

August 10, 2021

Addressing False Rumors Spread Against Citizens for a Clean Wausau by a Wausau
Alderspersion in Relation to the Environmental Justice Resolution

We believe that facts and associated documentation are essential to legitimate deliberation on public policy, and that falsehoods undermine such deliberation. Therefore, we felt that it was our obligation to address the false rumors spread by the City of Wausau alderperson from District 7, in writing and on multiple occasions, about our volunteer group and the Environmental Justice Resolution coming before the city council today, so that there is the opportunity for the resolution to be discussed and debated in good faith with good information.

These false rumors spread by the alderperson are present in public records and state that CCW is planning a class action lawsuit against the City of Wausau once this resolution passes with the resolution as the basis, and that the original draft resolution was intended to be a better basis for this fictitious lawsuit against the city. These types of class-action-lawsuit false rumors can be noted in government emails dated 6/21/21 and even as recently as 8/5/21, for example.

These statements are verifiably false, and it was widely and well known at the time some of these false allegations were spread that the language in the initial draft referred to was adopted, nearly verbatim, from another municipality's successful resolution, not something originally "written" (read: written from scratch) by a CCW member or a Wausau city council member, and this is very clear in local public records, minutes, and video.

Due to the frequency, seriousness, and verifiable falseness of the rumors spread against us to residents and certain members of City Hall staff – and our concern that those untruths, left unaddressed, could adversely taint or skew the evaluation of an important municipal resolution intended to help local neighborhoods – we believed that it was our responsibility to address them head-on in public.

It may also be helpful to let readers know what our group actually is, for those who may be unfamiliar.

CCW is a grassroots environmental group in Central Wisconsin that works primarily on issues related to defining the extent and nature of industrial contamination in a footprint on Wausau's southwest side, so that it can and will be remediated.

These are just a few examples in town that you may be familiar with that our work triggered or played a key role in since 2018.

- The investigation and future cleanup of dioxin and furan soil contamination exceeding regulatory standards in Riverside Park



- The environmental investigation at 1300 Cleveland Avenue, part of the former Connor Forest Industries property, that resulted in the identification of thallium, arsenic, and PAH soil contamination exceeding regulatory standards, which will ultimately result in remediation
- Testing on the southwest side of Wausau, based on spikes of contaminant levels at wastewater plant outfalls, that identified significant pentachlorophenol contamination in manholes of the sanitary sewer
- The identification of the improper discharge into the Wisconsin River by a private contractor that resulted in regulatory action and fining
- Notifying the public of air pollution violations at 3M Company in Wausau that had been present in DNR records, but never widely disclosed to the public

If you are searching for factual information about our group or group members, it can be found on our website or through extensive media reports and references, such as those from the Wausau Pilot & Review, City Pages, Wausau Daily Herald, Wisconsin Public Radio, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Wisconsin State Journal, WAOW, WSAW, WSAU, to name some examples.

We hope that policy dialogue and discussion can occur in a factual, legitimate manner now that we have addressed and dispelled these false rumors.

Sincerely submitted on behalf of Citizens for a Clean Wausau,

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Co-Spokespersons