

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 11, 2014

To: Members of the VCU Fluoride Commission – Dave Bengs (Chair), Mark Thiros (Co-Chair), Tim Daly, Judith Harrington, Jon Schoer, Kevin Steele, Jennifer Waldo

From: Stu Walesh, Facilitator

CC: Steve Poulos; John Hardwick; Stu Walesh; Mike Langer; Shihua Chen; Times; Post Tribune; Gary Foreman; William Hirzy; Ed Charbonneau; Mary Woodworth; Peggy Busse; James R. Miller, MD; Douglas M. Bush; Terry G. Schechner, DDS; Hollis Russinof; Ed Popcheff; E. Angeles Martinez Mier, DDS, MSD, PhD; Jim Powers; Jean Caster; Ron Ziolkowski; Eileen Curosh, RDH, BS; Isaac Zeckel, DDS; Christopher Gall, DDS; Robert Corns, DDS; Michael Pancini; Jillian Pancini; Paul Sechrist; Walt Breitinger; Dr. Tom Ludwig

Re: Summary of Meeting 6 on Thursday, August 7, 2014

Participants: All members of the Commission; Steve Poulos, Utilities Director; Shihua Chen, Water Operations Manager; Stu Walesh, Facilitator; John Hardwick, Coordinator; and about a dozen citizens including the press.

1. Welcome – The meeting started at about 5:10 PM with Fluoride Commission Chair Dave Bengs welcoming everyone and introducing the other Commissioners.

2. Review charge – Dave Bengs summarized the charge to the Commission which, as stated in the Commission’s partial draft report, is: Should the Valparaiso City Utilities Department of Water Works/City of Valparaiso, through its treatment and distribution of the public water supply, be the mechanism to provide fluoride to the general public via systemic fluoridation?

3. Discussion of draft partial report – Chair Bengs asked Stu Walesh to facilitate discussion of this and the next few items on the agenda. The Commission concurred with the format and content of the draft partial report to the VCU Board. The report was recognized as “history” in that it described what had happened to date and did not presume the outcome of the Commission’s deliberations.

4. Decide if additional information is needed – None of the Commissioners asked for additional information. Citizen Gary Foreman suggested that the “pro” and “con” groups should each be given an opportunity to submit written summary statements. By consensus, the Commission indicated that the two groups (both of which were present at the meeting) could do so, if they wished; the statements should not exceed five pages; and that if one or both summary statements are received they will appear as appendices in the Commission’s report.

(Note: On August 9, Christopher W. Gall, D.D.S, President Northwest Indiana Dental Society and Eileen Curosh, R.D.H., Trustee, Indiana State Dental Hygiene Association submitted a

memo to Commission Members and “Statements from Ten Leading Health Authorities Regarding Community Water Fluoridation. These two documents are attached to the email used to send this meeting summary, will appear in an appendix in the report, and be posted to the VCU website.)

(**Note:** If opponents of VCU fluoridation want to submit a summary statement, the Commission needs to receive it no later than Wednesday, August 20 because of the target date for presenting the Commission’s report to the VCU Board -- see Agenda Item 6, Next Steps.)

5. Discussion –

- a) The Commission moved and seconded a motion to conduct a straw vote on whether or not to continue VCU fluoridation. The motion to conduct a straw vote passed unanimously by a show of hands.
- b) The straw vote was conducted using a secret ballot with the results announced as required by the Indiana Open Door Law. The results were 5 in favor of continuing VCU fluoridation (Bengs, Daly, Harrington, Schoer, Steele) and 2 opposed (Thiros, Waldo).
- c) All Commissioners then shared reasons for their “pro” or “con” views mentioning a wide variety of topics such as: government responsibility, IQ, fluoridation mandate, cost-benefit, forcing fluoridation, doing no harm, impacts on children, risks, other means of obtaining fluoride, social justice, topical application, taking charge of one’s health, local dentists, revisiting the issue, publicizing the report.
- d) The Commission moved and seconded a motion to recommend to the VCU Board that the VCU continue fluoridation. By Commission consensus, the motion was conducted by a show of hands. The results were 5 in favor of continuing VCU fluoridation (Bengs, Daly, Harrington, Schoer, Steele) and 2 opposed (Thiros, Waldo).
- e) The Commission moved and seconded a motion to recommend to the VCU Board that the fluoridation issue be revisited within five years because of possible changes in science, dental care, local conditions, and other possible factors. By Commission consensus, the motion was conducted by a show of hands. The results were unanimous in support of the motion.
- f) Commission members thanked the community members and the experts for their participation and asked that those groups be acknowledged in the Commission’s report.
- g) Commission members thanked the VCU support staff (Steve Poulos, John Hardwick, Peggy Busse, Shihua Chen, Stu Walesh) for their work.

6. Next steps –

a) The support staff and the Commission will use email to complete the Commission's written report to the VCU Board.

b) The Commission wants to have the report presented to the VCU Board and the Board's meeting on Tuesday, August 26 at 5:00 PM at the VCU Billings Street office.

(Note: VCU Board members need to receive the Fluoride Commission's report by Friday August 22 in order to "take it up" at the August 26 board meeting. Therefore, the final work on the Commission's report will proceed with the August 22 deadline in mind. The draft final report will be sent to Commission members no later than Wednesday, August 13 for their review.)

7. Closing comments and adjourn – Chair Dave Bengs thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting at about 6:15 PM.