

Rural Desert Southwest Brownfields Coalition

Planning Meeting

November 22, 2011

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Teleconference

Attendance:

Joshua Hart – Inyo County
Harriet Ealey - Esmeralda County
Joni Eastley - Nye County
Pam Webster – Nye County
Amy Fanning – Nye County
Levi Kryder – Nye County
Jim Garza – White Pine County
Lorinda Wickman - Nye County
Noemi Emeric-Ford- EPA
Darrell Lacy- Nye County
Elizabeth Enriquez – Nye County

Acronyms:

BOCC – Board of County Commissioners
DOI – Department of Interior
EPA – Environmental Protection Agency
MOU – Memorandum of Understanding
NDEP – Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
RFP – Request for Proposals
ROW – Right of Way
TAG – Technical Assistance Grant

I. Roll Call

II. Noemi Emeric-Ford, EPA Brownfields Coordinator

a. Introduction

Amy Fanning introduced Noemi Emeric-Ford to the group.

Noemi Emeric-Ford explained her role and responsibility as well as the grant purpose. She explained that one of her responsibilities is to check in on the grant's progress as well as assist the team with ideas and be part of the team.

Joni Eastley asked what would be the best way for members of the group to communicate with her. Noemi explained that since Nye County is the administrator of the grant, she would prefer for Amy Fanning to be in those communications, however all participating Counties are welcome to contact her with any general questions. Joni Eastley stated that one of her goals is for other

counties to be introduced to Brownfields program and form relationships with Noemi. It was determine that Amy Fanning would forward e-mails address to Noemi, and that Noemi would replay to everyone when answering questions.

b. Q&A period on any questions coalition members may have.

Joshua Hart asked if grant funds could be utilized on federal property. Noemi Emeric-Ford responded that unfortunately it could not. Joshua Hart stated that a large part of their county's land is owned by the City of Los Angeles. One of the properties they have in mind has some ground water contamination from a service station that was nearby. Noemi Emeric-Ford explain that it really comes down to who is responsible for the site and who contributed to the contamination. Noemi stated that there is a "site eligibility" form available that will need to be fill out for any project but could assist in determining if the site is eligible or not. Joshua Hart asked if "Illegal dumping" is eligible for this grant. Noemi explained that it depends on what was dumped and hazardous material that was found to cause the contamination or if things needed to be removed such as concrete to get to the soil for testing.

Jim Garza asked if a threshold for Petroleum exists when no one knows the extend of the contamination. One of the things that they are concern with when nominating a site is the potential to exceed any threshold allowed and therefore bringing the owner additional cost or action by EPA. Noemi Emeric-Ford explained that this is a non-regulatory program, therefore would not trigger EPA action unless the removal program would be enacted and the problem was imminent to human health and the environment. Jim Garza had question on the area wide planning and asked if Noemi can elaborate. Noemi Emeric-Ford explained phase 1 and phase 2 to the members and the different ways grant funds could be used. Jim Garza stated that at the moments White Pine has a tax lien on a property that may utilized as an educational facility. He asked if it was to late to do a phase 1 assessment since the county has a lien on it but are not owners of the property. Noemi explained if the County has to purchase the property and has potential contamination, in order for the county not be held responsible they would have to do a AAI phase 1 first in advance of the purchase.

III. RFQ Status.

Amy Fanning updated members on the RFQ status, Bid Opportunities closes November 22, 2011.

IV. Site selection criteria

Amy Fanning asked Noemi Emeric-Ford if there are criteria's that she could share with the members that could assist in selection sites. Noemi states an AAI phase I before purchase, the possibility of clean up dollars available, Job creation, community interest, infrastructure availability and site eligibility are some examples.

V. **General Discussion:**

A discussion ensued between board members on sites each county has considered.

V. **Next Steps and Action Items**

Amy Fanning would like to have Noemi Emeric-Ford back for our next meeting as well as the contractor that the BOCC award the bid to so that the group can go over some of the forms that will need to be filled out to determine site eligibility. Noemi Emeric-Ford stated that notices in the local newspapers are not required. Notices can be posted on websites and community bulletins. Amy Fanning stated that she will draft a criteria score sheet for everyone's input.

Amy Fanning announced that the next meeting will be held in Tonopah, notification will go out as soon as a date is determined.