

**FMC MIDDLEPORT  
COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANEL  
MEETING SUMMARY  
11-18-09**

**Community Members Present:** Dee Collins, Paul Collins, Dick Owen, Mike Fisher, Bryan Wollenberg

**FMC Representatives Present:** Bob Wojcik and Debbie Overkamp (AMEC Geomatrix).

**Facilitator:** Ann Howard

Ann Howard opened the meeting at 6:00. The agenda of this meeting included a presentation from Leonard Gianessi, CropLife Foundation, welcome and brief orientation for new members, FMC and Community Update, status of CAP Viewpoints newsletter, proposed 2010 CAP meeting agendas and dates.

**LEONARD GIANESSI – CropLife Foundation – “War of the Weeds”**

Leonard’s background is in communicating the benefits of pesticides to various audiences, including the USEPA, Capitol Hill, students, and other groups. He considers himself to be the bridge between agronomists and broader audiences.

Leonard provided information on the characteristics of weeds and how prolific they are and how human labor was the primary way of killing weed for centuries. It has only been within the last 60 years that herbicides have been used. The change from human labor to use of herbicides was a result of implementation of child protection laws, increase in agricultural wages, and human rights issues (banning of “el cortito”).

Leonard compared the use of tilling and herbicides, noting the result of severe soil erosion with the use of tilling (7,000 lbs/acre versus 1,000 lbs/acre). The 60 million acres of crop land in the U.S. that are not tilled results in the prevention of 360 billion pounds of soil from being eroded.

Organic growers represent 1% of the U.S. farm acreage and they do not use chemicals. They use hand weeding or other mechanical means to manage weeds.

In order to register a new herbicide in the U.S., it costs a company over \$250 million to get it to market. This involves approximately 110 tests and the EPA must declare there to be “reasonable certainty of no harm” before it can be sold and used.

**PLANT UPDATE**

Bob Wojcik provided the plant update and stated it has been 253 days since the last safety incident. To motivate employees to work safely, the plant is urging employees to consider how an unsafe act and resulting injury may affect not only their life, but also the lives of their four closest loved ones. This concept emphasizes a personal approach to

behavioral based safety and is an idea Bob learned after attending a recent safety conference. Bob's position has changed recently and he is now the Health, Safety, Environmental and Quality Manager. Bob will be in charge of the Middleport plant's quality management program that includes the administration of the plant's ISO 9000 program.

Research chemists from China visited the plant this past month to observe the formulation procedures. On November 19, the Plant will be hosting emergency response training for over 40 firefighters from the area at 7 p.m. Bob invited the members to attend.

At the end of the month, the Plant will start production on a new product, Bifenthrin CS and another new product called Marshal Easy in January.

The Plant recently completed a number of energy efficiency projects which should save the plant thousands of dollars each year. The Plant received a significant grant from NYSERDA to change to energy efficient lighting with motion detectors in the warehouses.

In addition, the Plant just completed an internal audit for the Responsible Care program. Next year, an external audit will be conducted to ensure FMC is following the guidelines set up by the American Chemistry Association. Bob briefly summarized the Responsible Care program.

Deb Overkamp reported that the Plant made a \$200 donation to the Middleport Free Library for their annual Fund Drive in November. Also, the Plant had 100% employee participation for the United Way Campaign – this is the sixth straight year that there has been 100% participation. The employees pledged \$6800 and FMC Corporate had a match of \$4069 (for a total donation of \$10, 896). The money will go to the Eastern Niagara United Way and United Way of Orleans County.

On October 24, the PPP Office held their Open House event – over 400 people toured the homes and a TV, gas card, and Tops gift card were prizes awarded to three people touring the homes.

Deb mentioned a few environmental highlights – Dr. Roz Schoof held four sessions on Nov. 4 and 5 to review the Risk Assessment Approach document submitted as part of the CMS. A soil exposure survey was delivered to CMS study area residents to assist with the Risk Assessment. A coffee house was held Nov. 17 to provide an overview of her presentation and to discuss the Potential Future Land Uses in the study areas.

The soil tilling pilot study got underway this week and FMC is planning to host meetings about CMS tree preservation techniques in early 2010. Also, Vol. 5 of the RFI (Tributary One South of Pearson Road) will be submitted as a final Draft next month and the Agencies will be hosting a public meeting on this document on January 13 at the Fire Hall. Members can read about the details of the other environmental programs on FMC's

Keeping You Posted document, which is posted in the document repository on the MCIG website, [www.middleport-future.com](http://www.middleport-future.com).

### **COMMUNITY UPDATE**

Mike Fisher noted that the Gasport Campus is starting a construction project, building additional space for BOCES. Paul Collins noted that the American Legion is working on a project to install a flag pole and lighting at Margaret Droman Park.

### **NEW MEMBER RECRUITMENT**

Dick Owen and Dee Palm have spoken with Tim and Christine Hare (Vernon Street residents) about joining. The group decided to invite them to the April 2010 meeting. Dick Owen is going to follow up with Rebecca Dodge to see if she is still interested in becoming a member.

### **NEXT MEETINGS**

**The Holiday Party will be held on January 9, 2010 at the Alternative Grounds Caffe – details and invitation to follow. The next meeting of the Middleport FMC CAP will be held on April 21, 2010. The agenda will include: plant open house planning, Responsible Care and product stewardship, FMC and community updates, and new member recruitment. See attached sheet outlining the 2010 future meeting schedule.**