

Focusing Forward

Ann Arbor Community Engagement

Prepared by Jerry Jennings
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"The exercise of civic leadership is often viewed as an individualistic endeavor designed to further one's desires about what should be done to address concerns affecting us all. A much more appropriate view for the 21st century would be to reframe it as sharing responsibility for acting together in pursuit of the common good."

David D. Chrislip and Ed O'Malley

The Overarching Goal this Plan Strives to Achieve

Working with the MDEQ, local government authorities, industry parties involved and concerned citizens to come together and invest in:

- being a full partner in a diverse group of leaders and stakeholders who are open and willing to work together, over a reasonable amount of time, and who will build constructive relationships and engage in generative and relational dialogues
- a network of equal standing, with an honest intent that this work will lead to shared understandings and, ultimately, fresh and valuable ideas for the common good related to the Gelman dioxane plume and recommendations for action
- continuing into the future in the interest of the community without outside facilitation

Phase One - Planning, Selection and Interviewing

As a result, the group generated will have a high possibility of reaching these four desired outcomes:

- **We will come to a common understanding of what we know and what we do not know related to the Gelman dioxane plume**
- **We will foster circumstances in which differing perspectives reveal innovative paths forward related to the Gelman dioxane plume**
- **We will bring value to the community and possibly the state in multiple unknown areas through shared efforts**
- **This group will continue on into the future, in service to the community, without outside facilitation**

The facilitator and scribe conduct the private interviews of each invited person before the first meeting of the group. At the interview, the facilitator will:

- explain the overview of the group's planned process
- determine if the individual's level of understanding and commitment is present and strong enough to join others in this work in pursuit of the common good
- ask the invited person to explain their motivation for being part of the group
- explain the group's ground rules and ask for agreement to follow them

This interview will determine final acceptance into the group upon approval of the MDEQ director or his or her designee.

Phase Two - *The Retreat*

1. The project's first meeting will be a retreat-style event occurring during the workweek for three days and two nights, or two days and one night, or some other arrangement that we would agree upon to allow the members to begin to know each other and understand the collective nature of the work ahead.
 - a. This first meeting will provide members with an opportunity to:
 1. get to know each other as people and as stakeholders
 2. commit to ground rules for how we will spend our time together
 3. engage in generative and relational dialogues
 - i. around what we know and don't about the situation with the plume and associated issues
 - ii. to begin to explore what we want to know about the plume and associated issues
 - iii. to possibly explore and define a preferred shared future regarding the plume and associated issues (yet time may not allow at this first meeting)
 4. socialize by eating meals together, possibly attending one or two afternoon receptions
 5. co-create a plan for the next meeting and future meetings of this group (knowing that when people applied, each member understood that the group would meet monthly until the development of a recommendation for action came together)

Phase Three - *Monthly Conversations with Facilitation*

Phase Four - *Continuing Without Outside Facilitation*

Time Frame for this Project

The following projections are just that. They may be on or off target in relation to what may unfold.

- One to four months of planning before announcing a request for members (September – December 2016)
- Three weeks to two months for application and interview process (January – February 2017)
- Five to ten months of the group members actively working together to reach the fresh and valuable plans for the common good related to the Gelman plume and the development of specific recommendations for action for the MDEQ (March – December 2017)

Note: The range of these projections is from seven months to sixteen months or more.