

**CITY OF**  
**BENSON**  **MINNESOTA**  
**CITIZENS ADVISORY PANEL**

**Minutes**  
**Citizens Advisory Panel**  
**January 31, 2002**

Members present: Renee Hayden, Carolyn Lee, Jan Lundebrek, Leroy Noreen, Allan Saunders, Bruce Holgate, Ray Millett, Brian McNeill, Steve Verhelst, and Barry Jungwirth  
Members absent: Lynette Hofland and Bill Lee  
Also present: Fibrominn: Terry Walmsley, Greg Langmo, and Anne Donato  
City of Benson: Mayor Paul Kittelson, City Manager Rob Wolfington, and Marge Scheffler

Greg Langmo informed the members about the International Poultry Expo that was held January 16-18 in Atlanta. This is the first year that Fibrowatt has exhibited at this show. Rupert Fraser, Anne Donato and Greg Langmo attended. There were visitor's from all over the world, as well as many industry friends from Minnesota. The reception was very positive.

Greg Langmo talked about the MPCA Board.

Rob Wolfington informed the members that he was recently at the Fibrowatt headquarters in Yardley, PA. He also informed the members that the City has not heard anything from the FAA yet and that the Board of Adjustment has adopted a Findings of Facts and Conclusion of Law regarding the variance for the stack. He also mentioned that staff was meeting with representatives from Mn/DOT to discuss the highway study on February 1 at 10 a.m.

Terry Walmsley informed the members that Fibrominn is taking a very active role in odor prevention. He handed out an Odor Prevention Plan that Fibrominn will develop and implement. The plan addresses four areas: 1) transportation and delivery considerations, 2) facility operating considerations, 3) site odor assessment, and 4) odor response procedures. It was suggested that this Plan should be placed on the CAP website for citizen review.

The members were informed that Fibrominn is still in the permitting process. As part of the MPCA Air Permit application process, Fibrominn has been addressing the odor prevention plan with the MPCA. The odor plan appears to be that last item that needs to be addressed before the draft permit is finalized. The draft air permit should be done in a month to a month-and-a-half. It was mentioned that the open house may held the end of next month.

Anne Donato informed the members of the following:

- Anne attended the Benson Public School Science Fair on January 28, and on behalf of

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- Fibrominn awarded \$50 savings bonds to the six blue ribbon winners.
- Fibrominn will continue to watch for legislative issues that may have an affect on the project.
- Carl Strickler will be coming to Minnesota to keep an ongoing dialogue with the legislators that have helped get Fibrowatt to Minnesota, and have supported Fibrominn bills through legislation.
- Fibrominn intends to continue to keep CAP members and the Benson community informed on the status of the project. The media focus will be local as well. Fibrominn will reach out to a broader audience closer to project start up.
- Preliminary costs to convert space at 1202 Atlantic Avenue (in the Johnson's building) to a visitor center were expensive. Fibrominn is talking with the Chamber of Commerce about their needs, both for the short term as well as for long term. She will report more information on this topic at a later meeting.
- Members were asked if they had seen the newly installed site sign visible from Highway 9 which says "The Future Home of Fibrominn.
- Fibrominn will have a booth at the Farm and Home Show at the Benson Armory on February 15-16. Any help to man the booth would be appreciated.
- Fibrominn has been contacted to sit in on a panel at a Renewable Energy Workshop in Morris on March 12.
- Manitoba Ag Development is visiting Benson to learn about Fibrominn, en route to the Midwest Poultry Convention on March 19. They will visit the site, learn about the project and visit with local officials and farmers during a dinner at the Country Inn & Suites where they will spend the night before heading to the twin cities for the poultry convention. Manitoba Ag will be the first official visitor. Therefore, Fibrominn and the City of Benson will collaborate to make sure this is a wonderful experience.
- Fibrominn will participate in the Midwest Poultry Convention in Minneapolis on March 20-21. Rupert Fraser and Eric Jenkins and others from Fibrominn will attend.

Terry Walmsley informed the members that the wetland permit will be submitted on Friday, February 1 and continue to work on the water appropriations permit. He mentioned that no bonds can be sold until all the major permits are issued but that construction may begin sooner.

Rob Wolfington informed the members that the City is scheduled to construct two wells for the Fibrominn project. Because the wells are high capacity wells, the City will need to amend its Water Appropriation Permit. Before the DNR will approve any amendment, they are requesting a short-term pumping test of these wells to measure the impact to existing wells and the sustainability of the Benson aquifer. He mentioned that staff is confident the test will be successful.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, February 26, at 6:30 p.m. The tentative date for the open house was Wednesday, February 27, 2002.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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