

Saginaw-Tittabawassee Rivers Contamination CAG Results of the 2014 Annual CAG Retreat

Overall Reflections

- The CAG is working effectively, it has worked through a number of key issues and has established trust with EPA and Dow.
- We have gotten to the place where focus is clearly on the cleanup and do not have to revisit the dioxin hazard issue at every single meeting.
- Recent EPA public meetings have not been well attended, but the cleanup is moving into residential areas now, and folks will start to get more involved.
- Unfortunately, EPA and Dow are still not fully trusted among some stakeholders in the broader community who have not had the benefit of the learning and relationships as the CAG, and the CAG can serve a role as a liaison and help to communicate with communities and help them get the full understanding of the cleanup activities.
- Some people in the broader community have checked out due to the long timeframe and others because of inconsistent activities and information.

Important issues of focus for 2014

- How do we help folks get to get comfortable with moving the cleanup forward, the CAG is in a unique role and how do we do that as well as we can?
- The CAG needs to explore how to get information out to the broader community more effectively, help people understand what is coming and that the CAG is here to help.
- Fenceline/neighbor conversations are the most effective.
- Need to create better handout information on the CAG.
- Need to get the message out that the CAG is here and what we do.
- Should consider holding CAG meetings in other locations as they are becoming more directly impacted by cleanup,

Actions:

- Create a CAG pamphlet.
- Get regular information about the CAG in the EPA newsletter.
- Hold one of the 2014 meetings in Freeland.
- Doug will work the SVSU contact to allow for cancellation of meetings if we move off site.

Bylaws

Change “monthly” to “regular” meetings.

Leadership Team

- Deb Huntley and Len Heinzman will retire from the leadership team.
- Drummond Black will stay on the leadership team through 2014.

- Donna Mallone will join the leadership team for 2014.
- Still need one more volunteer.

Intentions for Terms Ending This Year:

- Drummond Black—extended his membership for another 3 year term
- Deborah Huntley—extended her membership for another 3 year term
- Leonard Heinzman--extended his membership for another year
- David Meyer--still deciding
- Bob Weise—extended his membership for another 3 year term

The following members still need to identify their intentions:

- Paul Vasold
- Ryan Jankoska
- William Webber

2014 New Member Convening

David Meyer and Judi Lincoln volunteered to work on the membership committee, will seek one additional volunteer for the committee.

Actions:

- Doug Sarno will update the application form.
- The main activities of the committee will be to:
 - Identify demographic needs to fill on the CAG
 - create a press release
 - get the word out through various channels and coordinate efforts of all CAG members
 - review applications as received.

Taping of CAG Meetings

It was decided that using a Videographer was not a cost-effective activity. The CAG will explore creating audio recordings using real time software with Powerpoint, SVSU uses “Lecturecapture” at SVSU, and we would need a different program if we hold meetings elsewhere.

Actions:

- Deb Huntley agreed to check on the availability of the software for use at CAG meetings.

Web Site

The web site needs to be updated and brought up to date.

Actions:

- David Sommers offered to review the site and make some recommendations about use of the site as well as the CAG Facebook page.

- Create systems to ensure the web site is updated, that appropriate people have access, that the email address works and is monitored.

Specific Requests of EPA

- The CAG would like a comprehensive, well-organized report on exactly how property owners are identified and then notified of public meetings and upcoming decisions. The CAG would like to discuss whether it is effective and efficient, and how they might be able to assist the process.
- The CAG would like a summary of any feedback received on the process used to do the recent floodplain outreach, and how is that feedback being used to help refine the approach to the public. The CAG felt could have been more effectively engaged in helping that process work well, and would like to explore how to use the CAG more effectively in the future.
- Has an after action report been completed on the condition of properties that were cleaned up in 2009 (approx.) at Riverside, what is the condition of those properties now? What good did it do? Did we get redeposition and to what degree and effect? Is this reflected in the State redeposition reports? How do these results help inform the current floodplain cleanup efforts?
- What land use/zoning maps are EPA using along the floodplains as we move down the river, and can the CAG get copies?

Updates and Presentations the CAG would like to add to the Calendar in 2014:

- Army Corps for a general presentation on their dredging program and how it may intersect with Superfund cleanup.
- NRDA program and activities.
- Status of the dioxin reassessment.
- Continue with regular updates from State on Midland, monitoring program, AOC.