People Over Pipelines

Conference Call – 4/4/16, 7:30PM

On the call:

Lena

Agnes

Rita

Katie

Glen

Martha

Jean

Belinda

Patti

Al

Rita gave an overview of the meeting Agnes, Belinda, Martha and she had with “Bill” on the inner workings of the NJDEP.

The actions we take will be a delaying tactic and will put a damper on the progress of the GSEP and SRL and might even stop them.

There is a sense of urgency but we should focus on the April 26th Dewatering hearing which we think Chesterfield requested. It is their right to have a hearing and Lena said others can request hearing as well, groups, municipalities and people. The DEP doesn't really want to hold them but we will force them to.

We can use the hearings to present our case to not only the DEP, but the press and those in the audience. To do this we must craft our first comments carefully to avoid the DEP attempts to keep the focus narrow.

These hearings force the state into a holding pattern, they must respond to all questions and comments and some of our questions will be designed to embarrass them and make them nervous.

Some of our questions and comments will also serve as the basis of appeals to the Office of Administrative Law should things come to that. The appeals also serve as a delaying tactic.

Martha spoke about the Clean Water Act which states: “All existing uses shall be protected” which means if a frog lives there and he won't be able to live there after the construction, it stops the project.

The states are charged with implementing the Clean Water Act. NJDEP usually just issues a Clean Water Certificate but that does not meet the standard and we must challenge this!

So the more comments and questions the better and the more OPRA request the better. We need to pour over the documents and find that AHA document.

We are going to meet in person on April 12th. Maybe at the Chesterfield Municipal Building or at Patti or Ritas.

Belinda filled us in on the requests she's made thus far. She filed 2 requests and received two receipts. The requests can take up to a week. She wants to see if she's doing it right and then she will put together a step by step guide for the rest of us.

Belinda told us she has been reading the DEP Bulletin which comes out evry Monday.She went back a year looking for reports in Burlington County. She did find Bordentown's Flood Hazard Appeal.

Agnes wondered about the PSE&G substation site.

“Bill” told us it's better to request an in-person viewing of the documents because DEP will often send a simple summary electronically.

Rita said she would go to DEP, Belinda and Jean also said they could go. Jean also volunteered to do research.

It is very important to get a large turnout for the April 26th hearing. We need to show there is strong opposition to theses projects.

Jean will contact the Facebook guru from responsible-pipeline

We need to generate a flyer that includes the entire route.

We will ask Chesterfield as well as North Hanover to do a mailing.

We need to do a press release as well as a fact sheet/white paper to hand out at the hearing.

Lena will email Agnes a .pdf of the Delaware Riverkeepers postcard that we can use as a template.

We will meet on the 12th to go over our strategy for the hearing and organize speakers.

Lena suggested we request a NJDEP hearing on the SRL.

Belinda told us Walter sent the check and she deposited it. She thinks Beth Ann was talking about a GoFundMe campaign and we might need to hire a lawyer at some point.

Jean asked about the Sierra Club and the cancelled conference call. She will reach out to Jamie and try to reschedule.

The sign on letter and the Freeholders meeting was discussed. Please continue to get signatures, we are now using the multi-county version but will present Garagiano with the original on the 13th.

Martha will email all the signatories and ask that they attend the meeting.

There was a discussion about “boosting” the facebook event. Belinda and Jean will coordinate that.

Thanks

Agnes Marsala