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Saginaw-Tittabawassee Cleanup Group Seeking New Members

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) continues to move forward with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and Dow Chemical Company to clean up contaminated sediments and soil in frequently flooded areas in the Tittabawassee and Saginaw rivers and will continue in a phased process to include the Saginaw Bay.

As part of the cleanup process, a Community Advisory Group (CAG) formed in 2010 to provide input on local concerns and priority areas as cleanup options are being developed. The CAG is a volunteer group that assists the EPA in making better decisions by providing the agency a local perspective about the cleanup activities. The CAG does not replace other forms of community involvement and works closely with the broader community throughout its process.

The CAG consists of approximately 20 local residents with diverse interests and viewpoints representing the range of affected communities. Membership terms are for 3 years and when members leave the CAG replacements are sought to represent similar interests and demographics. Currently the CAG is seeking individuals from the Midland area, minority groups, business organizations and students (high school and college) for membership.

It is important to note that no chemical or science background is required. The only requirement is that you care about the quality of life in the Midland, Bay City, Saginaw area, and are willing to spend approximately six hours per month towards this project.

CAG members are expected to attend regularly held meetings, once every other month (currently on the 3rd Monday of odd-numbered months), participate in subcommittees, read materials and background information between meetings, and help to communicate with neighbors and others in the community. In addition, the CAG seeks to find common ground where possible, requiring all members to approach each other with respect and all issues with an open mind.

Current activities include looking at cleanup plans for floodplains along the rivers, so local landowners in the floodplain are also encouraged to apply. Applications for membership and additional information on the CAG can be found at www.saginawcag.org.