

**Saginaw-Tittabawassee Rivers Contamination CAG
Summary of Full CAG Meeting
Saginaw Valley State University – Curtiss Hall
Monday, May 20, 2013
6:00 PM – 8:35 PM**

DRAFT

CAG Members Present

Drummond Black
Leonard Heinzman
Deborah Huntley
Ryan Jankowksi
Wendy Kanar
Michael Kelly
Judith Lincoln
Donna Mallone
David Meyer
Laura Ogar
Joel Tanner
Bob Wiese

CAG Members Absent

Jeffrey Bulls
Charles Curtis
Matthew de Huis
Rachel Larimore
Janet McGuire
Paul Vasold
William Webber

Ex-Officio Members Present

Joe Haas, US FWS
Todd Konechne, Dow Chemical
Al Taylor, Michigan MDEQ

Support and Agency Staff Present

Diane Russell, US EPA
Tim Prenderville, US EPA
Mary Breeden, US EPA
Cheryl Howe, MDEQ
Doug Sarno, facilitator
Janelle Pistro, Dow Chemical
Kim Cousans, Dow Chemical

Deb Huntley called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. Agenda items included:

- CAG Updates
- General Project Updates
- City of Midland Cleanup Update
- Segment 1 Phase II Cleanup Update
- Tittabawassee River Floodplain Discussion of Cleanup Options

A videotape of this meeting, along with copies of all meeting summaries and presentations is available at www.saginawcag.com. Materials and additional information on the Dow Chemical Site including presentations from CAG meetings are also available at the EPA web site at <http://www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/dowchemical/cag.htm>

1. CAG Updates

The Communication Team, reported that the Facebook page is up and running and we are using that to assist with membership drive. The web site is also up and running, and all meeting summaries and presentations are posted. Photographs of members that are available are posted. The site is at saginawcag.org

We will have the photographer come back at the July meeting to take pictures of those who missed it the first time around as well as new members. Ed Clements, a local educator, has shown interest in joining the group. Doug Sarno will prepare a press release to use for recruiting new members. EPA agreed to provide a media list to help distribute the announcement.

The Membership Committee will provide a slate of candidates with descriptions ahead of the July meeting to allow for full CAG action for all new members to formally join in July.

Len Heinzman was nominated to serve on the Leadership Team and accepted.

Donna Mallonee was introduced as a new member of the CAG. Her family goes back to the 1800s in the area, and she has a background in business and environmental law. In the past she worked at Dow for about six years. She is interested in that we remain a healthy and vibrant community and that the responsible actions are taken. Had stepped away from the issue for a few years

2. General Project Updates

Diane Russell, EPA, provided updates on a variety of activities.

Response to flooding. Since 2005 Dow has provided response services to cleanup residences and public areas such as parks post flooding. Dow generally contracts with third parties to conduct the work and operates a hotline for folks who need support. Sampling at previous flooding areas is also conducted.

Sediment traps. There have been a number of questions and requests about the status of EPA review of sediment traps. USEPA is working to get information from the Army Corps about their plans for navigational dredging and how this impacts the project. More information will be available once that contact takes place.

Segment 2 Cleanup. Materials about the options for Segment 2 will be available in late June. The plan is for a July 8 start of comment period or 30 days plus an additional 15 day extension. This will be the major topic of the CAG meeting on July 15. A public meeting likely will be held on July 17 or 18, A brief CAG statement at the public meeting is welcome as in the past.

Still working on outreach and communication, wrapping up the school year, river walkers are out handing out materials and talking to fishermen. Next EPA Newsletter should be out in the next few weeks.

The CAG agreed to make a short presentation at the public meeting and have some handouts available with the web site address.

3. City of Midland Cleanup Update

Al Taylor, MDEQ, provide the update. Provided basic background on the Midland Resolution Area north of the Dow Chemical plant where soil was contaminated from historic air releases from incineration on the Dow site. The workplan for the 5-year project went through public input, and the cleanup of 1400 residential properties to a Midland-specific action level of 250 ppt is voluntary to homeowners.

Properties have top 12" of soil removed and replaced. Care is taken to keep the areas neat and clean, and establish new lawns and gardens. The total operation at any home takes about a week. Al showed pictures of a number of cleanups in progress and after completion as well as a map of status by location. During 2012 150 properties were sampled of which 23 required remediation.

An additional 50 homes were purchased by Dow and converted to industrial use.

In 2013, early sampling has been conducted at 300 properties, of which 53 required remediation which is ongoing now. Sampling for additional properties is underway for cleanups this fall.

Lessons learned are that we need to sample every property as there are houses immediately adjacent to each other that show different results. An average concentration on each property is conducted using a composite sample.

CAG question: Why 12 inches? A pilot study was conducted to determine depth. Looked at various depths at a number of sites and determined that a foot got you to below 250 ppt in every case.

CAG question: Are very many people refusing sampling? About 90% get sampled, no instances of refusing cleanup once sampled. Public outreach has been very effective. Midland Tomorrow owns the new industrial area where they buyouts are occurring, only two property owners declined to take the buyout.

CAG question: How are people notified? Results are sent to the property owner once results are validated. Contacts are provided to discuss the results if desired.

CAG question: Where is the soil going? Back to the Dow plant site for reuse as cover, as it does not exceed the industrial cleanup level of 900 ppt. Two sites that exceeded 1000 ppt went to City of Midland landfill.

CAG question: Is there any agriculture in the area? No, there is one community gardens site.

Do we know if contaminated floodplain soils have been moved around for use at home sites and other areas or mined for topsoil? It is a very difficult thing to track, no doubt this has happened over the years.

CAG question: How do homeowners really know what to do about their properties long-term? Homeowners get the specific number and a package of information to keep with their important property papers.

CAG question: Is the assumption that below 250 ppt it is safe? Does community health provide education materials about avoiding contact? The 250 ppt number has been designed to be protective of children, so no more action is needed. Materials are available but not sent automatically as the 250 is safe for residential.

4. Segment 1 Phase II Cleanup Update

Todd Konechne, Dow Chemical, provide the update on activities in 2012 and for 2013 for segment 1 along the Dow Chemical plant site.

2012 Activities

- SMA 2, 3, and 6 DNAPL Recovery Activities. Dow installed wells on a 10' by 10' grid where DNAPL was identified and conducted daily pumping. Installed about 240 wells. Shut done for winter in November, and now back pumping again. DNAPL was found and removed in all three SMAs.
- At SMA 4, Dow installed a Cellular Containment system cap. Sediment covered about 50% of the cells within a few weeks, was mostly filled in by end of the season.

- At SMA 5, Dow installed a sand and armor stone cap.

2012 Activities

- Dow will continue the DNAPL recovery at SMAs 2, 3, and 6 in the same locations as last year using a 5' by 10' grid to remove more material in a shorter period of time. Begun This work was begun April 30, as they had to wait for the river to recede.
- At SMA 2, all wells are in place and recovery is underway.
- At SMA 6 well installation is ongoing. Will install containment system and hydraulic monitoring to determine if the goals are met. GCL liner is bentonite clay between geotextile liner material to provide very low permeability, then covered with armor stone to protect it from erosion.
- SMA 2 and 3 will take about three weeks for installation of liners and sheetpile.
- SMA 6 will take about 6 weeks.

CAG question: What is the expected life of these containment systems? As long as they are covered and not exposed to sunlight they should last indefinitely.

CAG question: How much DNAPL has been pumped so far and how much more is expected? About 2400 gallons pumped so far, about 90% of it from one location. That well volume had reduced significantly by the end of last year and the first place to install new wells. The level and volume is exactly where we left off last year, so most of it appears to have been collected. It is a slow process

CAG question: What is done with the DNAPL? Contained in buckets and sent to the Dow incinerator.

CAG question: Is it mixed with water when pumped? No it is heavier than water.

CAG question: Are you monitoring the wildlife during this process? We are working on this and do not expect to see changes overnight. Not really looking for this yet, just have the baseline data so far.

5. Tittabawassee River Floodplain Discussion of Cleanup Options

Diane Russell, EPA, provided updates on this project. This is the ongoing piece we have been working on for the past few meetings. Diane provided a summary of the activities, goals, and format.

Meetings have been ongoing and taken about 90 minutes to have a series of interactive conversations about the future of the floodplain.

Focuses on the 8 year floodplain, about 4,500 total acres. About half is undeveloped natural areas, 15% in the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, 18% active agriculture, 5% commercial, 5% maintained residential, and 3% parks.

The CAG was asked whether they want to see those areas increase, decrease, or stay the same.

There was significant CAG confusion over the purpose of this question and how it is being laid out. It was pointed out that all localities have zoning in place, so don't really understand how this question can be asked this way. It appears people are being asked to weigh in on something that EPA does not control.

The CAG would have liked to have had some input into how this question is being framed, and do not want this to reflect on the CAG. At the meetings that have been held, it did not appear that many people know a CAG exists. Most of the folks participating did not have any real concerns and provided the values-level input sought, regardless of how the question was framed.

Ultimately the CAG decided not to participate in this exercise as the question was framed in a way that would suggest things that do not make a lot of sense.

CAG question: How will EPA use this information? EPA is not there yet, don't yet know what we plan to do, we want to meet with a large portion of the community first and see what they have to day.

CAG question: Can people now get building permits in the floodplain? Not for new houses generally, or with some restrictions, but can have maintained properties.

Next exercise looked at tradeoffs for cleanup options. Three cleanup options include soil removal and replacement with clean soil, soil cover with clean material, and land-use management to limit exposure to people and wildlife and maintain areas in a natural condition. Diane provided a chart showing tradeoffs for the different options on issues such as cost, time, and short-term and future impacts. The CAG participated in the exercise.

EPA is looking to connect with about 1400 floodplain residents and will continue meetings throughout the summer. EPA will summarize the results of the meetings in the fall newsletter and will provide a summary for the CAG at a future meeting as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.