

**McLouth Steel Superfund Site
Community Advisory Group Workshop
November 14, 2019
Summary of Process Suggestions from Meeting Attendees**

EPA held a workshop on Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 to provide more information to the community about Community Advisory Groups. EPA provided information about how these groups operate, discussed different approaches to form the groups and gathered input from attendees on key questions that will help inform next steps.

The following is a summary of the input provided by participants on those questions.

What groups/interests should participate?

- Downriver Walleye Federation
- Brownfield authorities
- Community groups; Gross Ile Nature and Land Conservancy
- City of Wyandotte interested persons
- Who should NOT be on the CAG: anyone who stands to profit monetarily from the cleanup and future use of the land (private corporations)
- How do we get people who applied for Superfund involved in CAG?
- Local businesses
- The group must reflect all levels of government with a stake or involvement in this project. It must not get overrun by special interests (supported by 5 people)
- Friends of the Detroit River
- Average citizens who will live there long after the cleanup is done - should not have to be in a group
- Local fishing groups
- Friends of Detroit River; Sierra Club; International Wildlife Refuge reps
- Community residents (Trenton, GI, Riverview); immediate community business owners; local environmental group reps; NOT parties who have financial interest in the private company
- Being an elected official is not/should not guarantee a seat on the CAG
- Ordinary citizens
- NOT the ole boys' club
- People who want to be involved
- Trenton, Riverview, Gross Ile residents
- Grosse Ile civic associations

How should we choose representatives?

- Existing group model
- Core group
- Existing group and core group
- Representation from Gross Ile, Trenton, and Riverview

- Methods for establishing membership: existing group model, self-selecting group model
- Core group
- NOT local government; EXISTING group model (I cofounded Trenton Visionaries, which has done tons of outreach already); SELF-SELECTING (but is super ambitious as to who that is); MOST POSSIBLE: Core group (as EPA already has the database of those showing interest)
- Existing group model with liberty to invite others who need representation or who could bring helpful resources or perspectives not present yet

What issues should we address?

- Superfund site is in boundary of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (USFWS) Department of Interior
- Detroit River and Trenton Channel already on area of concern under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Annex 2 (Action Plan III)
- Detroit River ADC has a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study already in progress for 30 years (GLLA/GLRI/Clean Michigan Initiative)
- Balance Environmental Interest (Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge - Comprehensive Conservation Plan)
- Can Detroit River (Trenton Channel) and Public Advisory Council work with CAG? The PAC has been in place since 1993
- Full disclosure of property owners' plans and end goal for redevelopment. Transparency would require full disclosure prior to EPA decisions
- Endangered species in the area?
- Feasibility objective measure and clearly defined timeline
- The Detroit Rivers International Wildlife Refuge has 14 Beneficial Use Improvements (BUI), and they are well documented
- Is delisting a site from NPA synonymous with delisting a BUI or Area of Concern?
- Does Superfund pre-empt the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement or the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative?
- Disturbing chemicals lodged in soil by dredging
- Making sure cleanup is objective for feasibility
- Clean up to current zoning
- Mixed use zoning clean up standards vs. alternatives
- Trenton Coast Resiliency Master Plan
- Feasibility cleanup to mixed use
- Involving community in influencing negotiations with landowner to meet cleanup standards; using zoning current to determine cleanup; seek and find people to commit - will be difficult, especially since some people are members of multiple groups
- Ensure thorough investigation of contaminants on site
- Provide details to public of differences between industrial and non-industrial remediation and difference of cost
- Development before feasibility study and liability for accidents

- Purpose of cleanup: priority to protect; environment, habitat, and residential community when decisions are made for feasibility and future use
- Disclosure and explanation of all known pollution (chemicals) on the site; discussion and education about the levels of pollution on the site for cleanup to non-residential and residential standards

How can we ensure that information transfers between CAG and the community?

- CAG representatives present quarterly at each city's council meeting
- Bulk mail to all residents
- Organized canvassing
- Information sharing needs to be on a secure site - not Facebook
- Social media
- Rep of Press on CAG
- Door-to-door, social media, press releases, website, public forums
- How does Superfund (EPA) interpose with GLNPO (Great Lakes National Program Office/Region V, EPA)? Is there a duplication of effort?
- Do Superfund and Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) overlap?
- What regulates the transition from Superfund cleanup to site development? Corps permits; EGLE permits; other regulations? Coastal Zone Management?
- Does the Detroit River Remedial Action Plan (RAP) have remedial investigation and feasibility study? These are already in progress over last 30 years and funded under GLRI.
- How do CAG and PAC work together? PAC is the Public Advisory Council; Detroit River Area of Concern/Remedial Action Plan
- The Great Lakes Legacy Act and GLRI already provide Remedial Design/Remedial Action for shoreline infrastructure

What ground rules would be helpful?

- Majority rules
- Does the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge qualify for TAG (Technical Assistance Grants)?
- Send stories on letters to local papers as needed
- Be able to show up for most meetings
- Attendance should be reliable
- All meetings open to the public
- All comments in meetings on the record (no private comments at meetings)
- Transparency
- No gag rules

Other Considerations:

- Rotating meetings in impacted communities (Trenton, Riverview, Grosse Ile)
- Central location of meetings with notice of meets where non members can watch

- READ community advisory group toolkit before next meeting
- Feasibility tests and zoning for highest and best possible use