



TOWN OF STRATFORD

RAYMARK COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

September 27, 2023

MEETING MINUTES

The Raymark Community Advisory Group, in conjunction with the Stratford Health Department, Environmental Protection Agency, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, and the United States Army Corp of Engineers, conducted a hybrid meeting on Wednesday September 27, 2023 in-person at Raymark Headquarters, 300 Ferry Blvd., Stratford CT and via GoToMeeting, pursuant to notice duly posted.

TOWN REPRESENTATIVE IN ATTENDANCE

- Andrea Boissevain – Director of Health
- Alivia Coleman – Health Dept. Program Associate
- Kelly Kerrigan – Environmental Conservation Superintendent
- Raynae Serra – Director of Public Works

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Jim DiLorenzo
- Dan Keefe
- Jeff Saunders
- Darriel Swatts

UNITED STATES ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS (USACE) MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Michael Looney
- Rachel Leonardi
- Carl Niemitz
- Robert Vanoer

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Various residents

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Coleman called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

- II. INTRODUCTIONS -- Ms. Coleman introduced herself and others in attendance.
- A. OVERVIEW OF HYBRID MEETING STRUCTURE – Ms. Coleman explained the process of conducting a hybrid meeting, and reminded everyone that the meeting was being recorded.
- B. RULES OF CONDUCT – Ms. Coleman reviewed meeting protocol, noting that participants would be allowed to ask questions after each individual presentation, if they were pertinent to the presented material.
- C. PERIODIC UPDATE – Ms. Coleman explained that periodic updates are emailed to those who requested such, adding that those who would like to receive updates can provide their email addresses, and updates can also be found on the Town’s website: [www. StratfordCT.gov/Raymark](http://www.StratfordCT.gov/Raymark).

III. STATUS

A. OU3/OU6 UPDATES

- OU3 Ferry Creek Remediation - Per Mr. DiLorenzo, this is the most significant OU3 area done this year in terms of volume and complexity. He explained they remediated a 1/3-mile section from Ferry Blvd. to the Broad St. bridge. Two feet of sediment was removed from the entire channel, and 4 feet from the banks at some locations. There was also Raymark waste found behind some commercial properties that were previously remediated. This was a substantial cleanup, and the total volume removed was 12,100 cubic yards of Raymark waste. 277 cubic yards of PHC waste was removed first, and was processed to be sent out-of-state. Severson mobilized March – June, and excavation began in late June. Work is scheduled to be done by September 28 – more than two months ahead of schedule. Mr. DiLorenzo explained seeded coco matts will be placed in the banks at this time, while trees and shrubs will be planted at the top of the bank in Spring 2024.

The OU3 restoration of the creek banks will be two-fold. The first phase along the banking involves putting down a layer of rip rap along the entire length of the creek. This will be done by the end of October. The second phase is restoration for the top of the bank. Mr. DiLorenzo explained no sediment was removed along the residential side. Along the commercial side, however, most of the bank was removed. That will get a robust mixture of local species of trees and shrubbery, which will be ordered in Winter and planted in Spring 2024.

- OU3 Box Culvert – Mr. DiLorenzo explained how the 10’x8’ box culvert at East Broadway and Ferry Blvd. was cleaned. He noted a construction haul road was built on the commercial side only of the bank. Temporary dams are stood up to create cells for excavation. Along Ferry Creek, approximately 4’-6’ of sediment is removed on average.
- OU3/OU6 Remediation Tracking Table – Mr. DiLorenzo stated to date, 65,109 cubic yards (5,761 trucks) has been removed from 24 properties and 6,381 cubic yards (598 trucks) of PHC waste was removed from 14 properties. He noted not all properties had PHC waste, which is shipped off-site for final disposal.
- Remaining OU6 Properties
 - *Big Jim’s Galley* -- Mr. DiLorenzo explained there is no previous history of Raymark Waste at this location, but they found some while sampling the bank.

- There is an estimated 1,300 cubic yards of Raymark Waste. Excavation began on September 25 and is expected to be complete by early October.
- *Third Avenue ROW* – Per Mr. DiLorenzo, there is only one small area containing approximately 100 cubic yards of Raymark waste found in the front part of the driveway, which will be remediated as it includes the Town ROW. Work is tentatively scheduled to be done in the Fall, per the wishes of the property owner.
 - *280 Ferry Blvd. (Blasius South)* – Mr. DiLorenzo explained every square foot of the Blasius Car Dealership has Raymark waste in it, as well as some PHC waste. The Raymark waste will be sent to OU4 for consolidation; the PHC waste will be treated in the OU4 tent structure and then shipped out of state. Mobilization will begin the first week of October to remove approximately 7,000 cubic yards of material (Raymark and PHC waste combined) and is expected to be completed by Thanksgiving.
 - *300 Ferry Blvd. (EPA office)* – Mr. DiLorenzo stated this property contains approximately 7,000 cubic yards of material (Raymark and PHC waste combined). Work will begin sometime in October, at times overlapping that which is being done on the Blasius property, and is expected to be done by Christmas.
 - *Lockwood Avenue* – Mr. DiLorenzo noted this is the most significant of the OU6 properties left to be done. This 4.8-acre location includes three parcels – one of which is hydraulically connected to wetlands. Phase 1 of this work will be cleanup of the tidal wetlands, and Phase 2 will be cleanup of the upland/inland wetland area. The goal is to mobilize by the end of 2023, with excavation at the Phase 1 tidal wetland area beginning in January 2024. It is estimated there is 20,000 cubic yards of Raymark waste at this location, but no PHC waste. For this reason, they believe it can be excavated to 2-feet since there is no leaching of contamination on this saturated piece of property. Phase 2 will be excavated to 4-feet as this is uplands. He noted the various channels and culverts that drain at this location (stormwater, Selby Pond and Ferry Blvd. wetlands) will also need to be remediated. On the tidal wetland parcel they will be building in coastal resiliency, so the restored elevation will be one foot higher than the current elevation. Phase 2, which will also have a bulkhead around it to prevent erosion of the upland piece, is expected to be done January – June 2024.

B. RAYBESTOS MEMORIAL FIELD (OU4) UPDATE

- Work Completed or Ongoing Since July 2023

Mr. Looney noted approximately 65,000 cubic yards of material has been consolidated, compacted and covered to date. The OU4 stormwater treatment plant has been established at the consolidation area. The stormwater conveyance line construction is complete. The pumpstation construction is also underway. OU4 has been reconfigured to include a new primary access road, two new stormwater retention basins, as well as a water treatment plant that is used to store and treat excess stormwater when needed. Per Mr. Looney, material from Ferry Creek, which is very wet with a high organic content, is processed in the tent structure to dry it out before being added to the ballfield.

Mr. Looney stated there are six air monitors at OU4 which are operating daily. The original ballfield site camera can be viewed online at <https://www.ipcamline.com/5fc7c13309700>. A second camera can be viewed at <https://www.ipcamline.com/5fc7c1899d5a3>.

Mr. Looney showed a 3-D model based on the current design for the future reuse of the OU4 ballfield. He noted the center of the ballfield will have five feet of structural fill, and a 200' x 300' building pad for future development by the Town that will accommodate a variety of options such as a building. There is access from Frog Pond Lane and Longbrook Avenue via the Haul Road. Site stormwater will be collected and carried via the new conveyance system and pumpstation.

C. STORMWATER CONVEYANCE SYSTEM AND PUMP STATION

Mr. Looney explained once the impermeable cap is on at OU4, rainwater will no longer be able to infiltrate into the site. It will instead be collected in a stormwater retention basin and carried by a stormwater conveyance system which will be approximately 1/3-mile box culvert, to an open channel that is behind Ashcroft, and will then go to a new pump station being constructed. Mr. Looney stated the box culvert is done. Restoration work is primarily complete.

Per Mr. Looney, the contract for the new pump station was awarded to P&S Construction. Construction is underway and is expected to be complete by December 2024. It will have four axial flow pumps and 200 cubic feet per second capacity, and will operate only during significant storm and high-water events. It will be housed by a masonry pumphouse with underground pump channels. This is a significant system which should help improve some of the drainage issues in the general area.

Mr. Looney noted site access and preparation at the new pumpstation site is complete. Installation of sheet piles and a dewatering well point is complete. The dewatering system setup is complete and running. Excavation of the building footprint is underway. There have been seven successful blast events since blasting began in late August. Per Mr. Looney, the blasts went as planned, safely and with minimal noise, dust and vibration. The measured ground motions and noise have been below the predicted values and significantly below the limits set in the specifications and blasting plan. Mr. Looney stated excavation of the broken rock and additional site prep is underway. Line drilling and the second phase of the blasting and excavation is expected to begin in early October, with blasting operations expected to be complete by mid-October.

AIR MONITORING

Ms. Leonardi explained air monitoring is done at the various Raymark cleanup sites to protect workers and the abutting community. The Dust Action Levels are based on the property and type of work being done. In OU4, the Dust Action Level is set at 0.014mg/m³ and at 0.019mg/m³ in the OU3 and OU6 properties where Raymark Waste is being handled. The Dust Action level is 0.075 mg/m³ at the OU4 Early Detection Station. When only clean soil is being handled, the Dust Action Level is set at 0.150mg/m³. Ms. Leonardi stated chemical samples are collected for lab analysis when Raymark Waste is handled. She noted the thresholds are set very low, and work is stopped before there is any potential risk to workers or the

community. Vibration monitoring is conducted during the work. The threshold is 0.5 inches/second, and work is stopped if there are any exceedances. There are dust meters and chemical sample collection systems in operation, as well as one personnel chemical sample collection system.

- Air Monitoring Results

Per Ms. Leonard there were no exceedances of the applicable Daily Dust Action levels during this period. There were no elevated chemical concentrations above the action level criteria during this period. Copper and lead analysis for one of the five air samples collected at OU4 on September 11-13 was not processed by the lab. When the sample arrived there, it was damaged and unusable. The origin of the damage is unknown

Ms. Leonardi stated their goal is to better track and identify site-specific impacts of work being done during poor Air Quality days. They have implemented a revised air monitoring procedure for OU4 when EPA's Air Quality Index (AQI) is greater than 75, as it was during the Canadian wildfires. She explained this is not applicable to OU3 and OU6 since there are not fixed stations there, but rather can be located to represent a specific work area. Per Ms. Leonardi, the AQI has not exceeded this threshold since July. AQI monitoring will continue, and a revised procedure will be implemented as needed.

- Vibration Results

Ms. Leonardi explained the vibration threshold of 0.5 inches/second was exceeded on July 25, August 18 and September 13 due to thunderstorms. She added the July 25 and Aug. 18 exceedances occurred outside of working hours. On August 8, they received a vibration complaint from an Avery Street resident. It was determined to be caused by a vibratory roller compaction during restoration work. The contractor was immediately notified and reduced their work to stop the disturbance. A vibration meter was then deployed the morning of August 9, and vibration monitoring will continue until restoration is complete.

D. MORGAN FRANCIS DESIGN

Mr. DiLorenzo stated this 6-acre property is owned by the Town. A cleanup decision was made in 2011 separate from the current cleanup, to cap the Raymark Waste in place on this property. There is approximately 44,000 cubic yards of Raymark waste buried on this property. The approach will be to take some of the Raymark waste from the upper portion of Ferry Creek to the I-95 culvert and cap it at the Morgan Francis property. The 2014 cap design is therefore being updated to incorporate that consolidation for future recreational use, and is at the 60% design phase. Contracting is expecting in 2024, and cleanup is scheduled to start in early 2025. Mr. DiLorenzo added there will be a clean buffer around the entire property.

E. NINE OPERABLE UNITS

Mr. DiLorenzo explained this Superfund project is divided into nine operable units:

- OU1 – Former facility (2005 ROD)
- OU2 – Groundwater/Vapor Intrusion (2016 ROD)
- OU3 – Upper Ferry Creek (2016 ROD)
- OU4 – Raybestos Memorial Ballfield (2016 ROD)

- OU5 – Shore Road Boat Club (2023 ROD – to be issued in Oct. 2023)
- OU6 – Additional Fill Properties (2011 and 2016 RODs)
- OU7 – Lower Ferry Creek – mostly wetlands
- OU8 – Beacon Point Boat Launch – mostly wetlands
- OU9 – Short Beach Park/Stratford Landfill

EXPLANATION OF SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES (ESD)

Mr. DiLorenzo stated that an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) documents significant changes to a previous EPA cleanup decision document, known as a Record of Decision (ROD). This first ROD was done in 1995. There was a second ROD in 2011 for OU6 – Morgan Francis. Since then, changes have been made to the cap design. There are also plans to consolidate Raymark Waste from the abutting portion of the DOT property and Ferry Creek. There was also a 2016 Record of Decision, which needed to be revised to incorporate additional properties, non-excavation properties and stormwater changes. Mr. DiLorenzo noted there was an informational public meeting held on August 15. The 15-day comment period has closed, and an ESD has been issued.

RECORD OF DECISION (ROD) FOR OU5 SHORE ROAD AREA

Mr. DiLorenzo explained this ROD will include a combination of excavation and capping in place approximately 9,500 cubic yards of Raymark waste and will incorporate coastal resiliency. There was a public meeting held on August 8, as well as a public hearing on Sept 6. The 30-day public comment period has closed, and a ROD is expected to be issued in October. Ron Jennings is the EPA Project Manager for OU5.

OPERABLE UNIT 9

Jeff Saunders, who is the EPA Project Manager for OU9, explained this study area is approximately 94 acres and includes the former Stratford Landfill (northern ~ 30 acres) and Short Beach Park (southern ~ 64 acres). There will be a continuation of Remedial Investigation (RI) activities, including portions of Short Beach Park, the Stratford Landfill and the Marine Basin. This investigation includes geophysics, borings/well, landfill gas survey, conductivity testing, tidal study and ecological evaluation. They are developing a Remedial Investigation report, Feasibility Study and a decision document. The anticipated OU9 schedule is:

- Mobilization – Sept./Oct. 2023
- Limited vegetation clearing and surface geophysics – Oct. 2023
- Data collection – Nov. 2023 – May 2024

F. PROJECT SCHEDULE

Per Mr. DiLorenzo, the following is an estimated schedule of work to be done:

OU6

- October 2023: Big Jim’s Galley and Third Avenue ROW
- Oct – Nov 2023: Blasius car dealership
- Nov – Dec 2023: EPA Headquarters
- 2023 – 2024 Spring: Lockwood Avenue

- December 2023: Complete Morgan Francis design

OU4

- 2024: Construction of cap
- 2024: Complete pump station
- 2025: OU4 final restoration

OU5

- 2024: Complete design of cleanup
- 2025-2026: Conduct cleanup

IV. QUESTIONS

- Regarding the Blasius remediation, will the parking lot be jackhammered? Mr. DiLorenzo stated the parking lot will need to be removed, but most likely will be broken up with a bucket rather than jackhammering.
- Will the same be done for the EPA office property? Per Mr. DiLorenzo, the priority will be Blasius since that is a commercial property, and they want to be as efficient as possible.
- What is the daily work timetable? Mr. DiLorenzo stated they will start approximately 7am and end by 6:30pm.
- Do the Blasius and EPA office properties need to be done before they put the seed bed in the creek? Mr. DiLorenzo explained that work will be done simultaneously. The seeds will be put in the creek early- to mid-October, and will be complete by the end of October.
- Will material be added to Morgan Francis rather than being removed? Mr. DiLorenzo stated it will remain there and be capped safely in place, rather than being sent elsewhere.
- Why add to the material already at Morgan Francis? Per Mr. DiLorenzo, it is easier to consolidate it there rather than trucking it to OU4.
- What is the Lockwood Avenue property schedule to consolidate material? Mr. DiLorenzo stated that will be done January – June 2024.
- When Morgan Francis is done, is it possible the Town can use the property for condos? Mr. DiLorenzo explained it can only be reused for recreation.
- How high up to the street will the cap be? Mr. Looney explained the top of the OU4 cap is approximately 40-feet. The highest distance between the top of the cap and the corner of Frog Pond Lane is 12-feet higher than the road. The slope will be subtle. There will be 5-feet of structural fill, upon which the Town can put a building.
- Is there Raymark waste in the area of the pump station? Per Mr. Looney, there is none in the soil or groundwater there.

Ms. Coleman noted anyone who has further questions may contact her via email. The next meeting will be held on November 29, 2023 at 6:30pm.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Coleman adjourned the meeting at 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Aileen Marsh
Recording Secretary