



Environment & Policy Setting

Meeting #6

Thursday, Mar. 21, 2013 • 2:00-4:00pm

Thomas Collins Building, Large Conference Room, Dover

In Attendance:

John Mateyko, AIA / Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA)
Patti Miller, Nemours Health and Prevention Services (via telephone)
Connie Holland, Office of State Planning Coordination
Bill Brockenbrough, DeIDOT
Dan LaCombe, DeIDOT
Herb Inden, Office of State Planning Coordination
Kevin Coyle, DNREC
Kendall Sommers, DNREC
BJ DeCoursey, U of D—IPA
Andrea Trabelsi, Delaware Greenways

Action Items:

- Andrea and Connie will present to Board of Architects May 1 (check with Ken Freemark a few days prior)
- Andrea will email individual committee members with specific data requests for assessment
- Connie will reach out to Delaware City representatives and work to coordinate presentation of HIA findings at upcoming City Council meeting
- Andrea will reach out to DE City to suggest/coordinate walkability analysis (aiming for week of Apr. 8th, 10am) and then work with BJ
- Kevin will check and report back regarding whether HIA findings can be submitted to Governor with other DNREC/Consultant report contents
- All: please make final review of the awareness-building presentation and specifically comment on the title, which we never really discussed, and confirm that you are comfortable with notes regarding your agency's support roles and resources listed toward the end of the presentation.
- All: consider goals and new leadership for next year and contact Connie or Andrea with suggestions/nominations. Voting will take place in early May at the DE HEAL annual meeting.

Notes:

Fort DuPont Health Impact Assessment

- Review goals, highlights of training evaluation

- HIA goals were reviewed to put our meeting discussions in context. In particular: in evaluation of our progress, ideas for effective communication and reporting, and framing discussion of goals for next year's E&P Committee activity and leadership nominations.
- Goals:
 1. Demonstrate public health impacts of policies, projects, and programs to leaders/decision makers and public.
 2. Build capacity of DE HEAL Environment and Policy Committee, Division of Public Health, and other agencies and organizations to conduct HIA in Delaware.
 3. Make progress toward including health at the forefront of decision making.
 4. Inform/Engage Fort DuPont Master Plan stakeholders and decision makers, so most desirable plan is selected.
 5. Promote consensus-driven, sustainable, cost-effective, health-enhancing development.
 6. Develop methods of assessment that can be used in future HIAs.
- Andrea has compiled a summary of findings from the evaluations from the training session day 1, which is available on request and will be saved as record for assessing progress of efforts related to HIA. Highlights of the evaluations include:
 - 30 different participants attended the first day of the training; ~60% are members of the E&P Committee; there was one decision maker in attendance (representing a City Council)
 - Based on participation and lessons from other HIA efforts, an important next step for HIA efforts in Delaware is to inform and engage decision makers about HIA, how it can promote better decision making and outcomes, and also educate the public on HIA. HIA can be most effective when stakeholders identify an upcoming project/decision to be in their community and can work with HIA practitioners and experts to initiate an HIA.
- Timeline / schedule update
 - Kevin provided an update on the Fort DuPont Master Planning Project as follows (including tentative key dates):
 - next public meeting ~Apr. 18
 - DNREC is working to schedule a separate presentation to Gov. Markell also around Apr. 18 (though no dates tentative yet)
 - Wrap up ~end of April or beginning of May
 - Andrea referenced the notes from the HIA day 2 training, which contain a timeline for HIA that is still accurate
- Review / Approve Pathways and Assessment Notes from training day 2 → see attached
 - Andrea distributed updated pathway diagrams asking those present to spend a few minutes reviewing and providing feedback; the diagrams show the approach for the Assessment phase, so any changes need to be made now, rather than later
 - group reviewed and no adjustments were recommended
- Assessment Progress
 - Update on data availability—what do we have, what are we missing?
 - Andrea reviewed some of the key data that we are likely to need and will email individual committee members with specific data and literature requests
 - Andrea reported that she and U of D have been seeking local health data and methods for estimating it from other data sources (e.g. BRFSS)

- and Census demographic data); health data is apparently not available or reliable for below the county level
 - Barbara Gladders of DPH was suggested as potential source of insight/data we are looking for, and may be able to shed light on whether/how to conduct a small area estimate
 - **in subsequent conversation with Kristin Raab at Minnesota Dept. of Health, she suggested that we do not attempt to produce an estimate (could be misinterpreted) and rather report County level BRFSS data and local demographic data and describe apparent trends, being very clear about assumptions.**
- Walkability assessment of DE City
 - University of Delaware has offered to conduct a walkability assessment to contribute to better understanding how pedestrian travel might change under the Fort DuPont scenario that establishes a new bridge between the center of Delaware City and the Fort DuPont site.
 - Andrea will contact Delaware City representatives to see if there is support for walkability assessment and, if so, coordinate a date/time
 - Ideal for the committee would be sometime during the week of April 8 (two weeks from now). For many on our committee a weekday morning would be ideal; however, other times are certainly doable if it would result in greater participation from the community.
- Stakeholder Engagement--public meeting?
 - Committee discussed when/how to present assessment findings to Delaware City community; group agreed that with short timeline, few resources, likely “meeting fatigue” in Delaware City related to the public meetings held for the Master Planning Project, it would be ideal to coordinate a public presentation with an upcoming (Apr./May) City Council meeting
 - We want to be sure to provide an opportunity for gathering public feedback when we present our findings; a survey or similar feedback method should be distributed and collected as part of the public presentation
 - Connie will reach out to Delaware City to coordinate
- HIA Reporting
 - Andrea distributed a draft document outline for initial review (attached)
 - Reporting is an important part of the HIA process, especially as the committee strives to achieve the HIA goals we have set. Our challenge is to reach the public and decision makers; Andrea mentioned that it is likely, given the timing of actual implementation of the Fort DuPont Master Plan that we will have opportunity to target decisions in the immediate term (prior to the end of the Master Planning Project) and longer-term as implementation steps are taken. We should aim to monitor progress and as a committee keep sharing HIA findings when opportunities arise
 - Committee discussed formatting of report for different audiences and methods of distribution:
 - Printed brief executive summary will be useful for reaching legislators (most effective form is print)
 - Focus on varied/innovative distribution and communication methods for public (there will also be a full length final report)\
 - Connie suggested giving a presentation to the cabinet committee on state planning issues to bring awareness of HIA and how it may be used by various agencies to better inform decision making and bring health into the forefront.

- Need to also keep in mind achieving greater awareness of HIA in general and sharing lessons learned from our work; Andrea will be producing a set of notes containing lessons learned; committee will have a chance to review /contribute and we would like to publish this information online at the least, and possibly in a printed form to distribute; coordinate with IPA, which has produced a publication featuring the general HIA process so as to not reinvent.

Awareness-building effort: Presentation Development

- Andrea will send out the presentation one last time with the latest updates for the committee to review and then it will be in final form for the May 1 presentation.
- Connie and Andrea will be presenting to the Board of Architects on May 1
 - John suggested sharing an anecdote on a negative experience in which an architect or building/developer professional got in trouble because they neglected full consideration of the “health and welfare” requirements of their professional responsibilities; Connie will try to have one ready

Next Steps / Other

- Looking to next year / new committee leadership
 - Andrea noted that E&P Committee needs to consider goals and new chair or co-chair for upcoming year, as she will not be available to fully lead and Connie may become Kent County At-Large Chair. Andrea is willing to serve as co-chair in a lesser capacity in the coming year—an approach she thinks is effective because it helps keep the group energized and produces new ideas and approaches.
 - Committee discussed ideas for next year’s goals to help us come up with ideas for who might be well suited to lead the group;
 - discussion centered on bringing HIA or some of the tools used in HIA into the state planning PLUS process; BJ mentioned that IPA already has a checklist formulated and the committee might want to start with that and adapt it into a template for municipalities; Patti also mentioned NHPS and DPH developed checklists for use during the PLUS process back when DPH and NHPS collaborated on the comments they submitted monthly. The content is based on the literature. (this dates back to ~2009 when Michelle Eichinger was in Helen’s position.)
 - It was suggested that health should also be incorporated into the “State Strategies” language.
 - Andrea encouraged committee members to consider who we ought to nominate as chair/co-chair for next year (including ones-self)
- Next meeting: Andrea will contact the committee in the coming weeks. Likely to be the third week of April
- Walkable, Bikeable Delaware: May 1
- John Mateyko distributed flyers for the “Convergent Sustainability in Delaware” Conference coming up on April 18 and 19. (See attached electronic version and please attend as well as help distribute.)