

Omya Community Stakeholder Team Meeting Notes

Date: April 27, 2022

Members:

Alicia Malay – Chair of Pittsford Select Board
Brenda Fox-Howard - Pittsford Town Manager
Dan Firliet – Assistant Plant Manager, Omya
Dennis Carroll – Safety Environmental Manager, Omya
Elizabeth Simpson - Florence resident
Heather Fowler – Safety, Environment & Quality Coordinator, Omya
John Haverstock – Pittsford Town Manager
John Schell – Plant Manager, Omya
Mike Laurent – Wet Area Manager, Omya
Sharon Carpenter – Florence resident

Absent:

Bev Peterson – Florence resident
Bonnie Stewart – Pittsford resident
Butch Shaw – Florence resident and State Representative
Cheryl Hooker – Rutland District State Senator
David Markowski – Florence resident
David Mills – Local resident & VP of Pittsford Planning Commission
John Lapre – Florence resident
Jon Keith – Pittsford resident and local business owner

I. Welcome

John Schell welcomed team members. Brenda Fox-Howard, new Pittsford Town Manager and Alicia Malay, Chair of Pittsford Select Board were in attendance.

The evening's agenda was reviewed and November 21, 2021 meeting notes were accepted as published.

In a brief business performance update for 2022, John noted the following:

Performance for Q1 was slightly better than expected with some extra tonnages over forecast due to strong market demand and to assist our Alabama plant customers as they complete expansion to help serve southeast markets.

Our employee number remains steady [approx. 130-135 employees] and we are currently looking to fill 5 packaging and 2 engineering positions (project engineer and reliability engineer).

Investing in aging infrastructure and enhancing processes to reduce operating costs remain the focus.

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Community Update – Event Sponsors (January-April)

- DARE Program (Rutland Town Police Dept)
- Otter Valley Banner
- Brandon Senior Center
- Memorial Sports Center
- West Rutland - Booster Club
- Rutland County Humane Society
- Pittsford Memorial Day Flags
- Brandon Independence Day Parade
- Adaptive Martial Arts
- Rutland Blooms

Community – Upcoming Events

- May 6 & 7 – Green Up at Omya & with the Town of Pittsford
- May 2022 – Flags will be placed on Veterans Stones the month of May
- September 24 – Middlebury Quarry Open House (10am – 2pm)
- Annual Verpol newsletter – December 2022

II. Progress Report

Noise

- One noise concern reported in March. Flash Dryer (FD) silencer re-packing is planned for June. We are also looking to trial new equipment in the near future to further reduce decibel levels on FD2.

Trucks

- Lost trucks continue to be a challenge. A majority of trucks continue to travel Whipple Hollow Road.
- Neighbor not reporting lost trucks to plant but continues to see them. It was suggested to contact Chief Warfle directly, as he is responding to call-outs. Omya continues to contract with Pittsford Police Department to patrol.
- The “lost” trucks reported are less than 1% of the trucks coming into the plant.
- Efforts continue;
 - Language translators have been purchased by Omya for the packaging trailer where truckers check-in. If successful, Omya will purchase one for the Pittsford Police Department.
 - Directions and map packets are being assembled to hand out to all drivers and will include a map to lead back to Kendall Hill / Route 7 (including local stores & hours and plant’s 911 address) as well as information to turn right when exiting the plant. It will be available in 5 languages. Target completion is June 2022.

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- Need to follow-up on Legislature revisiting a discussion on regulating commercial GPS systems for trucks. It is not only an issue for Omya but other companies around the state.

Road Washing

- It is unsafe to wash the roads in the winter months due to roads freezing.
- Now in warmer months (April to November), several onsite roads are washed daily.
- Following rain events when the ore yard is ‘muddy’, the haul trucks exit the Omya site via an alternate route to help reduce the amount of fines/buildup being tracked back onto the public roads.

Tailings

- Omya is nearing the end of the 10 year certification for onsite tailings management. The re-certification application preparation has commenced and will be submitted by the end of 2022 in advance of the current certification expiration date of October 2023.
- Omya continues requirements to monitor ground water with 3rd party engineering inspection and reporting.
- Act 250 and solid waste is all part of the permitting process. All will have to include public comment periods and meetings.

Verpol Projects

- Due to safety concerns over the structural integrity, we plan to demolish the former raw product silos in May.

Florence Substation Replacement – VELCO Project

- VELCO is replacing outdated equipment and looking to improve remote monitoring.
- Omya asked to stay abreast of the project/process as it progresses.

Omya partners with UVM engineering students through the SEED Program

- UVM Engineering & Math program partners up senior engineering students with businesses like Omya to design “real” projects.
- Omya worked with senior engineering students on extending the current tailings conveyor system. Students put together designs, drawing and calculations. This was a great value to Omya and a nice opportunity to meet and work with future engineers.

III. New Ideas / Topics

- Omya will send a survey to all stakeholder team members asking for feedback regarding frequency of meetings, topics, and participation interest.

IV. Next Steps (Action Items) –

- Follow-up with Butch if there has been any progress from Legislature on regulating commercial GPS systems for trucks.

V. Wrap-Up

- The date for the next Stakeholder Team meeting is to be determined.