

# Omya Community Issue Team – May 2009 Meeting Meeting Summary

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**Location:** Omya Verpol Plant

**Date:** May 14, 2009

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**Meeting Attendees** (in alphabetical order):

Sharon Carpenter – Florence resident  
Jon Keith – Pittsford resident and local business owner  
John Lapre – Florence resident  
Mike Laurent – Environmental Manager, Omya  
David Markowski – Florence resident and local business owner  
Pierre Masuy – Verpol Plant Manager, Omya  
Jim Morale – PX Area Manager, Omya  
Jack Orvis – Florence resident  
Bev Peterson – Florence resident  
Umberto “Pat” Rosato – Florence resident  
Mary-Kaye Zambon – Administrative Assistant, Omya  
David Thayer – Facilitator, CLF Ventures

*Absent:*

Ernest Brod – Florence resident  
Matt Harvey – Pittsford resident  
John Haverstock – Pittsford Town Manager  
Peg Flory – Pittsford resident and State Representative  
Fred McAtee – Florence resident  
Jane Orvis – Florence resident

**I. Welcome**

Pierre Masuy welcomed the team members to the second meeting of the newly formed Community Issue Team and gave a brief business update. He introduced David Thayer from CLF Ventures, as the team facilitator and the formal meeting began. David reviewed the agenda for the evening which the team accepted.

**II. Topic 1: Issue Team Member Responsibilities:**

The first topic for discussion was the roles and responsibilities of the team members. As shared previously, the three goals of the team are:

1. Identify issues and concerns of neighbors;
2. Educate the community on Omya processes and activities at the Verpol plant; and
3. Engage in a collaborative process.

The discussion centered on team members’ individual interaction with neighbors and how they share information gained through the Issue Team meetings. Team members stated that were comfortable conveying the facts and sharing community concerns. Omya invited members to attend community events to represent the Issue Team, if they so choose. The Team agreed to the following list of responsibilities:

- Attend meetings
- Share information from and back to community members
- Represent the community

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- Convey the facts

Members present updated their contact information and confirmed that the use of their names and phone numbers for Issue Team communication was acceptable.

### III. Topic 2: Lost Trucks

Mike Laurent gave an update on the lost truck issue previously addressed by the Truck and Transportation Community Issue Team. This issue involves commercial trucks traveling to and from Omya's Verpol facility getting lost on the rural roads surrounding the plant, specifically the Whipple Hollow and West Creek Roads. These truckers appear to be relying on personal auto GPS systems for directions, which provide the shortest or fastest route to a destination regardless of road type. Unfortunately, the three GPS system providers that Omya contacted about the issue were unable to offer any solutions. Commercial trucking-specific GPS systems that indicate which roads are appropriate for commercial traffic are currently available.

Mike noted that he was recently informed by the State that the "No Thru Trucks" signs being proposed are not legal under VT AOT standards and therefore can not be placed at this time. Only truck weight limit or height limit signs are legal and enforceable. All agreed that directional signs using Omya logo with symbols would work to assist non-English speaking truck drivers.

A contact page containing names and numbers for local town officials and the State Agency of Transportation representatives were distributed at the meeting. Team members were asked to contact those listed to express their concerns about the area's lost truck problem. Members were encouraged to circulate the list to interested neighbors as well.

The Team discussed the need to look beyond the immediate or local area and address the issue from a regional perspective. One suggestion was to use signage on the State Highways that truckers use to enter the state and the region. This would help by directing truckers to follow U.S. Route 7 to Omya before they exit onto local roads. Mike will look into State sign requirements for highway placement particularly on U.S. Route 4 from New York.

### IV. Topic 3: News and Updates Next Steps for Action Items

Other topics briefly updated and discussed were:

1. Full Certification Application: Omya filed its application for Full Certification of its tailings management operations on May 8, 2009. A meeting will be scheduled for the Post Section 5 Study Stakeholders to discuss more details of the filing. This meeting will include the consultants and engineers involved with the preparation of the application.
2. Tailings Dewatering Facility (TDF): The TDF will change how Omya manages its tailings and is expected to be on-line by early Fall. Omya is actively involved in looking for an end user of the tailings and has made progress in that effort. Team members expressed interest in a tour of both the TDF facility and the Tailings Management Areas (TMAs).
3. Plant Noise: More testing is required before Omya engineers can design and implement a solution to the roof top exhaust vents causing the nuisance noise for neighbors to the immediate west of the Plant. Currently, the four PX mills are not running concurrently and thus the additional noise testing cannot be completed.

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4. Back-Up Safety Alarm Noise: Omya has purchased a new ‘white sound’ (broadband) alarm system that emits a sweeping “shhh-shhh” sound only heard in the vicinity from where it is emitted. The sound emitted is locatable and directional and the nuisance area is significantly diminished from traditional tonal alarms (narrowband). These new alarms are compliant with U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) standards. Omya will trial one unit on an L.F. Carter Loader truck and report back the findings at the next Community Issue Team meeting.
5. Water System Update: Community Issue Team members Dave Markowski and John Lapre are members of the Town’s water commission. They provided a brief update about the discussions of the water commission regarding an update to the area’s water system. Dave noted that informational public meetings have been well attended. A bond vote set for 5/19/09.
6. Events: Jim Morale talked about Green Up 2009. On May 1, Omya employees helped clean up the local area, collecting 80 bags of trash and 30 tires. At the Town offices on Saturday May 2, Omya provided a dumpster, staff and food from Keith’s Country Store to assist the community and the Town of Pittsford with the town-wide Green Up effort. The event was a success and Omya looks forward to assisting again next year.

The Pittsford Day Celebration organized by the Town of Pittsford Recreation Department is scheduled for Saturday July 18. Omya will sponsor the event and will once again provide bounce houses and a water slide for the kids. It’s a great day of family fun. Team members were encouraged to mention the event to their neighbors and friends and to stop by the Omya booth to say hello.

### **V. Next Steps**

The next steps include:

1. Arrange a tour of the Tailings Dewatering Facility (TDF) and Tailings Management Areas (TMA) for Issue Team members at September meeting.
2. Provide fact sheet of educational information to team on the TDF and TMAs.
3. Update on Full Certification application.
4. Progress report on lost truck issue.
5. Analyze speed strip data to determine vehicle type.

### **VI. Wrap-Up**

The next meeting date was set for Thursday, September 24, 2009 at Omya’s Verpol Plant in Florence.