

# summary

## **City of Rochester Vacuum Oil Brownfield Opportunity Area Step 3 Implementation Strategy**

**Project Advisory Committee Meeting #1  
July 22, 2015 @ 6:00 PM**

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Mark Gregor, City of Rochester, welcomed committee members and requested those in attendance introduce themselves (please see attached sign-in sheet for list of meeting attendees).

### **2. How Did We Get Here?**

Kimberly Baptiste, Bergmann Associates, provided a brief overview of the project to date, noting:

- Key project team members
- Historic project timeline (2006-2013)
- Significant projects highlighted in the Vacuum Oil Vision Plan

Please refer to attached PPT presentation for additional detail.

### **3. Project Updates and Implementation Activities**

Mark Gregor shared information on key implementation activities the City is spearheading outside of the BOA project that have a direct and positive impact on the study area:

- An interagency workshop was held on March 18, 2015. Representatives from various state agencies attended to learn more about specific project needs and identify areas where they can assist with facilitation.
- City invested in environmental and geotechnical investigations along Flint Street and in the former Canal bed from Flint to Violetta to get a better understanding of any obstacles that might arise associated with right-of-way improvements.
- The City is planning to move forward with a Phase 2 ESA for 632 S. Plymouth (former fire station) and a Phase 1 and 2 ESA for the former Canal bed.
- City and DHD Ventures (owners of 5 and 15 Flint Street) are continuing to make progress in the State Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP). DHD expects to move forward with remediation work in Spring. City is approximately 6 months behind.

Andy Raus (Bergmann Associates) discussed one of the City's projects being submitted for grant funding through the Consolidated Funding Application process – the West River Wall. Andy noted the project will

*This project is funded by the New York State Department of State Brownfield Opportunity Area Program.*

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assess the existing wall from Ford Street to the former rail bridge and will include the identification of wall design alternatives to improve access to the river, as well as flood protection. The project in Vacuum Oil BOA is a continuation of a recently completed planning process to the north in Corn Hill.

Kimberly discussed the second funding application the City is submitting – the PLEX Park Connector. This project is a direct implementation initiative of the Vacuum Oil Vision Plan, as well as a follow-up planning and park design effort spearheaded by the PLEX Neighborhood Association.

## 4. The BOA Action Plan

Kimberly reviewed the various elements of the BOA Implementation Strategy. The planning and analysis is expected to be wrapped up by January 2016 with document development, SEQRA and approvals extending to October 2016. Kimberly noted a wide array of community engagement techniques would be utilized to educate and engage stakeholders and residents over the course of the entire process. PLEX will have an active role in assisting with outreach activities.

Kimberly began with a review of ongoing efforts:

- Structural assessment completed for 5 Flint Street.
- Data gathering and compilation to identify needs for further geotechnical investigations.
- Transportation feasibility analysis of Magnolia Street connection including survey compilation.
- Traffic analysis to understand traffic flow today and expected impacts of study area build out.

Upcoming efforts include:

- Waterfront and Public Realm Master Plan.
- Wetland and invasive species analysis.
- Floodplain assessment.
- Land appraisals.

Lawrence Cranor (RKG Associates) discussed the work to be completed in association with the Housing Reinvestment Strategy, including a review of existing studies and data, identification of housing needs and opportunities, strategies to address neighborhood preservation and quality-of-life, and financing, tools and approaches to achieve housing objectives.

## 5. Next Steps

The meeting concluded with a summary of next steps:

- Progress on key project tasks (as noted above)
- Community engagement strategy
- Public meeting #1 – Fall 2015