

**PIPELINE TASK FORCE WORKSHOP  
THURSDAY, July 8, 2021  
TELE CONFERENCE  
FINAL MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Chair Caroline Hughes, Vice Chair Bill Wegemann; Members: Jim Christenson, Judi DiFonzo, Christina Morley, Gerry Sexton

**Others Present**

Township Supervisor Michele Truitt; Township Manager Derek Davis

**COMMON ACRONYMS:**

<i>ACOE</i>	<i>Army Core of Engineers</i>
<i>BI&amp;E</i>	<i>Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement</i>
<i>BOS</i>	<i>Board of Supervisors</i>
<i>CCATO</i>	<i>Chester County Association of Township Officials</i>
<i>CCPC</i>	<i>Chester County Planning Commission</i>
<i>DCNR</i>	<i>Department of Conservation and Natural Resources</i>
<i>DEP</i>	<i>Department of Environmental Protection</i>
<i>EGT</i>	<i>East Goshen Township</i>
<i>EGSEA</i>	<i>East Goshen Safety and Environmental Advocates</i>
<i>ET</i>	<i>Energy Transfer Company</i>
<i>FOI</i>	<i>Freedom of Information</i>
<i>HDD</i>	<i>Horizontal Directional Drilling</i>
<i>IR</i>	<i>Inadvertent Return</i>
<i>ME1</i>	<i>Mariner East 1</i>
<i>ME2</i>	<i>Mariner East 2</i>
<i>PHMSA</i>	<i>Pipeline Hazard Materials and Safety Administration</i>
<i>PUC</i>	<i>Public Utility Commission</i>
<i>TF</i>	<i>Task Force</i>

**Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance**

Caroline called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Moment of Silence**

Caroline called for a moment of silence for those serving our county, those that lost their lives serving our country, first responders and health care workers fighting COVID.

**Recording**

The meeting was recorded to the cloud via Zoom meeting settings.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from June 10, 2021, were unanimously approved.

## **Public Comment**

None

## **Chairperson's Report**

### **Meadowbrook Manor**

Caroline reported that the large sinkhole at Meadowbrook Manor has not been stabilized since last month.

Bill stated that it is important to know how much product has been dumped into this area to solidify it.

Christina said that there were social media reports stating that one-million gallons of "water" a day from this area is being dumped into the public sewer by permission of West Whiteland Township. Derek confirmed that permission to proceed was given by West Whiteland and DEP. All surrounding townships were notified. He clarified that it is not feeding into East Goshen Township's sewer system but into the Downingtown sewer system.

Caroline questioned if this is in violation of the Clean Air Council settlement agreement. Derek said that this has been classified as groundwater.

### **Pemex Pipeline Explosion**

Caroline reported that there was a Pemex pipeline explosion off the Gulf of Mexico.

## **Legislative Updates**

Bill reported that an in-person meeting is scheduled with Carolyn Comitta for Wednesday, July 21. He added that he will also be scheduling a meeting with Dianne Herrin.

## **Old Business**

### **Update on the Subsidence**

Christina reported that she and Derek visited the subsidence area on Route 352 and found that the area was overgrown with tall grass which made it difficult to identify the markers. Derek explained that the Public Works Department will be clearing soon. Once complete, measurements will take place and will continue to take place on a set monthly schedule. There was discussion about spray painting and taking picture to mark the area. Bill noted that if pictures or documentation is sent to Dr. Sasowsky for evaluation, there will be a follow-up consulting cost. Jim recommended metal stakes over spray paint for framing out the area.

Gerry reminded everyone that the exposed well was expected to be capped. The owner of the property is responsible to do that.

This item will recur on future agendas.

## **New Business**

### **Michele Truitt to visit Houston Sunoco Plant**

- Michele explained that she will be touring the Sunoco Plant in Houston, Texas in July. Her plans include a tour of the control room and a meeting with a safety person (engineer) and an executive. Michele asked the Pipeline TF to submit questions for Sunoco by July 14.
- Caroline reported that the representatives on the Sunoco hotline have been rude and not helpful to both herself and other residents. Michele expressed concerned that ET customer service is lacking. She noted that she wants to know where the call center is in relation to where the control room is. There was discussion about there being many different hotline numbers and it was agreed that this needs to be confirmed to one memorable number.
- There was discussion regarding the meters used by the EMS workers to measure the gases during these occurrences.
- There was discussion that the 911 center is expected to be contacted at the same time as the ET operator. It is important that the Township Emergency Coordinator is notified in an emergency.
- Christina question that if the first responder's equipment (radios, portables, repeaters, pagers) is not classified as intrinsically safe, can they be a potential source of ignition in an HVL incident?
- Christina recommended that Stephen Hiro, East Goshen Township's EMC, be included in these discussions. It was the consensus to extend an invite to future Pipeline TF meetings.
- Caroline will send a google document to the TF for them to add generic questions for Michele to present.

### **Chester County Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting Follow up**

Judi reported that she attended the monthly Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting earlier in the day. The TF will look for the online recording.

### **Chester County Vulnerability Assessment of Hazardous Liquid and Gas pipelines**

Christina shared her findings from the Chester County's Vulnerability Assessment of Hazardous Liquid and Gas Pipelines (<https://www.chestercountypahmp.com/draft-plans/>). She explained that Chester County has the responsibility to provide a hazard assessment every 5 years. The last document from 2015 did not have any solid information on pipelines. The recent draft document includes an entire section on HVLs. She summarized that sophisticated planning and assessment tools were used in addition to FEMA risk assessment tools. Past incidents, current risks and vulnerabilities were included at a county and individual township level. The document also looks ahead at litigation strategies and what each township can do to lessen the impacts.

Christina outlined some items she felt were compelling regarding the Township's vulnerability to a pipeline hazard, the impacts on physical structures, and that East Goshen has a greater overall risk.

The County has provided a lot of information and intends to use their document as a tool for planning.

The TF will review this draft and continue discussion at their next meeting.

**Liaison Reports**

Jim noted that based on the responses received from the Futurist Committee's survey, the Pipeline TF is "doing their job".

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

The next meeting is Thursday, August 12, 2021, at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Susan D'Amore*

*F:\Data\Shared Data\Minutes\Pipeline Task Force\2021\Pipeline TF Mins 07-08-21 DRAFT.docx*