



Meeting Summary

Full CAG Meeting

Monday, October 29, 2019, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Thomas Township Public Safety Building

8215 Shields Drive, Saginaw MI

DRAFT

CAG Members Present

Ruth Averill
Larry Brown
Charles Curtiss
James Krogsrud
Luis Mulford
Terry Miller
Mike Nusbaumer
Kevin Quiggle
David Sommers
Virginia Thibodeau
Bob Wiese

CAG Members Absent

Pamella Binder
Merri DeSanto
David Fisher
Michael Kelly
Laura Ogar
Joel Tanner

Ex Officios Present

Mary Logan, USEPA
Todd Konechne, Dow Chemical

Support Staff Present

Diane Russell, EPA
Janelle Pistro, Dow Chemical
Doug Sarno, Facilitator

CAG information, materials, recommendations, meeting summaries, and presentations provided at CAG meetings can be found at: <http://www.saginawcag.org>

David Sommers called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2019 Membership and New Member Inductions

Project Updates

Mary Logan, USEPA presented this information.

Overall Site Progress

Mary provided an overview of the site, 24 miles of lower Tittabawassee, 22 miles of Saginaw River and a portion of Saginaw Bay. The Tittabawassee has been divided into 7 segments beginning with Segment 1 at the Dow Facility in Midland. The first cleanup was proposed in 2011 and cleanup has now been identified for all segments, and completed or begun on all 7 segments. The floodplain was addressed as a whole in 2014 with cleanup beginning in 2015 to address about 4,500 acres in the 8-year floodplain. Not all of the property requires cleanup.

For sediments, EPA has used monitored natural recovery, capping, and removal and disposal as different response actions. For the bank areas EPA has used both stabilization and removal as different response actions.

Mary showed a map summarizing all of the progress at the site through 2018:

- There has been construction at the site every year since 2007
- More than 4,200 gallons of DNAPL were removed
- More than 266,000 cubic yards of soil and sediment were removed and disposed
- 18 total sediment deposits were addressed
- Approximately 7.3 acres of sediment were capped
- Approximately 4.5 miles of river bank stabilized or removed
- Approximately 82 floodplain properties addressed.

2019 Activities

- Construction in along Tittabawassee River
- Additional screening samples in/along Saginaw River
- Middleground Island surface soil sampling almost complete, interim exposure controls in place, some deeper sampling underway

What's next

- Construction in and along Tittabawassee River through 2021, with ongoing post-cleanup monitoring
- Middle island propose and select a cleanup plan in 2020
- Upper Saginaw River (segment 8) will need detailed investigations

Middleground Island

- 8 miles upstream
- 30 acres of residential

- Open trails and parks
- Historical disposal areas
- Proposal expected early 2020 with public comment period
- Cleanup expected to focus on residential area
- Be similar to Tittabawassee River floodplain cleanup, excavate soil and restore yards
- Lafayette Bridge will constrain ability to access the island.

On the Tittabawassee River, there continues to be site-wide monitoring to look at the integrity of cleanups, identify needed maintenance, measure contaminant uptake in biota, and sediment and soil monitoring.

CAG Potential Involvement in 2020

- Middle ground island proposed cleanup plan
- Routine project updates
- Advice to EPA on outreach to Saginaw river community, how to communicate general site information (e.g. monitoring information).

CAG: Can we get the large annual report?

EPA: We will look at how to do that, it is a large file, 800 pages.

CAG: Can we look at more graphical information like the summary map that was shown?

EPA: We agree, we are looking at simple ways to explain how to present information and knowledge.

CAG: Can we see some information on total reduction of dioxin so far since 2007, how can we begin to understand how this is working?

EPA: We continue to do a lot of data collection, much of it is relatively new, we do anticipate going into some of those details next year.

Public: Can we get access to the raw data, especially for scientists who might be wanting to do some studies?

EPA: Much of the data of it is available in our reports, but we do have restrictions on releasing some of the raw data on what we are allowed to release.

Construction Activities in 2019

Todd Konechne, Dow, presented this update

It has been a wet year and the river is at high levels now, and construction has been hindered by this weather.

We had some floodplain properties in segments 4 and 5 which still had to get done and the balance of properties in segment 6. A few properties still remain in Segment 6 primarily because of the weather.

Todd showed some photos of work. The first thing we did is create a road using crane mats so we don't dig up the area too badly. As soil is excavated it is often taken out with small off-road trucks which will then load into on-road trucks and the material is taken to the Dow facility for disposal.

Looking Forward

Proposed 2020 CAG calendar

- Monday January 20, 2020, CAG retreat
- Monday May 18, 2020
- Monday July 13, 2020
- Tuesday October 27, 2020

The CAG will be interested in adjusting the calendar to accommodate the 45 day public comment period for Middleground Island to begin in February. We should know the dates by our January meeting date. The CAG can form a subcommittee in January to look at the proposed plan. EPA expects this to be a fairly straightforward proposal to dig up contaminated areas within the residential properties.

The CAG will explore a late February meeting date to hold a meeting locally on the Middleground Island proposed plan.

Mary Logan noted that somewhere between 25 to 33% of properties on the island will likely be eligible for cleanup, but we want to make sure there are not deeper areas that will need attention as much of the area is built up.

CAG: Can EPA mention the CAG and the role of the CAG in its outreach to the broader public?

EPA: This has not generally been done, the government has to take ownership of the decision, and we can't sanction the CAG as having a special role.

The CAG noted that we might want to hold our meeting closer to the Island. There is a Boys and Girls Club on the island, we will explore that opportunity.

EPA will provide us with more information about the timing and activities of their outreach.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

The next CAG meeting is Monday January 20, 2020.