

**Saginaw-Tittabawassee Rivers Contamination CAG
CAG Retreat
Memorial Park, Freeland MI
Monday, January 16, 2017
6:00 PM – 8:30 PM
DRAFT**

CAG Members Present

Peter Bagley
Drummond Black
Leonard Heinzman
Jim Koski
James Krogsrud
Joe Kozumplik
Luis Mulford
Terry Miller
David Sommers
Joel Tanner

CAG Members Absent

Charles Curtiss
Michael Kelly
Laura Ogar
Lee Pavlik
Nancy Pavlik
Bob Wiese
Bryce Wakeman

Support Staff Present

Doug Sarno, Facilitator

Doug Sarno called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Agenda items included:

- Review 2015 Operations and Accomplishments
- CAG Technical Assistance Review
- 2016 Member Recruitment
- 2016 Calendar and Topics
- 2015 Leadership Team and CAG structure

Review of 2016 Operations and Accomplishments

Overall Reflections

- Thomas Township requested an update for their newsletter, David provided this to them.
- It was noted that local townships are not that well informed.
- We also don't see much news in the local papers, they don't seem as interested as they were. It was noted that print journalism is in decline and we are better served by on-line media, though we should still reach out to the papers.
- One CAG member has asked about the baseline levels of dioxin on their property and still have not heard back. The CAG is interested overall on baseline levels of contamination and levels following remediation, and how that informs long-term monitoring and trigger levels for any future action. This is a key topic for 2017.
- The committee felt that by the time we got our technical assistance contractor on board, we felt like we did not have a lot of time left on the public comment period. Actually, the contractor was on board at the beginning of the comment period. It is always a challenge for the CAG to work within the comment period which is 30 days and EPA always extends to 60 days. Often they release the documents early as well. The challenge is that we only meet every other month and need more meetings than that during a comment period. This is why we have the committee process and moved our November meeting forward. On top of that we were using technical assistance for the first time and everyone was still getting used to each other. Overall, the committee was able to put together useful and thoughtful comments.
- We shifted our meeting date to accommodate the comment period and it might be better to understand that in advance in the future rather than do it at the last minute.
- It feels like the community overall does not have the high level of interest in the project they used to have, attendance at public forums is low. The reality is that we are in a mature process, progress is being made and people have accepted the fact that things are moving forward. There are no real controversies anymore. It is during this period that the work of the CAG is more important than ever. The community can look to the CAG as a representative group of citizens who are making sure that the community interests are being represented.
- We are in a routine mode, but the work of the CAG is important to keep community attention on the project.

- The people who are closest to the river at the people who are fishing, there is a big festival each year here in Freeland, does anyone talk about the cleanup there? EPA has been there to talk about the progress. Recreational fisherman are not really all that concerned about the contamination, it does not impact the type of fish being caught.

Communication

- We did not do all that much going on this year, occasional phone calls.
- We do have less of Diane's time this year as she has gotten pulled into the Flint project, so EPA's outreach might be down as well.

CAG Technical Assistance

- Overall working with the contractor was a positive experience, the committee impressed with their report and what they were able to offer. The committee thought the process worked well, and we were able to look at some technical topics in more detail than we could in the past.
- We had a budget overrun and need to make sure it the process works more effectively in the future, but overall it was worked out and we were pleased with the product.
- We also have access to MSU expertise and we should think about engaging them in future issues such as monitoring.
- We established some information and benchmarks that will help us to understand future issues.

2017 Member Recruitment

- Five member terms are expiring in 2017.
 - Drummond Black and Jim Koski are retiring, Doug will reach out to the other three to understand their intentions.
- Two members have not attended any meetings for over a year. The CAG decided to remove Lee and Nancy Pavlik as members of the CAG for failure to comply with attendance requirement. Doug will send them an email to that effect.
- There is currently only one active female member and improving the gender balance is a real need.
- Peter Bagley, and Joel Tanner, and Joe Kozumplik volunteered to serve on the membership committee for 2017.

Calendar and Topics

- The CAG and the community have a lot of questions related to baseline conditions, long-term sampling, monitoring, continuing migration, etc
- The CAG will reach out to MSU on whether they have any resources to help the CAG understand the basic issues related to monitoring.

- Where are we in dioxin toxicology and research? A lot of folks still do not have the basic understanding of what dioxin does and why it is dangerous. What do the great majority of scientists who studied dioxin think about it? What ever happened to EPA's dioxin reevaluation? Do we have access to this information? It was noted that the CAG decided several years ago not to continue to debate the dioxin issue but rather to focus on the cleanup itself, grateful that the decision to cleanup had already been made. However, it was agreed that the CAG could use a refresher on the dangers and affects of dioxin on people and the environment, particularly for newer members of the CAG who have joined since those topics were discussed.
- It was decided to switch the March meeting to the 27th so that Mary Logan can attend and it is hoped that we will be able to discuss the CAG recommendations for segments 4/5
- IT was decided to leave the May meeting on the 15th and invite MSU to provide an update on its programs and perhaps some general information on environmental monitoring if appropriate.

Leadership Team and CAG Structure

- David will continue to serve as President
- Luis will serve as treasurer
- Terry Miller will also join the leadership team

Committee Assignments

- Leadership team for 2017: Dave Sommers, Luis Mulford, and Terry Miller
- Membership committee for 2017: Peter Bagley, and Joel Tanner, and Joe Kozumplik
- There will be no formal Communication committee for 2017

Topics to Pursue at 2016 Meetings

- Long-term monitoring, particularly the technical aspects of how that will be done and how baseline information will be made available and used to make future decisions
- Overview of EPA national sediment cleanup activities
- Army Corps to talk about dredging plans for Saginaw River and Bay and how that will intersect with cleanup
- A tour, particularly to see how remediated areas are responding

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM

Member Terms as of January Retreat 2017

(date in parentheses indicates year the member joined the CAG)

Terms Ending July 2017

Drummond Black (2010)--retiring

Jim Koski (2014)--retiring

Michael Kelly (2010)

Bryce Wakeman (2014)

Bob Weise (2011)

Terms Ending July 2018

Charles Curtiss (2010)

Joe Kozumplik (2015)

Terry Miller (2015)

Luis Mulford (2015)

Laura Ogar (2010)

Terms Ending July 2019

Peter Bagley (2016)

Leonard Heinzman (2010)

James Krogsrud (2013)

David Sommers (2013)

Joel Tanner (2010)

**Saginaw-Tittabawassee Rivers Contamination CAG
Draft 2017 Calendar as of January 2017
All Meetings at Memorial Park**

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

DATE	POTENTIAL TOPICS
<p>January 16, 2017 MONDAY</p> <p>CAG working meeting/ retreat (No ex-officio attendance)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAG 2016 accomplishments and challenges • Technical Assistance Review • CAG Communications, web site • 2017 Leadership Team • Member terms and recruiting new members • Confirm calendar/Potential 2017 topics
<p>March 27, 2017 MONDAY (not on the usual schedule)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General project updates • Retreat results • Membership recruitment update • Segment 4/5 response to CAG comments?
<p>May 15, 2017 MONDAY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General project updates • Membership recruitment update • Introduction to Environmental Monitoring
<p>July 17, 2017 MONDAY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General project updates • New member orientation (pre-meeting) • New Member introductions • Possible tour (conditions permitting)
<p>Sept. 18, 2017 MONDAY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General project updates • Possible tour alternate date
<p>November 13, 2017 MONDAY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General project updates • Summary of 2017 completed work • Expected project work/activities in 2017 and beyond • Preliminary CAG meeting calendar for 2017 • Prepare for CAG 2017 Retreat

Additional Topics and Speakers Desired for 2017:

- Overview of EPA national sediment cleanup activities
- Long-term monitoring
- Army Corps to talk about dredging plans.