From: Suzanne Barrett
Date: September 21 1990
Subject: Meeting Notes for September 14 and Phase 2 schedule

PRESENT: Suzanne Barrett Beth Benson Paul Beck
David Carter Kate Davies Brian Denney
Lino Grima Karl Hemmerich Joanna Kidd
Simon Llewellyn Jim Merritt Gavin Miller
John Mills Bill Munson Bob Shaw
David Yap

INTRODUCTIONS:

New members were welcomed to the steering committee. Jim Merritt, Director of the Central Region, MOE, has replaced David Guscott. John Mills, Regional Director General, Ontario Region, Atmospheric Environment Service, Environment Canada, has replaced Jim Young. Jack Lee, Acting Program Manager of the Environmental Protection Office, City of Toronto, has replaced Laurel Spielberg (Jack was unable to attend the meeting but was represented by Beth Benson).

UPDATE ON ROYAL COMMISSION'S WORK:

The 1990 interim report of the Royal Commission "Watershed" was released on September 12. David Crombie welcomes comments.

UPDATE ON PROGRESS WITH PHASE 2 OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT:

Workgroups are established for most of the areas of research (see enclosed lists). In contrast to Phase 1, we now have full participation from the City of Toronto and from the Toronto Harbour Commissioners. In addition, members of environmental/community groups are included in each workgroup.

Materials (reports or workplans) have been distributed from the workgroups on Soils and Groundwater, Air, Natural Heritage, Quality of Life and Hazardous Materials. Bob Shaw provided a memo on RAP programs for the Water component of the Audit (enclosed).

Jeff Stinson's draft report "The Heritage of the Port Industrial District", undertaken for the THC, is available at the Royal Commission offices for review. Suzanne is meeting Jeff on September 25 to discuss our objectives for Built Heritage in Phase 2 of the audit and explore how we should proceed.

A workgroup has not yet been established for Stewardship and Accountability: we will contact you for suggested members when we have a better idea of the scope of this work. David Crombie and Ron Doering are considering how this topic should be approached in the context of other work being undertaken by the Royal Commission.

The output of Phase 2, as in Phase 1, will be a set of technical papers prepared by the workgroups, and a synthesis report (to be written by Joanna Kidd and Suzanne Barrett).

SOILS AND GROUNDWATER

Paul Beck provided a brief overview of the Phase 2 results. Overall, the members of the steering committee present were pleased with the work undertaken to date. There was some discussion about the approach to the air quality component of the study: the owner of the site requested confidentiality so the results will be used in a generic way to illustrate the potential for contamination of indoor air.

AIR

David Yap presented the Phase 2 study. Concern was expressed that emissions data have not been updated. David undertook to include data from MOE files (recognising that the 1985 information is presently the only official data available). The RWDI study undertaken for Ataratiri is now available. The Phase 2 paper should include relevant information, including emissions data and modelling results, from this study.

Karl Hemmerich indicated that there has been a general improvement in noise levels across the City of Toronto, except along arterial roads. He will check if the City has information relevant to the East Bayfront/Port Industrial Area.

The Air Workgroup was asked to provide information on future projects that may affect air quality, specifically the upgrade and expansion of the Main Sewage Treatment Plant and the re-start of the Hearn Generating Station. Suzanne is contacting Ontario Hydro to request information on future plans for the Hearn and the potential impacts on air quality.

WATER AND SEDIMENTS:

Suzanne reported on the workgroup meeting held on 13 September. The objectives of the water workgroup are to:

- summarise existing and proposed research and clean-up programs relevant to the study area and the Don watershed;
- review and summarise any new/unpublished data on water and sediment quality;

- comment on the possible effects (positive and negative) of existing and upcoming projects such as the upgrade and expansion of the Main STP, re-start of the Hearn, dredging of the Keating Channel and Outer Harbour Marina;
- explore linkages between water and sediments and: air, soils, groundwater and biota.

Joanna will pull this information together and prepare the technical paper.

Bob Shaw presented a report on the RAP programs and plans that address the information gaps identified in Phase 1 (enclosed).

Simon Llewellyn and Brian Denney offered to provide equivalent information from Environment Canada and MTRCA respectively.

NATURAL HERITAGE:

Sarah Kalff, Gavin Miller and Gord Macpherson presented a brief summary of work undertaken for Phase 2. There was general agreement that the research is thorough and will be a valuable addition to our understanding of the ecosystem of the area.

There was discussion of the relationships between vegetation and contaminated soil/groundwater and the possibility of researching contaminant levels in plants. Brian Denney offered to provide information from MTRCA's study of vegetation uptake in disposal sites at Tommy Thompson Park.

We have little information on consumption of fish in the study area, however studies have been undertaken for Lake Ontario which would provide a general comment.

Sarah is undertaking a review of available information on contaminants in fish and birds.

The possibility of doing a contaminant study on small mammals was discussed. Jim Merritt cautioned the workgroup that, from a public relations perspective, any research on "warm furry animals" is likely to be controversial. Some members of the committee felt that, although information on contaminants in small mammals would add to our knowledge of the ecosystem, it may not justify the expense and complications of setting up a good research program (this is a relatively new area of research with limited precedents). Sarah is going to arrange a meeting of experts to discuss this topic further before any decisions are made.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS:

Laura Jones described the work program for this study. Information is being obtained from a variety of sources including contacting industries directly for Material Safety Data Sheets, the Ministry of the Environment for PCB storage sites, and information on registered hazardous wastes. A Hazardous Materials Work Group is being established and will meet Sept. 27th. Simon Llewellyn offered to see if Environment Canada has information to contribute to the study.

QUALITY OF LIFE/HEALTH:

Kate Davies gave a brief overview of her work to date. She expects to complete a first draft by September 28. The workplan was endorsed by the QL/H workgroup at their meeting on September 14 (morning). The steering committee was pleased with Kate's approach.

SCHEDULE:

A schedule for the remainder of Phase 2 was proposed (enclosed). The main components are:

- meetings of workgroups to be held as required to review draft technical papers. Steering committee members are invited (please let Suzanne know if you are planning to attend).
Upcoming meetings scheduled are:
 - Soils and groundwater - September 25, 1.00 - 5.00 pm.
 - Hazardous materials - September 27, 9.30 - 11.00 am.
 - Air - September 28, 2.30 - 4.00 pm.
- reports due from workgroups on October 3 (second drafts for Soils, Natural Heritage and Air, first drafts for the others).
- distribute reports to steering committee October 4/5.
- steering committee meeting October 12 - all day. Objectives:
 - Discussion of Watershed report with David Crombie
 - Presentations and discussion with workgroups
 - Discussion of form and content of Synthesis Report
- distribute draft Synthesis Report October 25/26.
- steering committee meeting to review Synthesis Report - November 9.

ENCLOSURES:

Steering committee list
Workgroup lists
Schedule
Contacts for contaminant study
RAP initiatives