

# Community Advisory Council

**November 30, 2006  
Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present**

Carol Bullock Carpenter  
Kevin Kaiser  
Sr. Joan Krimm  
Keith Mesch  
Kendel Mesch  
Jim Pfennig  
Sandy Schoenberger  
John Theuring

**Guests**

Rev. Judy Westman,  
*Reading Church Council*  
Sr. Rita Sturwold, SND  
*Mount Notre Dame High School*  
Melanie Brinkman,  
*Mount Notre Dame High School*  
Sparkle Worley,  
*Mount Notre Dame High School*  
Hobart Foster, fence-line neighbor

**Facilitator**

Kim Lahman

The meeting was held in the second floor conference room at the Rohm and Haas plant. Kim welcomed everyone and introductions were made. She announced that Keith Mesch was stepping in for Bruce, who was out of town, and would be presenting an update of the plant to CAC members before hearing presentations from the Reading Church Council and the award of the 2006 CPI grant.

**Plant Update for November (Keith Mesch)**

Safety

- It was a very quiet month with no injuries or first aids.
- November was Hand Safety Month; the majority of injuries in the industry are injuries to the hands, fingers, feet, knees and legs.

Environmental (Sewer and Wastewater)

- Sewer:  
No pH excursions  
Passed the annual MSD audit that was conducted on November 28, 2006. MSD found all of R&H records in place and equipment working correctly. MSD holds R&H as a good example for other corporations to follow.
- Air:  
No permit exceedances or reportable releases
- RCRA 3013 Order:

- Nothing new reported; R&H continues to wait for final answers on what they need to do from OEPA.
- Sewer Project:  
Work began in early November to reroute the utilities to install the 500,000-gallon tank that will be used to assist MSD in managing rainwater runoff into the sewer system during heavy rain events. Most of the work will be done next year.

### Odor Complaints

- The plant received two complaints since the October CAC meeting. R&H continues to seek odor sources and correct them in the plant. It is probably the lowest number of complaints in a very long time, they were:  
October 29 – mercaptan reported by a Reading Road neighbor  
November 19 – mercaptan odor reported by a fence-line neighbor

### Methyl Chloride (MeCl) Emissions Reduction

- Recovery efficiencies continue at 98-99 percent.
- They are recovering the MeCl excess from process effluent levels well below the 10-ton/year limit.

### Early Truck Arrivals

- In November there were two early trucks arrivals; one was earlier than 6:30 a.m. and was asked to leave and the other arrived at 6:50 a.m. and was admitted. When checked, almost all the early trucks have paperwork instructing the drivers not to come arrive before 7 a.m., they choose not to pay attention to it. When drivers are sent away, they begin to pay attention.

### Community Relations

R&H awarded the Community Partnership Initiative grant to Mount Notre Dame High School for the expansion of the Big/Little Sis Mentoring Program.

**Q:** “Some time ago, MSD fined R&H and it was appealed whatever happened with that?”

**A:** “That happened last August, we had fuming in the sewer and we did not notify MSD because we really didn’t think it was a sewer issue. MSD found out that we had a sewer issue through the media. They sent us a notice of nonconformance; we appealed it and lost. We received a very small fine. The fine is almost not worth talking about. We will pay it and will notify them anytime anything happens in the future. It now is resolved.”

### **“Feed the Children” program 2006 final report (Rev. Judy Westman)**

- Served 2,958 lunches during the summer, just 42 shy of reaching goal of 3,000
- Stayed within the budget, spent \$11,648 out of \$15,000
- Between 50 to 65 adult volunteers helped prepare and serve lunch to the children, there was a lack of senior citizen volunteers for the activity program
- There was good crowd who ate and participated in the activities at Vorhees Park, but were not as successful in Koenig Park
- Considering changing the name of the program to “Summer Days” or “Picnic in the Park” to attract more children
- Learned that parenting skills are an issue, identified several participants as child parents and see a need to address this
- Plan to approach the Board of Education to more effectively promote the program
- Experienced wonderful cooperation from the business community in donating food and the church community in supplying volunteers.

### **CPI Grant Award (Keith Mesch)**

A check for \$30,000 was presented to Mount Notre Dame High School to be used to expand their Big/Little Sis Mentoring Program.

### **Closing Note**

Kim thanked members for their attendance and informed them that there would be no meeting in December and that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 25, 2007. She also announced that an annual evaluation will be mailed out and encouraged everyone to complete and return. Kim said that R&H is considering changing the frequency of meetings from monthly to quarterly and that decrease in attendance at the meetings is a sign of progress and is typical of the maturation process of a citizens advisory group. Mayor Bo Bemmes added that he has seen a lot of change for the good over the last few years as the plant and community work together successfully to address the issues.

**The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.**