



REVITALIZATION



Environmental Protection Supporting Livable Communities, and a Sustainable Future!

RHODE

Issue 3 Spring 2021

EPA RECOGNIZES MEETING STREET SCHOOL AS A BROWNFIELD SUCCESS STORY

By: Filomena DaSilva

With the help of staff from the Office of Land Revitalization & Sustainable Materials Management, EPA recognizes a local environmental justice site as a brownfield success story.

You'd never guess that an automobile service facility and a metal plating business would turn into the beautiful property that calls South Providence home. Thanks to a \$200,000 cleanup grant in 2004 which funded the cleanup that led to the business' opening in 2006, Meeting Street School has since had lots of wonderful updates to its property. These include a library, a computer literacy center, a science laboratory, a gymnasium, playgrounds, an occupational and speech-language therapy rooms, and a new athletic facility where it is home to cross country and spring track teams. Since its opening, this state-of-the-art educational center has turned a brownfields site into the beauty it is today. Because of this, its enrollment has drastically increased and demand for services is quickly outpacing the organization's ability to meet them, requiring future expansion plans. Meeting Street also re-

See **School** on Pg.4

KETTLEPOINT, EAST PROVIDENCE: NEW ENGLAND BROWNFIELD'S PROJECT OF THE YEAR

By: Joseph Martella

Kettlepoint was the former home of two waterfront petroleum bulk storage terminals, ARCO and AMOCO, that closed down during the mid-1980's. Many prospective developers came and went over the years, but the contamination proved to be too much for them to take on. Two former DEM employees, Michael Andrews & Timothy Fleury, and one current employee, Joseph Martella, an Environmental Engineer with the Office of Land Revitalization & Sustainable Materials Management (LRSMM), tackled the site and brought the two oil companies back to the table to start cleanup. The ARCO company was the first to step up and they remediated what they owned to residential standards. With that part of the site out of the way, AMOCO took the

See **Kettlepoint** on Pg.5

FIGURING OUT the SITE REMEDIATION PROCESS

What is the process of the Site Remediation Program you ask? Rachel Simpson, an Environmental Scientist at the Office of Land Revitalization & Sustainable Materials Management (LRSMM), helps us distinguish the steps to this process.



LRSMM has a **Site Remediation Process Chart** that is used to guide staff through the process. Below are the steps in a nutshell:

- Site Remediation receives a notification of a release.
- DEM issues a Letter of Responsibility to the property owner notifying them to conduct a site investigation. A voluntary procedure letter gets issued if the party planning to conduct the investigation is not the current property owner.
- Public notice is conducted to all abutters informing them that an investigation will take place.
- The investigation is then conducted. All results of the investigation are summarized in a Site Investigation Report (SIR) which gets submitted to DEM for review and approval. The SIR proposes a remedial alternative based on the contamination found. This is usually when DEM confirms with other Programs, if necessary, whether the plan is acceptable to them as well.
- DEM issues comments on the SIR or DEM issues a Program Letter which preliminarily approves the proposed remedial alternative for the project.
- Post-site investigation public notice is conducted to all abutters informing them of the results of the investigation and proposed remedial alternative. The public has the opportunity to comment.
- DEM issues a Remedial Decision Letter stating that it agrees with the proposed remedial alternative and that a report on how the remedy will be implemented, called a Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP), must be submitted.
- The RAWP gets submitted for DEM review and approval.
- DEM issues RAWP Comment Letter or a Remedial Approval Letter/Order of Approval (RAL/OA) pending the approval of the remedial alternative.
- Then remediation of the site takes place. DEM is kept up to date throughout the remediation stage.
- All remedial action is documented in a Remedial Action Closure Report.
- DEM issues comments on the Closure Report or issues a Letter of Compliance or No Further Action Letter. The letter will depend on the contamination found, location, and what was done for remediation.

HIGHLIGHTING LRSMM'S INVOLVEMENT IN NATIONAL WORKGROUPS

By: Filomena DaSilva

To continue our series on Land Revitalization & Sustainable Material Management's involvement in national workgroups, this third part of a four-part series will highlight the Brownfields Focus Group within ASTSWMO, the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials. ASTSWMO is an organization which enhances and promotes effective State and Territorial programs in relation to waste and materials management, environmentally sustainable practices, and environmental restoration. The organization is made up of several subcommittees, which are further divided into Focus Groups and Task Forces, in which several members of the Office of LRSMM are involved. Being a part of ASTSWMO allows RIDEM to keep up to date with how other states and territories manage their programs and address various environmental issues.

The Brownfields Focus Group which is a subcommittee of the CERCLA & Brownfields group, enjoys the company of LRSMM's Rachel Simpson. The group recently conducted a State Brownfields Program Analysis in which data was collected from all states and territories regarding their individual brownfields' programs. Results from this analysis can be found at: <http://astswmo.org/2020-state-brownfields-program-analysis/>. "It is amazing how many differences, as well as similarities, each State or territory has in approaching brownfields!", exclaims Rachel, "It is exciting to be a part of a Focus Group whose mission is to recognize the diversity of Brownfields Programs and to assist in creating research tools and providing training for State program development and enhancement."

Look for highlights and which LRSMM staff member participates in each of these subcommittees in our next issue of **REVITALIZATION RHODE** to learn how they are contributing to RIDEM's knowledge pool of various environmental issues within the State of Rhode Island.

OSCAR the Q&A Mascot



This Q&A will answer some of the most commonly asked questions that the Office of Land Revitalization & Sustainable Materials Management receives.

This week's question: **Is there a residential Under-ground Storage Tank (UST) at "123 Main St"?**

Gregory Yekhtikian, LRSMM's Environmental Engineer, digs deeper to help clarify a commonly asked question by the general public wondering if there are any underground storage tanks at a specific residential property before it is purchased. Here is Greg's insight.



Above: Greg Yekhtikian, an Environmental Engineer with the Office of LRSMM at RIDEM

“**M**ost of the time there are no listings in our UST database due to the registration exemption for the small residential heating oil tanks. The exemption states that the residential heating fuel USTs are subject to portions of the RI DEM *Rules and Regulations For Underground Storage Facilities Used For Regulated Substances and Hazardous Materials*. The regulation that speaks to this is as follows:

***Residential fuel oil USTs **less than or equal to 1,100 gallons** in capacity which serve a one, two, or three family dwelling are subject to §§ 1.11(B)(1-4) (prohibitions of new installations), § 1.14 (leak and spill response), and § 1.15(B)(1) (prohibition of abandonment of any UST). If such tanks are taken out of service they must be emptied, cleaned, and permanently closed. The Department recommends that the system be permanently closed either by removal from the ground or by filling with an inert solid material (slurry concrete or flowable fill). (For obvious environmental reasons, the removal of a tank from the ground is always preferred except when damage to a building foundation or underground utility may occur.) Any suspected or known release of product must be reported to the Department, duly investigated, and remediated if necessary. No *closure application* is required to be filed with the Department, and no *closure assessment* is required unless a release has occurred. These USTs are not required to be registered with the Department.

***For residential fuel oil USTs **larger than 1,100 gallons** and for any size fuel oil UST serving a **four family dwelling or larger**, additional requirements apply. Permanent closure of these USTs requires their removal from the ground (a *closure application* is required) (no *closure assessment* is required unless a release has occurred). Also, these USTs **are required** to be registered with the Department.”

To submit questions for our future editions of **REVITALIZATION RHODE** click [here](#).

Staff Corner



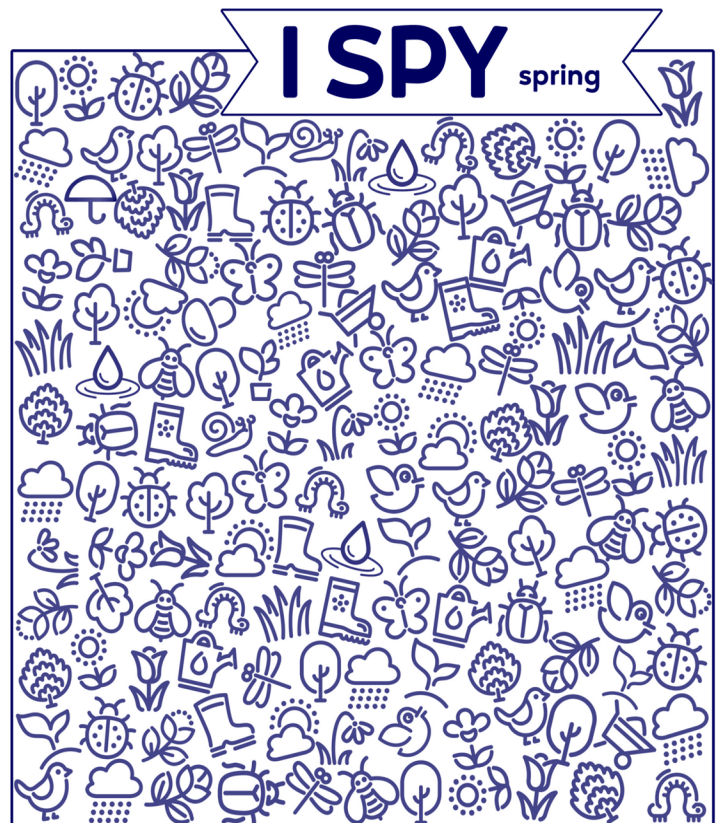
Raymond Taylor, an Environmental Engineer with the Office of Land Revitalization and Sustainable Materials Management at RIDEM, will be joining several staff members in the Office of LRSMM who have already obtained their Professional Engineer (PE) license. Raymond has been with the Office for almost three years working with the UST/LUST program. Several of his fellow co-workers, who have also obtained the same accomplishment, are Walid Ali, Joseph Cunningham, Richard Gotlieb, Leo Hellested, Yan Li, Nicholas Noons, Frank Vogel, and Gregory Yekhtikian. Mark Dennen is a Certified Professional Geologist (CPG) in the Office. “We are extremely pleased that our staff takes pride in keeping their knowledge up to date and most proud of their accomplishments”, says Leo Hellested, Administrator for the Office of Land Revitalization and Sustainable Materials Management at RIDEM.

SCHOOL... Cont'd from Front Pg



ceived three additional cleanup grants totaling \$600,000 in 2018 and winning a total of \$1.2 million in funding through the Rhode Island’s Brownfield Bond Fund and the Brownfields Remediation and Economic Development Fund.

Meeting Street’s future plans include expansion of their current 9-acre campus by three more acres and adding another 100,000 square feet of program space which is projected to create 50 new, permanent full-time jobs in South Providence. You can read the entire article by clicking here. [Meeting Street \[epa.gov\]](http://epa.gov)



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