

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

TO FLINT HILLS RESOURCES PINE BEND REFINERY

CAC Meeting Notes

Monday, November 11, 2019

6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Location: Flint Hills Resources North Administration Building

Members Present: Anna Brenna, Michael Cahn, Michael Deeny, Troy Stephens, Kevin Green, William Nelson, Bonnie Anderson Rons, John Scott, Geoff Glasrud (FHR), Bryan Kotaska (FHR), Heather Rein (FHR)

Members Absent: Gary Bambenek, Tom Bullington, Richard Thill, Jim Hagerty, Donna Willis, Lyndon Nelson, Amy Lemieux

CAC Business

- The CAC welcomed a member of the public who attended the meeting.
- CAC members approved the November meeting agenda.
- September meeting notes were emailed previously. There were not comments from CAC members, and are ready to post on the CAC website.
- A CAC member attended the annual bluff clean up with FHR and Friends of the Mississippi River. It was a good event, removed a lot of buckthorn,
- The facilitator reminded members to contact the Imagery if they want to have their picture taken for the website

Flint Hills Resources Update

Environmental (Geoff Glasrud)

Turnaround went well, good operations. FHR is back at full capacity. No significant process safety issues to report.

~~During start up a leak was detected and reported. During start-ups there was a small leak of H2S from the Sulphur plant. The leak was detected. We followed the protocol, which was to clear the unit and divert the feed to an incinerator. We did go above our SO2 emissions for the day when we incinerated, which was reportable. It was the right thing for~~

~~safety. We reported the emission, however, we were late calling it in. It is a clear miss on our part.~~

Safety (Bryan Kotaska)

No safety issues to report this month. Currently, we are getting ready for winter, proactively working to prevent slips and falls and making sure nothing that shouldn't freeze does freeze.

FHR has more onsite assistance for people who have small issues than in the past. For example, there is an on-site physical therapist in addition to the nurse, and an on-call ER doctor. We are finding that getting immediate care reduces the need for off-site care. It is benefiting everyone.

Community (Heather Rein)

- Pine Bend Bluff day went well.
- Zoo Safari Program is underway – field trips for schools in District 196.
- Zoo math and science program with real life problems created by teachers is underway.
- We just had the girls in science program at the Science Museum.
- FHR spends its philanthropy resources on environment/conservation, STEM education, community and safety initiatives. We focus on local community benefits.

FHR Land Management – bluff restoration, care and maintenance of buffer lands

(Don Kern, FHR Facilities and Engineering Manager)

Buffer lands around the refinery provide safety, monitoring, security and flexibility. We have acquired a large buffer and occasionally purchase additional property when it comes up. Roughly 1200 acres are a part of the refinery operation. The property is used in multiple ways:

- Some property is agricultural which we purchased and rent back for farming. FHR farm leases involve using best agricultural practices, including erosion control. FHR does inspections. CAC member commented that there is a farm which hasn't rotated crops.
- Other property is in conservation and other uses, roughly 2000 acres. We plant trees to create corridors, potential for new bike trails and flyway for birds. There are easements for bike trails and other uses. We are working on a bike trail connector with other industry from Hastings to the Twin Cities Metro Area. When we plant trees, we plant different species, typical for the area.
- We also manage intact ecosystems in partnership with Friends of the Mississippi River/Great River Greening. FHR received a conservation certification and was

nominated by the Wildlife Habitat Council for an award based on the work we have done with FMR/GRG.

- FHR has about 18 acres at the lock and dam in Hastings, other small holdings in Dakota County.
- We have a facility for law enforcement training.
- FHR built a berm at the request of Rosemount. We built the berm and put plantings on it.
- FHR does not allow hunting on its property.
- Future Uses for FHR Property
 - More trees
 - Bike trails
 - City roads
 - FHR has “right of first refusal” on several properties
 - Possible solar
 - In response to a CAC question, Don said that additional prairie restoration is being considered. FMR (Karen Schik) will talk about that more.

A CAC member suggested to start a conversation with neighbors about Buckthorn control. CAC members suggested that there are small things which could be done in partnership with neighbors to make habitat improvements. FHR agreed to continue the conversation.

Pine Bend Bluff Natural Area

Karen Schik, Friends of the Mississippi River

FMR is a nonprofit organization with 22 employees. We engage citizens to protect, restore and enhance the Mississippi River and its watershed in the Twin Cities region. In the 1990s we identified Pine Bend Bluffs Natural Area as having important ecosystems and pressure from development. FMR and FHR have had a partnership since 1998

FMR is involved in water quality, stewardship and land conservation along the Mississippi.

The Bluffs are private and public lands (including FHR property). The bluffs have outstanding plant and animal diversity, diverse landscape and habitats. Important bird migration corridor. Rare species and connectivity are important.

Restoration includes looking at historical records to show vegetation. Very few quality plant communities are left today. We started managing the land, restoring, creating new habitats:

- The native bluff prairie is managed by burns, we burn a portion at a time. There is a rare plant in the prairie called James’s Polynesia. There are only five locations where this plant grows in MN.

- The Savanna restoration included removing a lot of Buckthorn. It now has nice diversity. It requires regular management. Rare animals found at the Savanna – red headed woodpecker, rusty patched bumblebees, eastern hognose snake.
- Oak Forest Restoration. Buckthorn management with goats in this area. Goats help with management but don't kill the plant. Helpful for management, not a long-term solution.

Karen showed examples of the bluffs before and after restoration, wildlife shelters. FMR also does breeding bird surveys. Over 65 FHR volunteers do projects such as monarch butterfly monitoring and pollinator surveyors. The annual community volunteer event has been going on for 20 years.

Suggestion for New Topic: Vision for the Future, Future of the Industry, FHR Hopes for Community Relationships

Meeting Wrap Up and Closure

- Next meeting January 13, 2020 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM
- Flint Hills Resources North Administration Building
- PCA Environmental Updates and recycling water/gas, FHR energy use, greenhouse gasses