Kipp Committee Update, May 10, 2012

April 16 - District Judge Barbara Crabb extends neighbor's lawsuit to "class action" suit, with 34 adjacent households able to participate.

April 16 - Water Utility Open House at Goodman CC. WU intends to install "sentinel well" between Kipp and Well 8, to monitor groundwater for evidence of contaminants before they get to Well 8. Well may go in at Circle Park.

April 19 - DNR announces PCBs found on Kipp property at levels over 110 ppm., classified as hazardous under federal laws. DNR sent “responsible party” letter and Notice of Violation to Kipp demanding they identify the extent of the PCB spills and their plan for complete cleanup and removal of PCBs, documented with soil samples. Gave deadline of May 1 to respond.

DNR issued three public updates regarding these actions and sampling results: 4/24, 4/30, 5/1. See at http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Brownfields/kipp.html


April 27 - Lance and Matt observe PCB sampling work being conducted on adjacent properties by Bob Nauda, Kipp's long-time environmental consultant; Lance/Matt met with Gary afterward; discussed possibility of using a water evacuation method to pull out PCEs from shallow water and idea of linking Kipp with Sustain Dane to willingness to "go greener."

April 25 - Lance and Masami met with Laura Olah of CSWAB (Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger) to exchange information on our battles, similarities and differences – one difference is that
CSWAB has to deal with federal agencies, Kipp community doesn’t so far.

May 3 - Lance, Gary had meeting with DNR and Robert Grether, real estate consultant with LakePoint Realty and owner of one of the contaminated homes, about concerns over property values, liability and disclosure issues by sellers, lenders. DNR said they would develop understandable information sheets on this issue; they would be meeting with Robert and lenders in next month to present draft and discuss process to limit liability to lenders and realtors, enabling property sales.

May 4 - DNR sends letter and Notice of Violation to Kipp regarding PCB contamination, noting they had information indicating MKC knew of the PCB contamination on-site since 2006, and made no efforts to inform the State or the public. Letter requires Kipp to expand contamination investigation to "include sampling for VOCs, heavy metals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PARs), and cyanides, in addition to PCBs. This will aid MKC to efficiently complete the overall site investigation work required by statute."

May 7- Another DNR community informational session at Goodman, Lance, Matthew and Angelo attended. Resident Ann Chacon brought newspaper article from 1987 mentioning PCB contamination at Kipp site; DNR said they would go back and investigate the history more thoroughly. Lance has discussion with Kipp executive Mark Meunier, who says he had brought up the PCE water evacuation method with DNR. Lance suggests to Meunier that Kipp consider joining Sustain Dane's M-Powering program to help company become more sustainable, and Meunier asks Lance to provide contact, which he does next day.

Risser, Alder Marsha Rummel, and SASYNA. (encourage SASY members to attend, help out, not just Kipp committee); event will be taped by city TV channel; Seeking tour of Kipp plant with Seigel and officials; Linda Hanefeld (DNR) asked that request to visit be initiated by Rep. Taylor’s office; Lance asked by Rep. Taylor to be liaison and host to Seigel;