

Saginaw-Tittabawassee Rivers Contamination CAG
Full CAG Meeting
Memorial Park, Freeland MI
Monday, November 9, 2015
6:00 PM – 8:30 PM
DRAFT

CAG Members Present

Drummond Black
Armando Falcon
Leonard Heinzman
James Krogsrud
Jim Koski
Joe Kozumplik
William Marsrow
Luis Mulford
David Sommers

CAG Members Absent

Charles Curtiss
Michael Kelly
Terry Miller
Laura Ogar
Lee Pavlik
Nancy Pavlik
Joel Tanner
Bryce Wakeman
Bob Wiese

Ex-Officio Members Present

Al Taylor, MDEQ
Mary Logan, EPA
Todd Konechne, Dow Chemical

Support and Agency Staff Present

Kip Cosan, Dow Chemical
Dan Dailey, MDEQ
Janelle Pistro, Dow Chemical
Doug Sarno, Facilitator

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

- EPA Project updates
- CAG Planning

Copies of all meeting summaries and presentations are available at www.saginawcag.com.

Materials and additional information on the Dow Chemical Site including all presentations from CAG meetings are also available at the EPA web site at <http://www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/dowchemical/cag.htm>

1. EPA Updates

Todd Konechne, Dow provided the update on field activities for 2015.

Segment 2

Segment 2 Bank Management Areas (BMAs) 2-6, 2-7, 2-8 all were all completed this year. Work also began on BMA 3-1 in segment 3, which is located near a Bald Eagle nest, and this allowed work to get done during the period when the eaglets were gone from the nest.

At this point, there is a good deal of experience in doing this work and implementation of the bank management activities has become fairly routine. Work includes canopy management, bank clearing and shaping, stabilization, stone toe protection and seeding with native vegetation. Todd showed a number of photographs of the various stages of work in progress.

CAG Question: What is the slope of the banks? We try to get it below 40 degrees, that is typical of the stable banks along the river.

Floodplain

This is the first year of floodplain cleanup activities. We conducted incremental composite sampling in Segment 2, and began some floodplain property cleanups. Also initiated sampling in Segment 3 and some in Segment 4. 60 to 90 cores are taken per decision unit and combined into a single sample for testing.

Two maintained properties were identified for cleanup in Segment 2. Approximately a foot of soil is removed from the property and taken back to Dow for storage/disposal. The area is then backfilled with clean soil and hydroseeded.

CAG Question: Did you run into any drainfields that had to be replaced? Not in the two areas in Segment 2, we will try to avoid drainfields if possible.

CAG Question: Have you noticed any reduction in the amount of sediment coming down after storms? Our goal is not to reduce sediment loading, and have not measured that. Modeling shows that the majority of the sediment comes from upriver which is why we are progressing cleanup from upriver to downriver. We primarily do cleanups at boat launches, as they get the most sediment deposits and we do clean those out. Now that we are progressing in our cleanup, we will begin doing long-term monitoring of sediments to measure the levels of contaminants in these sediments.

CAG Question: How many private property owners are in Segment 2? 50-60 decision units. A single property could be divided into multiple decision units. There are only a few maintained properties in segment 2, so not many were sampled. Still reviewing data from other properties in Segment 2.

CAG Question: How are the banks that have been stabilized holding up? Started doing pilots in 2008, so we have a fair number of examples over a number of years and they are holding up well. Different conditions will affect the work, particularly dry seasons for getting vegetation established.

Project Summary and CAG 2016 Involvement

Mary Logan provided this overview, looking back at the continuous project activities since 2007.

2015 activities completed

- Segment 2 completed
- Floodplain cleanup started
- Segment 3 cleanup proposal out

2016 planned activities

- Finalize Segment 3 decision and begin Segment 3 cleanup
- Continue Floodplain cleanup
- Propose cleanup plans for Segments 4 and 5
- Monitoring of completed activities

Overall work will continue on the sediments, banks, and floodplain soils from upstream to downstream.

Segments 4 and 5 will be combined to take advantage of the similarities of the activities and the complexity of the administrative process for making individual decisions. The decision will be made together, but implementation will proceed as individual segments. We expect SMA and BMA options to be the same as have been seen in the past. Segment 3 marks about the halfway point of the Tittabawassee.

CAG activities will include input to Segment 4 and 5 proposal. EPA does not see any other key activity in 2016.

EPA expects the decisions on Segments 6 and 7 to be a few years down the road.

CAG Question: Are the upstream cleanup experiences helping you understand what you are finding downstream? In general yes, this has been helpful.

CAG Question: Are all BMAs on Segment 3 on private property? Yes, except 3-1 which was begun this year.

2. CAG Planning

the CAG meeting calendar for 2016 was approved, all meetings to be held at Memorial Park:

January 11, 2016 Monday (CAG retreat, no technical topics)
March 22, 2016 Tuesday
May 16, 2016 Monday
July 18, 2016 Monday
September 19, 2016 Monday
November 21, 2016 Monday

Plan for seeking technical support under TAP

- The recommendations committee believed that it would be helpful to have access to a technical advisor who would be available to assist the CAG on key technical issues where an independent perspective is important.
- Dow will provide guidelines on how the money can be accessed.
- There are some legal limitations on the technical assistance that can be paid under the TAP, Mary will provide further information for the January meeting.
- At its January retreat, the CAG will identify the topics we most want advice on as we move forward, as always it will be important to focus on areas where the CAG has an opportunity to provide meaningful input.
- A Technical Assistance Committee will oversee this effort, Luis and Drummond volunteered, and we will seek one more.

Prepare for CAG 2016 Retreat

- Key topic will be to plan for the technical assistance needs and how to contract a consultant.
- EPA identified the opportunity for having a national spokesman on sediment projects around the country to attend a CAG meeting in 2016.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15