

**Saginaw-Tittabawassee Rivers Contamination CAG
Summary of Full CAG Meeting
Saginaw Valley State University – Curtiss Hall
Monday, May 19, 2014
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

CAG Members Present

Drummond Black
Charles Curtiss
Leonard Heinzman
Deborah Huntley
Michael Kelly
James Krogsrud
Judith Lincoln
David Meyer
Laura Ogar
David Sommers
Bob Wiese

CAG Members Absent

Jeffrey Bulls
Armando Falcon
Ryan Jankowski
Frank Kuszak
Rachel Larimore
Donna Mallonee
Joel Tanner
Brian Thomas
Paul Vasold
William Webber

Ex-Officio Members Present

Todd Konechne, Dow Chemical
Al Taylor, MDEQ

Support and Agency Staff Present

Cheryl Howe, MDEQ
Janelle Pistro, Dow Chemical
Tim Prendiville, US EPA
Diane Russell, US EPA
Doug Sarno, facilitator

Doug Sarno called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM. Agenda items included:

- CAG Updates
- Segment 2 Phase I Cleanup Plans
- Floodplain Outreach

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. CAG Updates

Norbert Kaminiski, MSU, has some funding in the program to reach out to the public, the CAG has discussed with him opportunities to work together to help make these efforts as efficient as possible. The Leadership Team is in conversation with him about potential activities. Professor Kaminski will likely attend the next meeting to discuss their activities.

Membership. The press release went out in early April. It is not clear which outlets actually reported.

The membership committee recommended accepting the membership application of Jim Koski, retired Saginaw County Director of Public Works. The CAG voted unanimously to add Jim as a member.

Dan Lavalet has also expressed interest in becoming a CAG member. He lives on the river, is a retired engineer from Dow, and was a previous applicant for membership. The CAG will ask Dan to submit a formal application. Bob Weise will call him on behalf of the membership committee.

The Membership Committee will conduct an additional push to identify new members in time for the July meeting.

It was decided that the July 21 meeting will consist of a tour at 4:00 leaving and returning at the Caldwell Boat Launch with a 6:30 meeting to be held at Memorial Park in Freeland.

2. Segment 2 Phase I Cleanup Plans

Todd Konechne, Dow Chemical, provided the update.

- 5 Sediment Management Areas (SMAs) total, 2 already completed through pilot activities (SMAs 2-1 and 2-2, both with geoweb caps are completed), 3 remaining to be addressed during 2014. SMA 2-3 will be the first to be done, 650 feet long.
- 7 Bank Management Areas (BMAs), 2 already completed through pilot activities, 3 of the remaining 5 to be conducted during 2014. BMA 2-4 will be first, 350 feet long.
- BMAs 2-6 and 2-7 are scheduled for 2015.

CAG question: Are these activities next to Dow property? On the east side only. Near BMA 2-4 is next to private property, working with property owner for access.

Selected Remedies and Schedule

- SMA 2-1, 2-2, monitor and maintain existing caps
- SMA 2-3, dry removal using sheetpile, starts June 19
- SMA 2-4, dry removal using sheetpile and geoweb/armor stone capping in areas with low levels of contamination, starts August 1
- SMA 2-5, geoweb capping, starts August 1
- BMA 2-1 and 2-2, monitor and maintain bank treatments
- BMA 2-3, bank treatment and stabilizations, August 1
- BMA 2-4, bank treatment and stabilizations, mid August
- BMA 2-5, bank treatment and stabilizations, early September

CAG question: What is the armor stone cap? 8 to 10 inches of stone, 3-6" in diameter. Will maintain elevations through excavation. Deeper excavations will be backfilled partially with clean material salvaged from operations and remaining will fill in with deposition.

Sediments will be dewatered and moved by truck to an approved landfill.

BMA treatment and stabilization includes canopy management, cleaning up undesirable vegetation and then revegetation with native species. Toe treatment could include armor stone to protect against erosion. Seeking a deep rooted vegetated bank with natural plants.

CAG question: How are the discussions with private property owners going? Dow was able to get access agreements from two property owners for both river access and to access banks from the river. Working to minimize impact on the property owners.

CAG question: What is the schedule to have all of the work complete? Most of it will be complete this season by October, two BMAs in 2015 plus will be doing floodplain work next season.

CAG question: On the cobble field shown in SMA 2-4, is that new contamination? We don't know if there is contamination in there or not because it is not penetrable, but it is an area that is already well protected by the cobble stone so we are seeking to fit that into the overall remedy.

3. Floodplain Outreach

Diane Russell provided the presentation. There was a lot of interest at the CAG Retreat regarding outreach activities and results from 2013. Detailed results of the outreach that were presented at the November 2013 CAG meeting are on the EPA website.

2013 outreach goals were to understand community values, desires for future conditions, tradeoffs, and additional information desired. Held many small group meetings and attended scheduled meetings of existing community groups. EPA tiered stakeholders according to the degree to which they were impacted by the cleanup. Property owners were identified by comparing property tax information against the 8-year floodplain boundary maps. EPA held 21 meetings with Tier 1 groups, 4 meetings with Tier 2 stakeholders, no meetings with Tier 3 stakeholders, and reached out to all local officials. EPA advertised to all stakeholders that they could request a meeting if they were interested.

Outreach activities included:

- EPA fact sheet created and mailed,
- Multiple invitations mailed to property owners, updated mailing lists based on returned mail
- Called over half of all invitees to inform them of meetings
- Two additional meetings were broadly advertised
- One-on-one meetings with Park and Rec Departments managing property along the river and the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge
- Developed a variety of materials to assist the conversations.

Public input included:

- Overall, people want to keep natural and undeveloped areas, or make them even more natural
- Flexibility in future land use is important, limiting development in floodplain also important
- Preserving, protecting, and improving ecosystem, with a focus on contaminated areas
- Get on with the cleanup, address highly used public areas first
- Folks split on belief in options that rely on monitoring and maintenance, want EPA to rely less on these in highly used areas
- Community and workers must be protected during construction, construction impacts are acceptable if the community gets the results it desires.

In addition to the floodplain, EPA continued efforts to inform the community about cleanup work and site-related advisories, including the EPA newsletter.

Floodplain outreach goals for 2014:

- Inform owners about the floodplain cleanup proposal
- Share materials at both formal and small informal meetings
- Obtain input on the proposed plan
- Keep property owners informed about the cleanup process
- Newsletter will be used to announce upcoming decision, fact sheet on proposed plan, more graphical and map materials, and a floodplain FAQ
- Looking for ways to also use social media, potentially using twitter and the CAG Facebook page
- Target groups include property owners, elected officials, CAG, Tribe, and other groups.

Comment period to begin in August, end in October.

A CAG article for EPA newsletter would be due in October.

CAG question: What were some of the lessons learned from the outreach last year? The small meetings worked pretty well, phone calls were more challenging. Looking to maybe use doorhangers to get some more direct communication. Building the database of homeowners from last year was also very effective, have gotten a much better understanding of who really has property on the river.

Public question: What social media tools? EPA has Facebook and Twitter accounts so are exploring the use of those. The big challenge is promoting it.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.