

**Saginaw-Tittabawassee Rivers Contamination CAG  
Summary of Full CAG Meeting  
Saginaw Valley State University – Curtiss Hall  
Monday, July 16, 2012  
6:00 PM – 8:29 PM**

**CAG Members Present**

Charles Curtis  
Matthew deHuis  
Leonard Heinzman  
Wendy Kanar  
Rachel Larimore  
Judith Lincoln  
David Meyer  
Laura Ogar  
William Webber  
Bob Wiese

**CAG Members Absent**

Drummond Black  
Michael Kelly  
Ryan Jankowski  
Jeffrey Bulls  
Deborah Huntley  
Janet McGuire  
Joel Tanner  
Paul Vasold

**Ex-Officio Members Present**

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

**Support and Agency Staff Present**

Diane Russell, US EPA  
Mary Breeden, US EPA  
Janelle Pistro, Dow Chemical  
Kim Cousan, Dow Chemical  
Cheryl Howe, MDEQ  
Doug Sarno, facilitator  
Jim Sygo, MDEQ

Doug Sarno called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. Agenda items included:

- Leadership Team Updates
- Remaining 2012 CAG Meeting Calendar
- Project Updates
- Conceptual Site Model
- Introduction to Segment 2

### **1. Leadership Team Update**

An additional leadership team member is still needed to replace Judi Lincoln. Wendy and Deb are working on a draft contract for Doug will move over from EPA contract to a direct contract with the CAG. Wendy is in communication with Brian Zikmund-Fisher at the U of Michigan concerning a future CAG presentation on the community perceptions of dioxin project.

### **2. Remaining 2012 CAG Meeting Calendar**

- There is no August meeting, but a possible tour of Segment 1 is being considered; the tour will be from the bank of the river. Dow will identify possible dates for the tour and let the CAG know.
- The November and December meetings will be combined, with a probable meeting date in December. Doug will poll the membership concerning dates once the fall agenda is clear.
- Mary Logan has talked with EPA staff concerning a future presentation on the National Sediment Cleanup Program; the leadership team will coordinate dates with Mary.

### **3. Project Updates**

**Segment 1 Work for 2012** – Capping in the other two SMAs (Sediment Management Areas) is scheduled for this August. River access was completed in June. Most of the wells have been installed and the majority of them have been tested three times. Five of the wells have identified DNAPL. An additional 15 wells have been installed with a focus to identify location of the DNAPL. This process will continue until sometime in October.

**EPA Community Outreach** – Since the last CAG meeting, the EPA has staffed a booth at two events. One of the EPA's partners, the BCHD, has distributed over 10,000 "Eat Safe Fish" brochures to date; brochures were distributed to WIC clinics, churches, physicians' offices, and various other venues. The FWCC, another of the EPA's partners, has talked with over 1200 fishermen through the efforts of the River Walkers program. Partner agency BCSRA has completed their school program for this year, reaching over 70 classrooms with over 2000 students. Advisory messages are still going out through BCSRA summer programs. The EPA Saginaw office is planning several outreach efforts in the next few months, including the Saginaw County Fair, the

Saginaw Farmers Market, and the Frankenmuth Farmers Market. A CAG member suggested putting a paragraph concerning the cleanup on the Eat Safe Fish brochure.

#### **4. Conceptual Site Model (CSM)**

A CSM is used to test site hypotheses, identify data gaps, and understand areas of critical uncertainties. An initial CSM should be modified as new information becomes available. The Tittabawassee CSM will evolve over time, as needed.

A draft video to describe the Tittabawassee River CSM was prepared by Dow at the EPA's request. The video was screened by the CAG. The CAG was appreciative of the opportunity and thought the video would be very useful. Some specific CAG comments for possible improvements:

- It was not clear how contaminated sediment affects fish.
- The levee information at the beginning was very confusing.
- There were several terms used throughout that could be simplified.
- Consider a slide at the end with links for more information.
- Maybe a different word than "site" should be used in order to be clear about which area is being discussed.
- It will sound better with professional narration.
- Consider adding a timeline for the river.
- The narrator never really made it clear as to why the water was going up and down.
- It might be useful to show it to others with less knowledge of the rivers and cleanup.
- It's important to mention the CAG.

Guest comments included:

- The initial pictures of circles and the descriptor for the period were vague.
- It was focused on the Tittabawassee, but when talking about industrialization, it became "regional".
- Chemical of concern is dioxin, but there were only one or two mentions of dioxins; it was mostly about furans – this suggests an intentional softening.
- Furans are referred to as contaminants; no mention of toxicity or impact on human life.
- What is the purpose of this?
- Comments about coming into contact with soils need to be clarified.

#### **5. Introduction to Segment 2**

Todd Konechne, Dow, introduced Segment 2 with an overview of location, size, and characteristics of the river and surrounding land. Also discussed the focus areas of Segment 2 remedial designs, such as banks and in-channel sediment. Todd summarized previous actions that had taken place within Segment 2. The Reach J pilot cap was installed and estimated to cover approximately 12,000 square feet of river bottom utilizing Geoweb capping technology. Reach O sediment removal, and Reach

J/K bank removal was discussed. Bank Treatment Pilot/Early Actions for Reaches M and O were also discussed; this included canopy management in Reach M and hydro-seeding/coconut blankets in Reach O.

Mary Logan, EPA, discussed how Potential Remedial Actions would be developed for Segment 2. Dow is going to prepare a Segment 2 Response Proposal like they did for Segment 1. The agencies will review the document and Dow will make revisions as appropriate. EPA will then work with MDEQ to select the cleanup option. Selection of the cleanup option is anticipated to occur in the summer/fall of 2013. Cleanup will begin in spring/summer 2014. Public comments will be considered in this process as it has for previous decisions. The CAG can give informal feedback and formal comments during the official public comment period.

The following questions were posed:

CAG: When do you make a decision to go back and redo an area?

Reply: We do regular monitoring take an engineering approach to determine if something is failing to perform as it was designed.

CAG: When you present options, will you provide us with cost estimates?

Reply: Yes. They may be presented as Cost A, Cost B, etc.

CAG: Where do you take the sediment that's removed and do you replace any with clean material?

Reply: It depends on the materials removal and the area. Some of the material went to the Dow landfill and other licensed locations. Sometimes we put clean material back if it is needed, in other cases we let nature fill it in.

CAG: Is Segment 1 work taking place this year?

Reply: Yes, this year and next year.

CAG: How do you intend to approach property owners?

Reply: We anticipate working with the property owners to start developing the relationships needed to get the work done.

CAG: I have an ongoing concern about the green wall and aquatic burrowing animals; this needs to be considered.

Reply: We agree and are considering those things.

CAG: How much of the community outreach is about the actual cleanup activities?

Reply: Our purpose is to educate people about everything we're doing and why; we're trying to get the information out; that's why we have a newsletter.

CAG: Could the CAG do a press release about the cleanup efforts?

Reply (from CAG Leadership): Yes, this is within our purview. The CAG communications committee needs more people and this committee could discuss doing a press release.

Guest: Additional suggestions for community outreach are the Lawnchair Film Festival, Roethke Park, and Ojibway Island events.

Guest: Are there any updates on Sediment Trap assessment promised for the end of this year? Can we expect to hear an update here at the CAG this year?

Reply: We've had dialogue about this; Saginaw River conditions are being assessed. We will share our assessment of sediment traps by the end of this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.