

NEW JERSEY BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

DATA & MARKETING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2006
10:00 P.M. – 12:00 P.M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
101 SOUTH BROAD STREET
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY
OFFICE OF SMART GROWTH LIBRARY - 7TH FLOOR

Present—

Frances Hoffman – NJ Department of Community Affairs, Office of Smart Growth

Colleen Kokas – NJ Department of Environmental Protection, Site Remediation

Lauri Sheppard – NJ Redevelopment Authority

James Simmons – NJ Commerce, Economic Growth and Tourism Commission

Nicole Royle – NJ Economic Development Authority (via teleconference)

Cynthia Weiser – Recording Secretary, Office of Smart Growth, NJ Department of Community Affairs

Regrets—

George P. Kelley – Public Member, Committee Chair

Dennis Toff – Public Member, Task Force Chairperson

Absent—

Yuki Moore Laurenti, Public Member – Financial

Others—

Alan Miller – NJ Department of Community Affairs, Office of Smart Growth

I. WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER—

In the Chairperson's absence, Dr. Hoffman welcomed the Committee and called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

II. ANNOUNCEMENT OF ADHERENCE TO OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT—

The recording secretary read the Announcement of Adherence to Open Public Records Act.

III. ROLL CALL—

Recording secretary called roll, attendance was noted, and a quorum was present.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS—None

V. MEETING MINUTES—

January minutes, tabled from the May Task Force meeting, were voted on and passed. The May minutes were adopted, pending removal of the word 'draft.'

VI. COMMITTEE BUSINESS—

- A. Statewide Environmental Insurance Symposium:** Peter Meyer and Kristen Yount, the EPA Technical team that supported this work are currently processing raw data generated from the State Environmental Insurance Symposium. This information will then be used to develop a white paper. Many good recommendations came from the participants.
- B. Brownfields and the Office of Economic Growth:** The administration, through the Office of Economic Growth, is evaluating how brownfields redevelopment will be addressed. All incentives are being reviewed in the process. The Task Force will invite Chris Carew, the primary contact for Brownfields Redevelopment Task Force and OSG.
- C. Department of Environmental Protection Rules on Community Involvement:** An internal "information only" meeting will be held at DEP on July 21 on the proposed Community Involvement rules. Public hearings will be held in the future.
- D. Budget 2005-06, 2006-07:**
USEPA Funding: Funds in the current USEPA grant budget (\$119,000.) will be fully expended by the end of September, the end of the grant period. A reduced amount (\$112,000) is anticipated from EPA in October for the next Federal fiscal year.
The anticipated \$232,000 from USEPA, which is a portion of an unexpended USEPA grant to NJDEP has not yet been processed. These monies will be used for additional enhancements to the NJSiteMart, and for building the State's Brownfields Inventory.
Forwarding Language: The forwarding language on the State appropriation was approved. A budget will be prepared for the remaining \$205,000.00.
More certain funding for Task Force and State Brownfield Inventory. Additional state funding through a continuing or second appropriation or budget line item is needed to adequately support the inventory and related Task Force activities.
- E. New Jersey Brownfields Inventory**
- o Enhancements: A series of improvements will be made to the Site Mart, funded through the State appropriation and the anticipated grant from USEPA. The website will be updated and made more user-friendly and will be made more useful as a marketing and planning tool. Monthly requests will be made to municipalities for updates to RFPs and RFQs to verify environmental information working with the Office of Brownfields Reuse.
 - o Access to Information: Discussion ensued on the categories of information that can be reasonably made accessible for state agency efforts to help developers and businesses owners seek brownfields sites for clean-up and redevelopment. Two related issues to be considered are, 1) exploring possibilities for making the back database available without exposing actual addresses and ownership information, and 2) what information might be able to be blocked under OPRA requests. The issue needs further discussion at the full Task Force level.
 - o SiteMart Update: Five hundred letters were sent out to mayors by Commissioner Levin requesting the name of a contact person for Site Mart/Brownfields. Three municipalities have responded. Other methods are needed to support collaboration with municipalities on the Brownfields Inventory.
 - o All state agency Task Force members were requested to send site lists for addition to the database.

F. Outreach Activities

- DEP Site Remediation Advisory Group: It was noted that this group comprised of brownfields trade groups meets four times annually.
- National Association of Local Environmental Professionals (NALGEP): It is hoped that Dr. Hoffman, Ms Sheppard and Ms Kokas will be able to attend this annual conference in Washington DC – 7/24-26. They have been invited to participate in a panel on Brownfields Inventories.
- Southern New Jersey Development Council (SNJDC) Cruise: This cruise will take place on August 13, 2006.
- NJ Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Housing Conference – 3rd week in September: There will be a panel on brownfields, with Eileen Swan, Executive Director of OSG as moderator. Panelists will be Bette Spinelli (Hudson County Improvement Authority); Mayor Brian Gallagher (Somerville); Ramesh Tharwani (Khovnanian); and Leah Healey (Maraziti, Falcon and Healey).
- US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Annual National Conference, Boston, MA – November 13-15: New Jersey will be represented on several panels and will have a booth as part of the Region 2 cluster.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS—

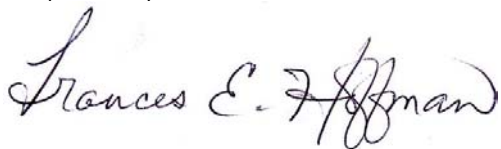
- A.** Task Force to review of proposed webpage changes to NJSiteMart.
- B.** Task Force to discuss access to information on full Inventory Database
- C.** Task Force to initiate efforts to obtain more certain state funding for Brownfields Inventory and Task Force activities.

VIII. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS—None

IX. ADJOURNMENT—

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Frances E. Hoffman
Secretary, New Jersey Brownfields Redevelopment Task Force

Prepared by Cynthia Weiser
8/14/06