

**Citizen's Advisory Workgroup (CAWG) Meeting Summary
January 21, 2020 {Final 2/11/2020}**

Attendees:

Patty Baldwin	Kenneth Harvey	Kelly Ploehn
William Barnett	Theresa Landrum	Bob Potocki
A. J. Birkbeck	Arnie Leriche	Randy Rothe
Connie Boris	David Lipscomb	Christina Schroeder
Daniel Brown	Deb MacKenzie-Taylor	Steve Sliver
Daniel Buyze	Susan Manente	Tony Spaniola
William Creal	Renaë Mata	Betsy Wasilevich
Jennifer Carney	Lynn McIntosh	Aaron Weed
Jeff Dutton	Pam McQueer	David Winn
Kory Groetsch	Gary Pettyjohn	Sandy Wynn-Stelt

The attached presentation was used to help facilitate the discussion.

Meeting Summary

Michigan's Industrial Pretreatment Program (IPP), PFAS Source Control Approach:

Carla Davidson Water Resources Division (WRD), Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE0 Regional Pretreatment Program Specialist gave the CAWG a presentation on Michigan's initiative IPP to PFAS. Carla provided some background on the IPP program which regulated under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. PFOS and PFOA are the 2 PFAS that currently have water quality standards (WQS). She discussed the initiative focus was to find sources through the Wastewater Treatment Plants evaluating industrial users and shared types of sources identified thus far. Carla explained WRD's strategy for prioritizing, source control findings and results, and the ongoing requirements of the initiative.

Scientific data continues to be researched to determine if WQS changes are warranted.

Media transfer is a continuous concern that MPART's Treatment Technology Workgroup is currently researching.

Private septic systems are an area that needs to be evaluated.

MPART Update:

Steve provided an update on the 3 public hearings that were held on the proposed Maximum Contamination Levels (MCLs). Common themes were heard amongst the hearings.

Dan Brown who attended the Ann Arbor session complimented EGLE staff on how the hearing was handled. He provided feedback on the consensus from his community regarding concerns on cleaning up the Huron River and the gap of the analytic limit there is with the EPA limit. Dan also mentioned the growing concern of a dermal exposure study released and the potential impacts of exposure from river water. Kory Groetsch with Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) offered to review the article to put it in context. Here is the link to the mentioned article:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0278691520300016>.

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Lynn MacIntosh expressed concern as to how often the MCLs will be reviewed and update. Steve acknowledged the importance of keeping up on the science and the need for having a routine schedule for reviewing the standards.

Steve responded to questions related to notifications to inform municipalities and others that have detectable levels of PFAS. The dated toolkits for schools and communities have been removed from the PFAS Response website. There are roughly 70 water supplies that have detections with results above 10 ppt of 14 compounds, supplies are provided all of the data/lab reports and have been doing quarterly monitoring. The Drinking Water staff are working to develop some form of communication to help with awareness of the detections. DHHS, Local Health, and EGLE, have been in communication with the local supplies for the past year regarding these detections of the proposed health-based values. The following 3 documents have been generated and posted on DHHS and the PFAS Response website:

- [Overview of Michigan's Screening Levels and MCL's for PFAS](#)
- [Quick Guide to Michigan's Screening Levels and MCL's for PFAS](#)
- [Understanding the Risk: What's Behind the Number?](#)

Steve provided a brief update on the: AFFF collection effort, [Middleground Landfill](#) in Bay County was the 75th site to go live, the lawsuit filing, and the December 17th meeting summary became final.

Sue Manente summarized CAWG member feedback to the questions posed on ways to improve community meetings. One comment that will be immediately implemented is to provide a demo of the PFAS Response website, so people are aware what information and tools are out there. Sue would like more information on the following suggestions to clarify the meaning:

- Early progress meeting to discuss soft issue and opinions on impact.
- Order of presentations at community meetings.

Tony Spaniola suggested when reports or studies are going to be discussed at community events, it would be helpful to have access to those documents prior to the meeting by emailing them to the CAWG as well as posting them online.

Information Sharing:

Prior to the December 17th CAWG meeting, Steve provided members a draft document laying out information on how information is shared seeking suggested recommendations from the group. Steve asked members if anybody was interested in taking primary authorship of working with the CAWG to draft CAWG recommendations on what and how information should be shared. Christina Schroeder volunteered to assist with this task. Steve and Christina will start working on a new draft for the CAWG to comment on.

Steve asked the group if they had specific ideas on information that should be sent to the group routinely. Tony expressed a community concern of the perception that the polluter has more information than the public. The community feels like they are the last to know and not informed until information is final. Tony asked for a review of process with polluters potentially withholding information from the community by keeping information as "draft." Steve acknowledge MPART's disappointment with type of gamesmanship and is following up on this concern.

Arnie Leriche concurred with Tony's concern and suggested that the state agencies should provide ground rules, FOIA requirements are i.e., what information can be shared and why some information can't be released specifically related to military sites.

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Dan Brown suggested that anytime information can be shared with members prior to information being release to the public would be beneficial for members to help in communities.

Tony expressed appreciation of the CAWG briefing with the Polly Synk on the lawsuit filing, however suggested that the department look at the media release policy and procedures to help prevent negative community impact. Tony also asked if the MCLs are promulgated will regulated and non-regulated analyte results be shared. Steve stated that we would like to get as much information out as we can, however at minimum homeowners and supplies are already getting their individual reports which includes all analytes and with an explanation of what they mean. Steve will circle back with the drinking water workgroup to determine what information can be posted on the web.

Community Sharing Round Robbin:

Due to some audio difficulties there were challenges with this portion of the meeting. The following were additional concerns raised:

- Other states having different regulations on PFAS chemicals than Michigan does not. Steve added that this is the outcome of EPA's lack of leadership on these regulations. Michigan will continue to approach this using data and science to guide Michigan's standards.
- Awareness to understand interactions between EGLE and the National Guard and the roles, specifically related to the Grayling area. Steve suggested working with the MPART team to help clarify this better. Grayling Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) holds monthly meetings in that community. For more information on the Grayling RAB click [here](#). Dates of future meeting can also be found on the MPART public meeting [calendar](#).
- Lynn MacIntosh has offered to keep a list for the CAWG of remaining questions and concerns of potential issues to be address.
- Aaron Weed provided information on his community engagement over the last few months with firefighting gear companies about the PFAS that is in the gear. Documents have been submitted to the Air Force trying to get them to pay for the storm sewer, still waiting for a response.

Future Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2020 6:00 – 7:30

Homework:

Email agenda topic ideas for future meetings to Kelly Ploehn PloehnK@Michigan.gov and Steve Sliver SliverS@Michigan.gov

Troubleshooting Audio for Future Meetings:

With limited information on the exact details of how members are connecting and devices used for connecting to the webinar meetings, the following are helpful hints that may prevent future issues:

- Members can preregister for the webinar at any time prior to the meeting once the link has been provided.
- The best way to participate virtually is to use a computer and a USB headset that is equipped with a microphone.
- When connecting using a computer and using a phone for the audio, make sure to enter the provided audio pin which is normally displayed on the top right of the screen.
- If using a mobile device, downloading the GoToWebinar app is recommended for joining the webinar.

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Event information per Tony:

Registration link for the symposium at the University of California at Berkeley on February 7, 2020, entitled "FLAME RETARDANT & PFAS DILEMMA," <https://greensciencepolicy.org/the-flame-retardant-dilemma-and-beyond-2020/>

February 19, 2020 screening at 7pm at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor (i.e., the night before the PBB-PFAS Symposium) of the film "*No Defense*." The film is about the Department of Defense's PFAS response (or lack thereof) in communities across the country, with a specific focus on Oscoda, as the first PFAS military site in the world. Here's a link to a trailer for the film: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RHe_95y87WY

The registration link for the symposium at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor on February 20, 2020, entitled "From PBB to PFAS: Research and Action to Address Michigan's Large Scale Chemical Contaminations," <https://events.umich.edu/event/68807>