

EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant Proposal
Public Meeting, Canton Municipal Building
October 11, 2010

Public meeting began at 6:33 p.m. Twenty-eight were in attendance.

Malcolm Ray, Advisory Committee Chair, gave an update on the dam project since the last public hearing in June and explained the propose of this meeting to meet the requirements of the EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant application and to gather comments and answer questions from the public about the same.

The search for a permanent solution to dam safety and water level issues has now expanded to include the revitalization of Canton's town center. The plan is to restore the former Brindis Leather Company tannery site to include a public boat ramp, municipal park and green space. Clean up and reinvestment in this property is needed to protect the public, the environment and reduce blight. A Brownfields Phase I: historical records search was completed in May 2010 and Phase II: sampling which identified contaminants (poly aromatic hydrocarbons, arsenic and lead) in July. These assessments were performed by MACTEC through a grant from Maine DEP indicates remedial action is necessary. Continuing to partner with the town of Canton, DEP hired Ransom Environmental Consultants to produce a focus feasibility study for remediation of the adjacent properties to the dam now owned by the town. The three options presented in the feasibility study were (1) to fence off the property to prohibit further use, (2) excavate and remove all contaminated soil or (3) the favored solution, to cover contaminated soils with a marked barrier and at least 8" of clean soil.

The estimated costs and budget for the subsequent EPA grant proposal with a 13% contingency is \$259,000 (\$200,000 grant and \$59,000 in local in kind match). The taxpayers will not be asked to provide additional funding for this expansion of the dam project. However, in kind match would include clean fill from the town's sand pit, volunteers to help landscape green spaces, and partnering with Maine Inland Fisheries & Wildlife [IF&W] to provide a public boat launch and adequate parking with an ideal cover barrier would complete the match requirement.

Questions and comments from the public:

"What if we don't get the EPA grant? How will this affect the dam project and funding to complete the project?"

- The new dam will continue as scheduled. Soils will be excavated for the anchor walls, stockpiled on site and used to backfill. Excavation of contaminated soils will be addressed in the NRPA permit for the new dam.
- If Canton is unsuccessful this year, an EPA application will be made next year.
- Maine DEP has less substantial grant funding and perhaps with the aid of IF&W on the boat ramp, a significant portion of the property can be remediated.

- If a portion of the dam properties were to be offered for sale, another grant could be prepared to provide the required cover system for that portion or required of the purchaser.

"When does Canton anticipate construction to begin?"

- NRPA permitting for the new dam will soon be submitted to DEP. Ninety days is allowed for State agency review and response. Preparation for and bid process during the spring would allow an early June 2011 ground breaking for the new dam.
- EPA cleanup grants are awarded in the spring 2011. If awarded, DEP Brownfields personnel would work with Canton on the cleanup details, prepare another NRPA permit and the bidding process for the cleanup. Details of a partnership with IF&W would be clarified. With the EPA funding, the restoration of the "brownfield" could begin as early as fall 2011 or be completed in 2012. The grant funding allows for a three-year project for completion.

"Is the Army Corps of Engineers involved?"

- Only as one of the agencies that reviews NRPA permits for the DEP.

"What permitting is needed for a Brownfields cleanup?"

- A NRPA permit similar to that for the dam and a local shoreland zoning permit which is required for all earth moving within 75' of a stream. Because there is no plan to disturb the banks or work in the stream, a NRPA permit should be much simpler for a brownfield cleanup.

"When can the superstructure of the old dam be taken down?"

- Not until a NRPA permit for the new dam construction is issued. Several volunteers and donated equipment have already been offered.

Appreciation and "WOW" were offered to the Lake Anasagunticook Assn. for the capital campaign effort to raise the cash match for the CDBG funds. Gary Dougherty, Treasurer of the LAA, announced that \$80,000 in cash and pledges has been raised so far.

Advisory Committee offered thanks for the public participation in this meeting. The hearing was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Submitted by,
Judy Hamilton, Secretary
CDBG Advisory Committee