**St Anthony Park Community Council**

**Environment Committee**

October 24, 2018

CoCreatz, 2388 University Ave. W., Saint Paul

Present: Karlyn Eckman, Lisa Habeck, Stephen Mastey, Michael Russelle, Tim Wulling; Roberto de Freitas (SAPCC Community Organizer)

**Minnesota Chemical Co. Building**

Timothy Lockrem and Sondra Campbell (MPCA Site Remediation and Redevelopment Section) met with us to present and discuss information about soil, groundwater, and soil vapor contamination at and near this site. Exeter Development plans to redevelop the property as offices.

Some data were shared with the committee by email and more were distributed as hard copy at the meeting. The primary chemicals of concern are trichloroethylene and perchloroethylene, which are solvents used in dry cleaning, manufacturing, and metal degreasing. These compounds move readily in soil and with groundwater, and their vapors can enter buildings through basements, similar to radon. In addition to documented releases at this site, the consulting environmental firm found several records of PCE/TCE releases by neighboring properties, as well.

MPCA requires Minnesota Chemical Co. to complete additional investigation to determine the area of concern for vapor intrusion and the extent of groundwater contamination onsite and offsite. In the meantime, MPCA has approved Exeter’s response plan, so development will proceed.

A complicating factor in the area is that there is perched groundwater much closer to the soil surface than the regional groundwater level. Flow directions of both are poorly defined in the area. Our concern is for nearby residents and businesses. **The committee decided to seek grant funding to develop more detailed maps of groundwater depth and flow direction.**

**Minutes**

The committee reviewed the minutes of the last meeting and approved them with a few edits.

Lisa Habeck has attended and participated in two meetings and requested membership. **The committee approved her membership unanimously.**

**Dust contamination of roadways**

Karlyn shared photos and her observations of fine sand and dust on roadways in South St Anthony Park. She reported that many dump trucks and hoppers travel along Raymond and Hampden on their way to and from the railroad yard near Capp Road. Grain size seems to be very small, raising concerns about human health, water quality, and ecological hazards, as well as being hazardous to bike riders who my lose traction.

There was a question about when the Council’s meetings were held on transfer of sand used for hydraulic fracturing.

**Karlyn will attempt to collect a sample of the material. Michael will contact the group at MPCA who have worked with us on air quality in the past.**

**In addition, Michael will ask Pat and John Mark whether the Transportation Committee has had a chance to discuss how to reduce the volume, slow the speed, and limit the noise of truck traffic on Raymond Avenue.**

**Grant opportunities**

Stephen emphasized that Capitol Region Watershed District grants are action-oriented, focused, task-oriented, and seek specific outcomes. We discussed potential topics for a Partner Grant. We decided that providing a good grounding in hydrology to local students focused around the Hampden Park stormwater infiltration gallery was doable and worthwhile. **Michael and Roberto will work with Kathryn to write the proposal and submit it this Friday.**

Stewardship grant proposals are due Friday to MWMO. **Jake Janski (Ecologist with Minnesota Native Landscapes Inc.), Stephen, Karlyn, and Kathryn walked the site and will write a proposal for vegetation management around Kasota Pond.**