

**Saginaw-Tittabawassee Rivers Contamination CAG
CAG Retreat
Memorial Park, Freeland MI
Monday, January 11, 2016
6:00 PM – 8:30 PM
DRAFT**

CAG Members Present

Drummond Black
Leonard Heinzman
Michael Kelly
James Krogsrud
Joe Kozumplik
William Marsrow
Luis Mulford
Terry Miller
Laura Ogar
David Sommers
Bryce Wakeman

CAG Members Absent

Charles Curtiss
Armando Falcon
Jim Koski
Lee Pavlik
Nancy Pavlik
Joel Tanner
Bob Wiese

Support Staff Present

Doug Sarno, Facilitator

Doug Sarno called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. Agenda items included:

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

Review of 2015 Operations and Accomplishments

- We seem to have a good process, things are working smoothly.
- Last year we put a focus on information and improving the web site as a source of information, that seems to be working better, people are seeing our website, Google searches do get you to it quickly. Flyers and magnets are being shared.
- Do we get any analytics on the website? No but we will check into that to see how many folks are using it.
- Facebook: need to check it out to see how it is set up, if it is not open posting then just leave it alone, if it is open posting we need to change that as we do not have the resources to monitor it.

Comments from New Members

- Useful to see the presentations, sometimes the acronyms are a little scary.
- Newsletters need some acronym guides.
- It is good to be able to interact with the EPA, as someone who lives on the river it is great to see what is going on and have a process to work as a community to discuss any issues.
- It's been educational, need to make sure we work out our issues well amongst ourselves.
- It would be good to be able to reach out more to communities.
- Still want to see sediment traps, better monitoring of contaminant concentrations over time.
- As a riverfront owner, it has been very beneficial to me and to my neighbors who have been asking me questions.
- The tour was very helpful and should be repeated again this year.

Other Comments

- EPA has done a good job of bringing the communication down to more layman's terms, EPA is getting better at simplifying the information.
- USFWS needs to get involved in environmental work that is happening on the river, they need to know that they are needed.
- Would like to see the Army Corps come out and talk to us about dredging.
- Would like to see Lisa Williams and other trustees come talk to us about the status NRDA projects.
- Would like to have some interaction with the folks who were here from the Pine River to provide them some level of support, to the effect of "thanks for coming and we hope to communicate with you over time".

- The Rock Reef state-wide project is ongoing, and a Michigan DNR Fisheries expert noted that they know nothing about the cleanup project, there is a lot of spawning that happens in the Tittabawassee.

Communications

- Web page is updated with upcoming activities.
- WE should drop the link to EPA calendar, keep the link to the EPA site so folks can go there.
- The only calendar should be the CAG calendar.
- Special reports or presentations.
- We need to improve our process to make sure we are getting the presentations from EPA at the end of each meeting.
- Need to make sure that we have backups of everything.
- Did materials get to the public libraries? This was requested in our last recommendation.
- Do we understand the demographics of our community, there are a lot of seniors out there who do not use the internet very much.
- What role should the CAG play? A list of FAQs would be helpful. People are concerned about beach safety, there is a need to tell the story of this watershed

Update of the CAG Charter

- The CAG charter update was approved as amended to correct minor errors. The revised charter is posted to the CAG website.

CAG Technical Assistance

- Should have options to look at that everyone can see, and probably pick a single firm or person for simplicity sake.
- What sort of person are we looking for? Sediments for sure, need someone broad enough but be able to focus in on our specific challenges.
- Need to make sure there is no conflict of interest.
- Doug to provide a list of possible firms, any others who have ideas should share them with the committee.
- Will ask MSU to be on the March agenda to talk about technical support options.
- Committee will present a basic approach to selection in March, possible choices in May, have someone on board by July.

2016 Member Recruitment

- Len, Jim, and Dave were present and renewed their memberships for another term.
- Doug will check with Armando and Joel to identify their intentions.
- Dave will check in with the Pavliks regarding Lee's health.

Committee Assignments

- Drummond, Dave, and Bryce will remain on the leadership team for 2016.
- Bryce and Terry will serve on the membership committee for 2016.

- Drummond, Luis, and Terry will serve on the technical assistance committee.
- Dave, Laura, and Bryce will serve on the Communication committee.

Action Items

- Communication Committee will put an FAQ system together to bring to the March meeting, everyone is invited to share questions with the committee.
- The technical support committee will present a basic approach to selection of a contractor in March, possible choices by May, have someone on board by July.
- Laura will send names to check with Al Taylor on the level of cooperation with DNR Fisheries regarding Rock Reef project.
- Laura will draft a letter to the Pine River folks, Doug will distribute for comments
- Doug will check in with Armando regarding the Facebook page.
- Doug will check in with Diane to make sure we have a process to get all of the presentations from EPA at the end of each meeting.
- Doug will check in with Diane as to how materials got to the public libraries during the last comment period.
- Doug will provide a list of possible firms for community technical support, any others who have ideas should share them with the committee.

Topics to Pursue at 2016 Meetings

- Overview of EPA national sediment cleanup activities
- NRDA program and activities
- Long-term monitoring
- Update on MSU programs, CAG/MSU interactions
- Army Corps to talk about dredging plans.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15