

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**DRAFT**

**COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD**  
**HAVEN WELL CONTAMINATION**  
**Portsmouth City Hall**  
**1 Junkins Avenue**  
**Conference Room A**

**8:00 a.m.**

**November 17, 2015**

**ATTENDEES:**

Community Advisory Board

Rich DiPentima, Chairman  
James Heinz, Deputy Fire Chief - Portsmouth  
Kim McNamara, Health Officer - Portsmouth  
Andrea Amico, Resident - Portsmouth  
Shelly Vetter, Owner - Discovery Child Enrichment Center  
Stefany Shaheen – City Councilor

City Staff

Brian Goetz, Deputy Director, Department of Public Works – Portsmouth

Members Absent

Robert Lister, Mayor – Portsmouth  
John Stowell, Health Officer - Newington  
Stefany Shaheen – City Councilor

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman DiPentima called the meeting to order at 8:03a.m and presented the agenda for the morning.

**2. AGENDA OVERVIEW**

Chairman DiPentima stated that the purpose of the meeting was to follow up on the questions submitted to ATSDR and discuss the future of the CAB.

**3. ATSDR CONFERENCE CALL**

ATSDR Participants:

### **Division of Toxicology and Human Health Sciences**

Jimmy Stephens: Director, Division of Toxicology and Human Health Services

Angela Ragin: Branch Chief, Environmental Epidemiology Branch

Frank Bove: Senior Epidemiologist

Perri Ruckart: Epidemiologist

Sheila Stevens: Public Health Advisor

### **Division of Community Health Investigations**

Sharon Williams-Fleetwood: Branch Chief, Eastern Branch

Susan Moore: Branch Chief, Science Support Branch

Tarah Somers: Regional Director, Region 1, Boston Office

Rachel Worley: Environmental Health Scientist

ATSDR listed questions that would need to be asked to construct a feasibility study. Questions centered on information from daycares, available health outcome data and size of the population to be tracked. If the population is not large enough, they may include other populations to ensure scientific validity. A feasibility study must address the needs of the community as well as ensure scientific credibility. There will also be a literature review and a study of available epidemiological evidence.

The difficulty in answering some of the questions in regards to hormone levels, blood lipids, etc. is that biological samples would need to be collected, or additional consents for samples obtained. Depending on what is included, an assessment could be done in 3-6 months, but a mechanism such as the CAP would need to be in place. ATSDR will begin by looking at the results for the 471 samples that NH DHHS has. To look at specific cancers or birth defects, large numbers of study participants are needed. The C8 study had tens of thousands of participants. Eight to nine thousand participants is a small cohort for health outcomes and developmental disabilities. The numbers for Pease Tradeport are too small for this type of study. Using the data DHHS has collected would require the approval of the Internal Review Board (IRB).

Final recommendations by the CAB to the Mayor and City Council will be presented at the December 21, 2015 City Council meeting. The CAP should be taking form by then. ATSDR will need funding for the CAP as they pay to fly people in that participate in meeting, and they offer an honorarium to independent experts. They are currently pursuing funding.

Discussion turned to formation of the CAP. Members can either be nominated or membership can be opened up to the community. Commitment includes quarterly meetings. CAP members bring community issues to the table and the number of members varies with each CAP.

Mr. Goetz discussed the Technical Group that has been involved in discussions since May of 2014. He pointed out that since there has been decades of water testing performed at Pease Tradeport, there could be tracers in the foam that could be used as surrogates. This might have been picked up in other water sampling.

Ms. Amico stated that she had concerns about the DHHS questionnaire. There was not a lot of information sought through the questionnaire. For example, with regard to children, it did not ask how many days a week the children attended daycare on Pease Tradeport or whether the children were breastfed or fed with formula mixed with the water at the Tradeport. She felt that adding questions could be very helpful in analyzing health effects.

ATSDR stated that it would require going through an IRB. A discussion around this issue should be held with the community. Looking at the C8 study, an enormous number of questions were asked. Getting questions from the community is one reason why a CAP should be formed.

Ms. Amico asked ATSDR to address plans for a CAP.

Chairman DiPentima stated that planning for a CAP may be more of a job for the CAB with input from ATSDR.

ATSDR stated that funding for a CAP would need to be obtained through the AF, but the community could certainly start identifying representatives. At Camp Lejeune, there were two groups and they were asked to select representatives. With other CAPs, the community was already organized to some extent. Perhaps there are community leaders in the Pease Tradeport area that would want to be part of the CAP. The number of people on the CAP varies with different CAPs. A number/limit doesn't need to be set just yet. ATSDR would like to see quarterly meetings and it would be the responsibility of the CAP to find out what community concerns exist. ATSDR encouraged the CAB to talk to members of CAP groups already in existence to get an idea of what being a member of a CAP entails. For the Camp Lejeune group, people are spread out all over the country so the Pease Tradeport CAP would function a bit differently in that it would have a more local focus.

ATSDR stated that perhaps it would be helpful to have a former resident of Pease Tradeport as a CAP member. There could be a cohort study that included other sites.

Ms. McNamara inquired about how to determine when the contamination began.

ATSDR stated that they would work with the AF as well as state environmental organizations to get a sense of when the contamination may have started.

Ms. McNamara inquired about possibilities for long-term monitoring stating that this aspect was very important to Mayor Lister.

ATSDR stated that these are questions they would like to pursue with the CAP. The full discussion around this should be held with community members. There is a lot of planning

involved and there is a need for the assurance that the answers will actually address the questions of the community. They stated that they may sound vague at this point, but they do not have a good idea yet of everything that makes sense for the Pease Tradeport.

Ms. Amico inquired about the method for obtaining community input.

ATSDR stated that this is what they will look to the CAP to do.

Ms. Amico stated that at the last CAB meeting two weeks ago, ATSDR sent the message that they really want to work with the community. She appreciated that, but at the same time, felt that it left the community feeling that they were the responsible ones to steer the ship. She wondered whether processes for other studies could be looked at to assist this community. She asked for community education regarding other exposed communities.

ATSDR stated that a discussion about the C8 study and other sites could be held. Processes are conducted differently at every site given what is needed at that particular site. One of the biggest benefits is to educate the community about how studies are conducted including the strengths and weaknesses of a study. The community can only benefit from having that. They will work closely with the CAB to ensure co-education happens. It is a partnership, and a two-way street. ATSDR stated that the CAB may want to find experts in the area. They encourage that. They also felt the apprehension come across at the meeting on the part of community members that what they (ATSDR) was saying was that the community should design the study. This is not at all what they intended. They want to work collaboratively with the CAB and the community. They intend to put their expertise to work with CAB and community concerns to design the best study possible.

Chairman DiPentima inquired whether the CAPs that ATSDR worked with were paid or were volunteers.

ATSDR stated that they pay an honorarium. If there are independent experts that would like to play a role, it would be accommodated. The meeting in Florida on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015 will be streamed live and will also be archived for 90 days. Community members can come to the meetings. There is a limit to the number of attendees and the limit for this meeting has been reached, but anyone can watch it live.

Ms. Amico inquired about why the meeting was being held in Tampa, Florida.

ATSDR stated that the main meetings are held in Atlanta. There are also meetings held where there are large pockets of participants and the Camp Lejeune participants are spread out all over the country. In addition, CAP votes and decides where they would like to hold meetings. The last meeting was in Greensboro, NC. For the Pease Tradeport community, it would make sense to have most, if not all meetings, in Portsmouth.

Chairman DiPentima inquired if the ATSDR would be holding discussions with the AF regarding funding for CAP.

ATSDR stated that there is a meeting scheduled for this Friday with the AF to discuss funding.

Chairman DiPentima wondered about a timeline from the CAB in moving forward with a CAP. It might make sense for the CAB to evolve into a CAP. He stated that the CAB will be holding a meeting the first week in December to discuss the future of the CAB and on December 21, 2015, the CAB will present their recommendations to the Mayor and the City Council. That would include discussions around a CAP and who would be recommended as part of that group. Even though the CAB was established by the current Mayor, input from the incoming Mayor and City Council members would be desirable.

ATSDR discussed possibilities for getting community actions formalized. The purposes of CAB and CAP are different and so membership would be different for the most part. It would be helpful to build on the momentum the CAB has built in seeking membership for the CAP.

Ms. Amico stated that with CAB, members were appointed by the Mayor, but other community members have expressed interest in serving on the CAP.

ATSDR stated that they were very impressed with the number of vocal and interested community members. They would really like to have that interest represented on the CAP.

Mr. Goetz inquired about the contact ATSDR had with the technical group related to obtaining historic levels of PFCs. There is extensive water quality data. He provided all water use and supply data for the system going back to 1992 a year ago. However, he has yet to see any analysis from that data.

ATSDR stated that there are staff members that are providing water system modeling. Looking at how the water is mixed prior to distributing has been researched. This information will be used in the initial round of modeling.

Ms. Amico stated that trying to disseminate information has been a barrier. She inquired about the plan in terms of communication to the community to engage them in this process.

ATSDR stated that they would want to work with the Health Department who has a mailing list for people that were willing to have their blood tested. They would like to also see what the AF is willing to do to alert people with historic connections to Pease Tradeport. Regular media as well as social media outlets could be used to get the word out.

Chairman DiPentima would include the National Guard stating that they had a pretty large presence at the Tradeport.

ATSDR stated that this is why they would look to the CAB to help because they know better than ATSDR how best to reach out to the local community. They asked how large the civilian workforce was at Pease Tradeport over the years.

Chairman DiPentima stated that the number was around 3,000. The active duty population was around 5,000. There was also a hospital at Pease AF Base. The Navy Yard was the medical facility that served the AF for many years prior to a Pease AF Base hospital.

ATSDR stated that they will find out how long the hospital records were retained as a means of identifying historic Pease Tradeport residents. They are typically not retained for that many years. Records are usually sent to a central repository. However, there are other ways of identifying military cohorts. This has been done for exposure to Agent Orange, and also participants for the gulf war studies.

Ms. Amico inquired whether the ATSDR would conduct the water modeling first to determine when the water was contaminated and then contact those people that fall within that time frame, or alternatively, contact everyone that ever lived or worked on Pease Tradeport.

ATSDR stated that it can be assumed that the water was contaminated back to the beginnings of Pease as an AF base, which was around 1993. The question is how far back beyond this point in time did the contamination begin. There is a lot of data that can help determine how groundwater flows. For the Tradeport and the Daycare Centers, we would have to discuss it in more depth.

Chairman DiPentima stated that the focus is the Tradeport and the daycare. The AF has the responsibility for contacting the military.

ATSDR agreed that they would want to add military personnel. It would strengthen the data.

There was discussion around the challenges of communication with the contamination/testing. People live in different communities and that presents a challenge in getting the word out. There are still people that are unaware of the testing.

ATSDR stated that CAPs have been very helpful in getting the word out and getting media coverage.

Chairman DiPentima stated that he felt that best thing to do was to have the next meeting in early December to discuss establishing a CAP and moving forward with the CAB's recommendations to the Mayor and City Council. It is disappointing that the AF has not shown a lot of interest in RAB. He hopes that lack of interest would not be a problem for a CAP.

Ms. Amico stated that she did not think that would happen. People that she has spoken with are very interested in health effects and would like to serve on the CAP.

Chairman DiPentima stated that the focus should be on the long-term health issues. The restoration issues (RAB) are ongoing. This will move forward without a lot of involvement from the CAB.

ATSDR stated that the CAB plans so far sound good.

Chairman DiPentima stated that CAB will get in touch with ATSDR in December, 2015.

ATSDR thanked everyone for participating in the call and asked the CAB to contact them in the meantime with any questions.

#### **4. OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Vetter inquired about the differences between CAP and RAB.

Chairman DiPentima stated that the purpose of the RAB is to advise the AF and deal with environmental remediation. CAP will be more centered on the long-term health effects.

Ms. McNamara stated that the new PFCs that are replacing the current PFCs should be included in the work. Otherwise, she felt that the same issue could present itself down the road.

Courtney Carignan was discussed as a potential member of the CAP and/or RAB.

Ms. Amico stated that good people have been involved, interested and concerned with the issues. Other communities are not as fortunate.

Chairman DiPentima stated that he had a telephone call with a member of the PDA. The purpose was to reach out to them for involvement in the Pease Tradeport contaminants situation.

The CAB discussed the need for involvement not only from the PDA but from Two International Construction as well.

Ms. Amico stated that the Great Bay Childcare Center is using Britta Filters for water filtration. The AF tested the water at the Center in March, 2015 with and without Britta Filters. They found that with use of the filter, the PFCs were lowered to a “non-detect” level. Without the Britta Filter, there were low levels of PFCs in the water. Even after 7 weeks of use with the Britta Filter and the “filter change” light on, the PFCs remained at “non-detect” levels. She wondered about making a recommendation such as using Britta Filters for the time being. She felt this recommendation (to purchase a low cost Britta Filter), at least as a stop-gap measure, could be helpful in avoiding PFC contamination in the water.

Ms. McNamara stated that one of the reasons a recommendation like this should not be made at this point is that there may be other PFCs getting through and they may only be testing for PFOS and PFOA.

Ms. Amico stated that they were testing for a panel of contaminants. She will forward that list (panel) to the CAB.

Ms. Vetter stated that the filtration used at her daycare was carbon and testing showed PFCs at a “non-detect” level in the water. She has shut the drinking water down and is supplying bubblers. The water cost to her daycare center is \$280.00/month. Mr. Goetz has been working with the AF to try to get them to come back at 3, 4, 5 weeks to retest the water.

There was a discussion around the lack of action on the part of businesses at Pease Tradeport to notify their employees about blood testing, even after notification by the state.

Ms. Amico inquired about holding a meeting to include the public again. An evening meeting would be helpful as there tends to be more of a turnout at evening meetings.

Chairman DiPentima stated that an evening meeting would be possible. It will be a working meeting. The meeting to present recommendations to the Mayor and City Council from CAB is scheduled for December 21, 2015 in the evening. It will include a history of CAB and a presentation of the recommendations.

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**The next meeting will be held December 1<sup>st</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> in Council Chambers. Chairman DiPentima will send an email (with both dates) asking for availability.**  
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**5. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50am.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni McLellan  
Recording Clerk, City of Portsmouth