

Minutes of the 4/6/21 VT Military Poisons Coalition 9:30 to 10:30 AM via zoom

In attendance: Marguerite Adelman, James Ehlers, Henry Coe, Karl Novak, Raju Badireddy, Morgen Decker, Leah Benoit., Pat Elder, Kai Mikkel Forlie, Nancy Rice, and Pam Ladds

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 11th from 9:30 to 10:30 AM.

- **Introductions**—Brief intros were made all around. James, who led this meeting as the VT Coordinator, welcomed Leah Benoit from St. Michael's College as our newest member.
- **Military Poisons webinar, link, and website**—Marguerite noted that the new website is up and running. In less than 20 days, we've had over 950 individual users from around the world. We've also made some changes and will continue to add new information. You can visit the website at: www.militarypoisons.org Be sure to check out the Vermont pages. The webinar was recorded and can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FbHWb9lfySs> Be sure to share the webinar with friends and other interested in learning more about PFAS.
- **No Defense link** (view from 4/16 to 4/25), discussion (4/22 at 8 PM), and help with PR—Marguerite will send all coalition members information that they can use to register for the film and discussion. She urges folks to share the information widely with friends, family, and environmentalists in VT, NH, ME, and MA
- **Vermont Legislative work:** S. 20 and H.26—James discussed S.20 (H.26 has been shelved at this time), the PFAS bill that is now in the House, and what is happening and what coalition members can do to help. A number of individuals volunteered to help with Advocacy—including Kai, Karl, Marguerite, Pam, Nancy, Morgen, and Catherine. James may be calling on members in the next few weeks to advocate to strengthen the bill, providing stronger language on PFAS. Marguerite already provided some initial language with the assistance of James. We've also submitted names—many on the committee—whom we would like to see testify before the Senate. If you are contacted to testify, please keep us all posted. If you need help with testimony, please let us know. Karl offered to contact Roseanne Greco to see if we can get her to help us with S.20 as she has extensive military toxin knowledge
- **Dividing into Committees:** James discussed the need to have 3 major committees for our work. Everyone should think about where they want to put their major efforts. So far, we have folks making these commitments:
 - **Advocacy**— James, Kai, Karl, Marguerite, Pam, Nancy, Morgen, and Catherine
 - **Education/PR**—Marguerite, Raju, Pat, and Kai
 - **Events**—Marguerite, Morgen, Henry, and Pam. The longest discussion was about events. Pam and Henry noted that their group has extensive experience with direct action because of Casella. Pam also noted that the decrease in immune response due to the vaccine for covid due to PFAS is a strong argument. Pat would like to see an outside event at Muddy Creek State Park near the airport. We talked about a “kayak” event on the river and also testing the water and fish. Morgen noted that Vermont has this reputation for being a “green” and “healthy living” state to attract tourists, etc. We could play on this false image to gain interest/attention. Many felt that we need an upcoming “visible” event to keep our momentum going. James asked Morgen to convene a small group—Pam, Henry, and Marguerite—to set something up in the coming couple of months, perhaps on the bridge in Winooski on or around Memorial Day.
- **Sharing Info:**
 - Raju shared information about his work. In 66 soil samples he found 5,000 to 35,000 nanograms of PFAS:
<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahU>

[KEwi-vK2ho-vAhWEGFkFHVvHC9EQFjAAegQIAxAD&url=https%3A%2F%2Fanrweb.vt.gov%2FPubDocs%2FDEC%2FPFOA%2FSoil-Background%2FPFAS-Background-Vermont-Shallow-Soils-03-24-19.pdf&usg=AOvVaw2HeyqbDLI5EiNbWXdKuo6](https://www.facebook.com/groups/503324986851116)

- Pam shared the websites for her groups: DUMP -- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/503324986851116> and <https://nolakedump.com/> and PFAS in the News and in Your Blood -- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/669527700393073> and
 - Morgen shared some articles and information on the health affects of PFAS from Patricia Hynes: <https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/releases/2020/Q1/what-the-brain-really-thinks-about-forever-chemicals.html> and <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7355795/>
 - Pat and Teresa Gerade are presenting to the National Academy of Sciences. Pat is also writing an article on the decommissioned Plattsburgh AFB and its contamination with PFAS.
 - James encouraged folks to join these sites: VT Military Poisons Project -- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/240906444382466> and No Defense Film Screening event page - <https://www.facebook.com/events/132568995428923>
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