

**Saginaw-Tittabawassee Rivers Contamination CAG  
Summary of Full CAG Meeting  
Saginaw Valley State University – Curtiss Hall  
Monday, September 17, 2012  
6:00 PM – 8:34 PM**

**DRAFT**

**CAG Members Present**

Drummond Black  
Jeffrey Bulls  
Charles Curtis  
Matthew de Huis  
Leonard Heinzman  
Deborah Huntley  
Ryan Jankowski  
Wendy Kanar  
Michael Kelly  
Rachel Larimore  
Judith Lincoln  
Janet McGuire  
David Meyer  
Joel Tanner  
Paul Vasold  
William Webber  
Bob Wiese

**CAG Members Absent**

Laura Ogar

**Ex-Officio Members Present**

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

**Support and Agency Staff Present**

Steve Ells, US EPA  
Kory Groetsch, MI Department of Community Health  
Mary Breeden, US EPA  
Kim Cousan, Dow Chemical  
Cheryl Howe, MDEQ  
Doug Sarno, facilitator

Doug Sarno called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. Agenda items included:

- Leadership Team Updates
- Planning for remainder of 2012
- Project Updates
- Reach K Pilot Capping Project
- EPA Sediment Cleanup, a National Perspective
- Fish Consumption Advisories
- Public questions and comments

**1. Leadership Team Update**

- The CAG will be contracting directly with Doug Sarno for facilitation support as of October 1, 2012.
- Drummond Black has agreed to serve on the leadership team and will be heading the communications committee.
- The November and December CAG meetings will be combined and will be held on December 3, 2012. Possible presentations for that meeting include speakers from U of M and Cancer Action New York.
- The CAG anticipates going to a bi-monthly meeting schedule in 2013 and we will discuss possible meeting dates at the December meeting.

**2. Project Updates**

**Segment 1 Field Work** – Todd Konechne stated that work is progressing well and will close down for the season in mid-November. DNAPL is being steadily retrieved and caps have been installed in SMAs 4 and 5.

**EPA Community Outreach** – Mary Logan announced that since the last CAG meeting (July 2012), the EPA has staffed booths at four different events, including the Saginaw County Fair and the Midland County Fair. The EPA has also had tables at the Saginaw Farmers Market and the Frankenmuth Farmers Market.

To date, the EPA's partner agency, the Bay County Health Department, has distributed almost 18,000 Eat Safe Fish brochures. Brochures were distributed to physicians' offices, community agencies/groups, and through events such as health fairs. The River Walkers program concluded in August; over the four years that the program has been in existence, over 5,900 anglers have been contacted concerning the Eat Safe Fish message.

The EPA plans to attend several more outreach events in the next few months; these include farmers markets, health fairs, and a physicians' resource fair.

**3. Reach K Pilot Capping Project** – Mary Logan explained that a cellular containment system pilot cap was installed at Reach K in Segment 2; this project was completed in July 2012. The project built on the success of a cap installation done in 2010 at Reach J. The project also used Geoweb. Sedimentation rates will be measured

and stability of the cap will be monitored over time. The entire presentation can be found at:

<http://www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/dowchemical/pdfs/dowchemical-reachk-pilotcap-201209.pdf>

#### **4. EPA Sediment Cleanup, a National Perspective**

Steve Ells from EPA Headquarters provided an overview of how EPA approaches large-scale contaminated sediment sites. He described the three primary remedies used by EPA – dredging, capping, and monitored natural recovery. His presentation included the advantages and disadvantages of each remedy, as well as case studies and frequently asked questions. The complete presentation can be viewed at:

<http://www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/dowchemical/pdfs/dowchemcial-remedialoptions-201209.pdf>

CAG: Why aren't sediment caps used more often?

Reply: These traps are appropriate in some places, but not all.

CAG: How do EPA headquarters directives affect the decisions?

Reply: Headquarters does issue recommendations, but it is ultimately up to each region as to what remedy is used.

Public: What is known about biodiversity recovery rates?

Reply: From a national perspective, there is a lot of evidence that species do come back.

#### **5. Fish Consumption Advisories**

Kory Groetsch, Michigan Department of Community Health, explained the need for fish consumption guidelines and how those guidelines are established. He also explained the 2007 Saginaw Bay Watershed Fish Eaters Survey; survey results included the findings that most anglers eat the fish that they catch and that walleye and perch are the most commonly consumed fish. The entire presentation can be found at:

<http://www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/dowchemical/pdfs/dowchemical-fishadvisory-201209.pdf>

CAG: Are there plans to do another survey?

Reply: There is no funding to do that here – but Wayne State University is planning to talk with anglers next year.

CAG: It's a surprise to see that fish from rivers farther north have dioxin in them.

Reply: Yes, the fish advisory covers the whole State of Michigan.

CAG: I'm struck by how many people in the survey said they won't use the fish advisory information.

Reply: Yes, it is a communications challenge.

CAG: Do you just hand out information, or do you use other media?

Reply: We also use school programs and other venues to get out the information.

CAG: How much does it change the picture if I trim fat off of fish?

Reply: A lot for dioxin, but little for mercury because mercury does not bind to fat.

Public: I suggest that the brochure include a little tracking sheet to keep on a refrigerator so that people can track what they eat.

Reply: That has been discussed.

## **6. Public questions and comments**

Mary Logan suggested having a dialogue at the December meeting about CAG suggestions for outreach to property owners.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.