

Saginaw-Tittabawassee Rivers Contamination CAG
Annual CAG Retreat
Monday, January 19, 2015, 5:30 PM – 9:00 PM
EPA Saginaw Community Information Office
804 S. Hamilton St., Suite 3

DRAFT SUMMARY

1. Meeting with MSU to discuss their outreach work

Jim Dearing, Jackie Zhuang, Brad Upham, and Joe Hamm, from MSU met with the CAG Leadership team and several other members prior to the formal retreat.

There are approximately 17 Superfund Research Centers around the nation. These are all part of CERCLA, began in 1988 to conduct research relevant to environmental toxins to understand impacts on human health, environment and the ecosystem. NIEHS reviews the proposal and manages the grants. MSU is focused on hydrocarbon receptors, most potent of which are dioxins, so our research center is to understand impact and environmental fate of dioxin and dioxin like compounds.

Jim Dearing is the lead for the community outreach component of the grant. MSU has worked around the state with HIV outreach, studies these types of groups and their outreach and decision making. Also has done studies with Kellogg Foundation on county-based health planning throughout Michigan. Looks at how to encourage community collaboration, new ways to think about healthcare and public health. Looking now at these environmental issues, exploring how MSU's past work may or may not be relevant. Take a social science approach, collecting data through surveys, interviews. With this center MSU is conducting research about community engagement and public perception about dioxin remediation and how to improve aspects of community involvement. MSU is in the first year of a five year grant. Currently in the early stages of research, expect to do initial surveys this year.

Part of MSU's goals are to assist the CAG in reaching out to the community. MSU can help the CAG by pre-testing materials, serve as a sounding board on plans to engage the public. MSU has lots of generalized knowledge about how to do this well. Can answer questions about public opinion, what people know, what people are talking about. MSU can also provide the CAG with access and understanding to research and best practices out there.

The CAG will have an opportunity to provide input to MSU in the surveys and interviews they conduct to ensure that useful information is being obtained. MSU currently has a draft interview protocol, would like to circulate that with the CAG. The CAG noted that this is best done at the March meeting so the CAG has an opportunity to discuss it together.

The CAG can also use MSU as a resource for technical questions and how to communicate them. Have some money allocated for technical bulletins and outreach support.

CAG Input to MSU: The CAG is interested in knowing what the community currently thinks and why regarding the current cleanup, there is currently little controversy about the cleanup—are people satisfied with where things are? Do they have the information they need? Have they just checked out or don't care?, What are their current issues and concerns? How well do they really understand the conditions and ramifications of the floodplain cleanup proposal? The CAG is also interested in how the community understands and perceives the CAG itself and how the CAG could serve a more effective role as an independent source of non-biased and fact-based information to the community in terms and formats that are accessible.

CAG ACTION: The CAG will develop a short list of questions that we are interested in learning from upcoming interviews and surveys, will work through Jackie.

2. Review 2014 Operations and Accomplishments

The CAG spent some time discussing activities of 2014 and any outstanding issues or changes they would like to see in 2015. This was a brainstorming session, these are not necessarily consensus points or presented in any priority order.

- Do we as a CAG actually make a difference? We talk a lot, we speak up, we make recommendations, but are we actually making a difference in the decisions? Folks did not feel confident that they were making a difference.
- How do we reach out more to the community and convey what we are learning? We understand the overall process very well, but are not conveying that effectively to the community at large. Should we be doing press releases, forums, provide more input to EPA to improve their materials, community outreach, etc.
- We have been having some of these conversations with EPA and have begun seeing some changes in the materials, do believe EPA has taken some of this to heart. Our small group that worked with Diane Russell was effective. Diane listened to what we had to say.
- Now the cleanup is starting to get into the populated areas, a lot more folks will be paying attention and should be providing input.
- Moving our meetings to the Freeland Memorial Park might help bring us closer to the issue and be more accessible to some others in the community.
- Ambivalence in the community is partly because there is no direct threat, there will be a lot more interest when they see the work in the river.
- Most people go about their daily business and don't really pay any attention until it is right in front of them, once they see something physical happening they are interested.
- People spend time talking about this and don't always have the right information. We could be helpful there.
- Now that we are getting closer to affecting people's actual properties, these folks will be looking for people they trust to reach out to.
- This is good timing with MSU to perhaps serve as a resource to outreach and communication with the community, we should take them up on their experience.

- We could look to see where the information is out in the community that is perhaps not correct and look for ways to get accurate information directly to folks.
- EPA does lots of wonderful things, but they are now under attack nationally, the challenge is they are handcuffed by rules, regulations, law—but the CAG is not handcuffed.
- The main goal is to get information out to folks and get them to recognize our group.
- Focus for 2015—need to talk more about the cleanup levels, how they were developed and in particular the levels in relation to livestock consumption. Also need better information on institutional controls.
- We should ask MSU to look at the cleanup numbers on the floodplain and perhaps provide an independent viewpoint.
- There is some need in the community for technical assistance.
- Consider whether the CAG should pursue a TAG grant to provide access to independent technical support. We rely heavily on EPA, and do not have our own technical expertise to always be able to get the right information or make sure we are asking the right questions.
- There is a strong need to create a basic set of facts for CAG members to use and for the community to have quick access to the most important information and questions about the site and cleanup.
- We are a place to give the community a voice, we need to make sure people are aware of that.

CAG Communications

The CAG is very interested in improving its communication with the community, and becoming a more robust resource for trusted information. Existing materials are not always accessible to regular folks and the EPA web site is not easy to use.

The following ideas for the CAG to improve its communication were identified and discussed.

- Basic set of facts for CAG members to use in talking with the community
- Get good basic information about the cleanup on the CAG web site
- Develop a flyer about the CAG.
- Go to festivals (perhaps with EPA when they are there), to provide some basic information on the CAG, who we are, what we do, meeting dates, etc.
- MSU is willing to also hand out our information, web site, etc.
- Take advantage of the cleanup activities that are actually happening to hand out information, make sure people have information at the point of activity.
- Put together some information to support homeowners in working with EPA on the floodplain cleanup, where to get good information, what are the questions you should be asking, where to get support, etc..
- Improve our use of social media.
- Create a “What’s going on right now” space on the CAG web site, to help folks know what is happening on the river.
- Put a good simple map of the project and key activities on the CAG web site
- Promote better signage at cleanup locations.
- Create a basic presentation and fact sheet on the project and the CAG that can be used for members to go talk with community groups.

- Focus everything on the facts, make sure that people understand the role of the CAG and that we are not representing EPA.
- Reach out to MLive, get more articles there (need to see if there is a new reporter there).

ACTION:

- The communication committee has been strengthened to include Dave, Armando, Bryce, and Will
- Doug will organize a conference call of the new communication committee to discuss next steps and priorities to focus on improved communication
- Doug will distribute a copy of the latest bylaws. Dave will post them on the web.

2015 Leadership Team

- Judi Lincoln has retired from the CAG
- Drummond and Donna will continue to serve on leadership team
- Dave Sommers and Bryce Wakeman agreed to join the leadership team

2015 Member Recruitment

- Jim Koski and Bryce Wakeman agreed to serve on the membership committee
- Doug will reach out to members whose terms end this year to determine their intentions on renewing for another term
- Frank Kuszak moved from the area and has resigned
- Jeff Bulls has not attended in quite some time as has been removed
- Judi Lincoln has a new teaching position at SVSU which prevents her from attending meetings and has resigned
- Stan Gorzinski has not responded to communications and his membership is revoked

Current Membership is as follows:

Terms Ending June 2015	Terms Ending June 2016	Terms Ending June 2017
Charles Curtiss Leonard Heinzman Michael Kelly Rachel Larimore Laura Ogar Joel Tanner	Armando Falcon James Krogsrud Donna Mallone David Sommers	Drummond Black Deborah Huntley Jim Koski William Marsrow Bryce Wakeman Bob Weise

2015 Calendar

- The CAG agreed to remain on the current schedule
- All meetings will be held at Memorial Park, space permitting
- A draft 2015 calendar is attached

**Saginaw-Tittabawassee Rivers Contamination CAG
Preliminary 2015 Calendar as of January 2015**

Meeting dates are subject to change and additional meetings may be called based on project-related activities and decisions, and invited speakers.

<p>January 19, 2015 MLK Day, at EPA Saginaw Office</p> <p>CAG working meeting/ retreat</p>	<p>Potential topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAG 2014 accomplishments • CAG Communications, web site • 2015 Leadership Team • Member terms and recruiting new members • Confirm calendar/Potential 2015 topics
<p>March 16, 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General updates • Membership recruitment planning • Retreat results • MSU draft interview protocol • Update on Midland area cleanup • Update on AOC program • Segment 2 cleanup decision, 2015 activities
<p>May 18, 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General updates • Membership recruitment • Segment 3 cleanup plans initial discussion • Possible other topic
<p>July 20, 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General updates • New Members • Institutional Controls • Segment 3 cleanup plans detailed discussion
<p>September 21, 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General updates • Segment 3 cleanup plans development of recommendations
<p>November 9, 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General updates • Summary of 2015 completed work • Expected project work/activities in 2016 and beyond • Preliminary CAG meeting calendar for 2016 • Prepare for CAG 2016 Retreat

Other Potential Topics and Speakers for 2015

- NRDA program and activities
- Long-term monitoring
- Corp of Engineers—sediment cleaning technologies, sediment traps
- Revisit MSU ecological studies