

Land Use Action Circle
Monthly Meeting
2/26/2025
6:00 - 8:00 PM

Agenda

6:00 PM **Welcome & Community Agreements (Coral)**

6:10 PM **MPCA Southport Industrial Zone - Air Quality Monitoring Process**

(Jose Luis Villasenor)

- 30 min presentation
 - PP and data available to the public
- 15 min Q & A (Coral)
 - Are there nodes feeding into the monitoring system/site at Lady Guadalupe? Are there no monitoring beyond this area?
 - No
 - ***
 - Depending on the pollutant, pretty confident that the monitors they have give a good representation
 - Is there an accepted or *** range for ***
 - About a quarter mile, but does vary site by site
 - Since there is more monitoring needed, when will that happen and how long is the timeline
 - Would need 8 years of data to compare to the health benchmarks
 - Mark - lives in the area, sometimes he can smell something sour and has been starting to wheeze; have called the city many times about it
 - The air feels very bad, so it is surprising the monitoring data isn't showing higher results, so what is the response to this?
 - MPCA next step would be to work with the port authority
 - Have contacted *** and are concerned, started conversations with port authority to find solutions
 - Community doesn't feel like the port authority cares about the WS, have been in segmented meetings with these different agencies with no solutions
 - MPCA's enforcement team will be taking data and concerns to *** to discuss how to hold *** accountable
 - Are you coordinating your data with the health dept and do you see coordination with visits to the ER or doctor? We've not seen such a presentation from the dept of health?
 - MPCA does work with dept and health and they do use the monitoring data, they also have it on their website
 - MPCA needs help and pressure from the community to hold these agencies accountable
 - What are the long-term impacts of this? How do we legally hold these agencies accountable? The more important conversation is we as a

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community need to do our research and our own strategies to take action on this rather than wait for meetings with these agencies

- Community member - lived on the WS for 20+ years, have called and attended meetings with MPCA without any response; happy to see all these people in this meeting
 - There are other data about health disparities in 55017
- Monica - When we were door knocking this weekend, we heard from people that we've been down this road before, we've had these conversations before, what's going to be different this time? In welcome packet is a Board Resolution that was passed in ***. We've had meetings with these agencies before, will have more meetings with them, and will have a public meeting. What we'd like to do is that we stay informed, stay aligned so that the resolutions are met this yet
- You are following the data, but how much do you value the data that is community's voices, community's stories and lived experiences? There are very powerful voices and stories and experiences so how might you ***, so that it's also influential in your reports and work also?
 - MPCA values community stories and community experience in this platform, we hear your concerns and are raising these concerns with our agency and regulatory process
 - If you're interested, we are doing community engagement series
- Community member - smell and air quality is so bad, windows always have to be closed
- One of the first slide shows *** monitoring option, can that be an option for Southport? Are some facilities in that area permitted facilities? If their permits are coming up for renewal, community wants those facilities to be monitored, not the church
 - Yes
 - Some facilities are permitted
- Community wants MPCA to be creative with their approach to these ***
- Community member - Sometimes there are many trucks sitting there idling and it gets really bad and congested. There's no lighting down there, police barely patrols the area. Have called the city and state many times, but one agency says it's the other's road and vice versa. Nothing has been done.

7:05 PM Updates from Subgroups

- Vote to adopt last month's notes (Coral)
 - Motion carries at 7:09PM
 - To become a voting member, would have to attend 3 non-consecutive land use meetings; attendance is counted by the sign in sheet; as a voting

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member, you can become a planning team working on whatever area that you're concerned about

- Communications Team (Bao)
- Robert Street Study Group (Bao & Joy)
 - *Propose to officially bring the Robert Street Study Group to a Campaign Group "Destination Robert Street" (Bao)
- 10 River Park Plaza - Pier Foundry Zoning Change 1 pager (Monica)
- 10 Year Plan Update (Santiago)

7:20 PM Break out & Report Back (Coral)

- How do you imagine a space that would encourage your neighbors to attend?
- Could you see yourself **inviting others**? What would make that easier?
- What do you need from this space to feel **welcomed and engaged**?
- How can we make this space more **accessible and inviting** for everyone?

7:45 PM Call to Action and Closing Evaluation (Coral)

Footnotes from Joy Sorenson:

Hello WSCO leaders who attended the LUAC last night (apologies if I missed anyone), Great meeting. Thanks for the prep and facilitating that made an effective meeting. I have some thoughts and I'd like to hear yours. I'm going to drop them here while they are fresh in my mind.

1. EPA Manager mentioned that one of the barriers to monitoring is that polluters don't have a permanent structure. What does this indicate? That if they have construction trailer offices they can avoid monitoring?
2. Monitoring calendar is public. Do polities schedule their Burn on days when not monitoring?
3. Get Lawyers. Good idea. Can we do this?
4. What does the junk yard do with their tires? Or other non metal junk.

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SFG Notes:

Jose introduced himself as an Environmental Justice coordinator for MPCA.

Talked about his personal connection to the neighborhood.

Presentation:

- Started by overview of the
 - Type of pollutants that are being monitored
 - Type of monitoring that is being used on the West Side
- Air Toxics are localized sample level pollutants – very labor heavy to monitor
- Continuous sampling monitors. Electrical instrument that transfers data back to the office.
 - West side has TSP monitoring via a filter that is taken back to a lab.
 - Samples are collected and analyzed then QA'd then sent to EPA and available to the public.
- Sample Site: Next to Guadalupe Church at the Parking Lot.
 - Samples all meet EPA standards and comparability to ensure same dates and times across the entire USA. West Side uses a 1 in 6-day monitoring project.
 - Q&A about siting monitors. Why not on a different site? Looked for Barge Channel Road site, finally found the site at Guadalupe. Have to avoid mature trees. Finding a with power, security, access. City of St Paul helped to get this site. This site seemed closest to where the heaviest particles would be.
- Presenter change:
- Not all pollutants are monitored at all sites.
 - PM25 PM10 are not monitored here, but they are monitored at Regents
 - Standards
 - MN has its own standard for TSP, but Feds only have standards for PS25 and PS10
 - Primary Standards are for public health protections (Asthma, etc.)
 - Secondary Standards may protect animals visibility, crops, etc.

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- They do averaging over the course of the year to compare to standards.
- History of the West Side Monitoring
 - Some in 2014, temporary, at Guadalupe. Results showed some issues, so determined they should do more monitoring
 - Started monitoring at Holman Field 2016-2017
- Results
 - Exceeded primary standards in 2023
 - Exceeded secondary standard every year.
 - Lead and Metals unclear - elevated but not exceeding standards.
 - Not clear how these metal values might impact health in the long-term.
 - Chronic health benchmarks ask for 8 year or longer data sets to monitor.
 - Q&A about actions the neighborhood can take and how we can leverage the data and move things forward.
 - Many questions and answers about data and community options
 - C & E means “Compliance and Enforcement” and that is the unit within PCA that can enforce “permitted” locations.
 - Showed a website that is called a “Navigator” that shows data visualization of pollution data.
 - Community member who lives near the monitor testified that they get “waves” of smell / particulates, and it is not clear of the source.
 - Community member who lives near the monitor testified that truck and train exhaust and dust from the road seem to be the biggest factors. Stated the road is a state road and the city does not seem to enforce speed limit or “no idling” requirements.