



# Community Advisory Group Informational Meeting

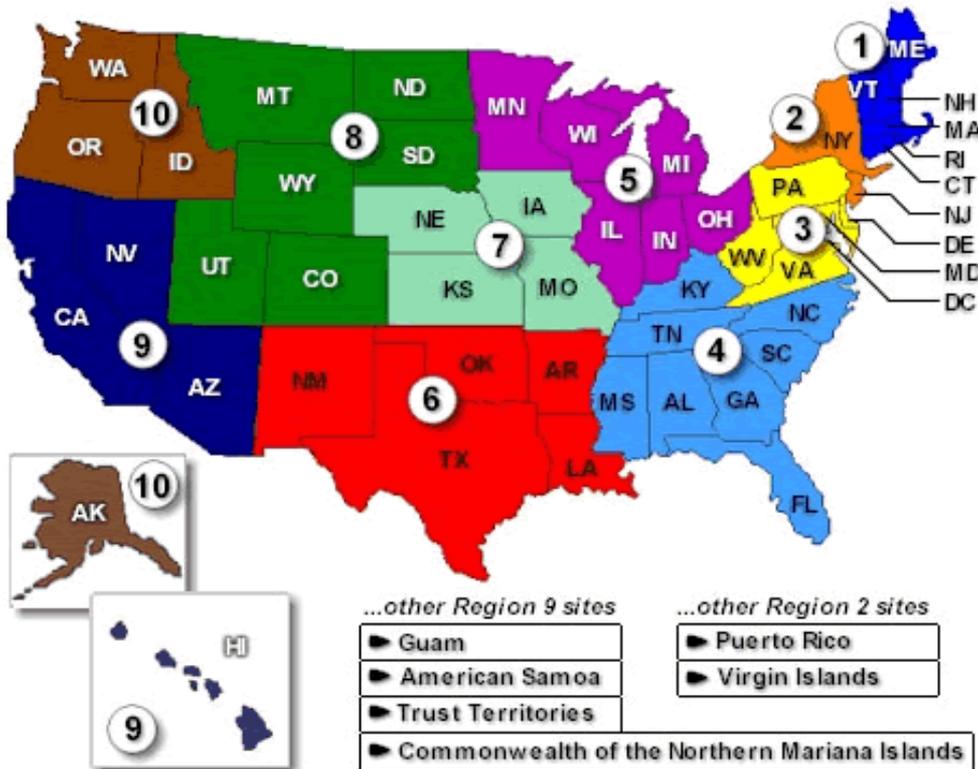
Kent County District Library  
Plainfield Township Branch  
April 18, 2019

# Agenda



- Introduction – EPA & Community Engagement
- What is a CAG?
- Elements and Membership of CAGs
- Status of the Wolverine CAG
- Next Steps

# Who We Are



## U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 Superfund Program

- Serving Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin and 35 Tribes
- Regional Offices  
Chicago, IL

# Community Involvement Coordinators (CICs)



- assigned to specific projects to assist communities in their interaction with EPA
- ensure technical staff is aware of issues that concern the public in relation to the work EPA is doing
- as liaisons between technical project managers and the community, CICs provide opportunities for two-way communication throughout the life of a project.





# On the Ground



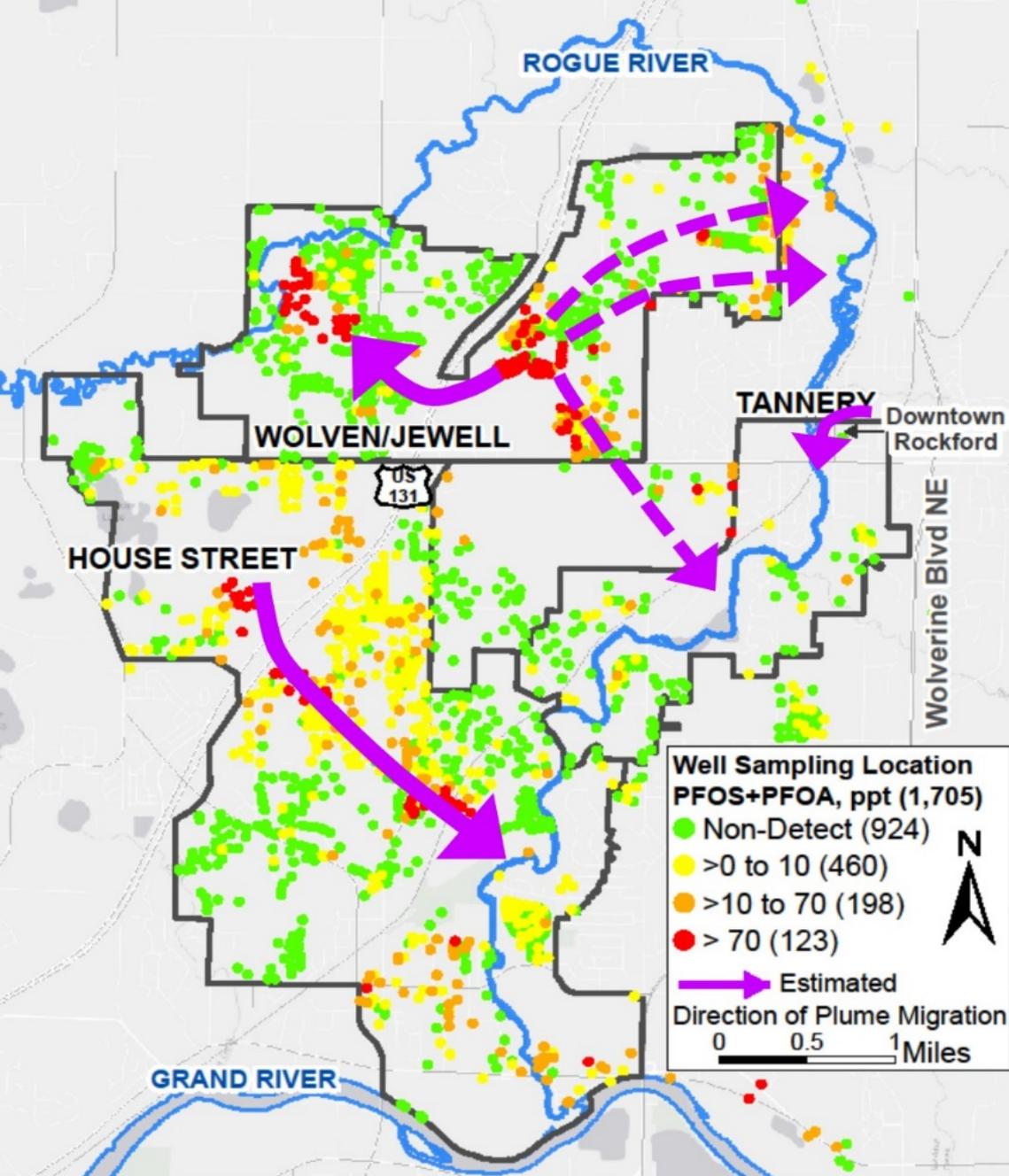
**Listen**

**Collaborate**

**Communicate**

**Educate**





## Wolverine World Wide Tannery

- Investigations underway
  - MDEQ leading PFAS investigation
  - EPA investigating metals, VOCs/SVOCs

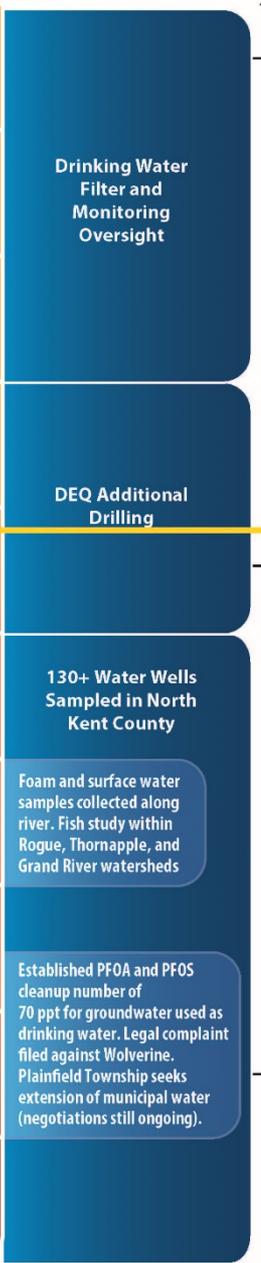
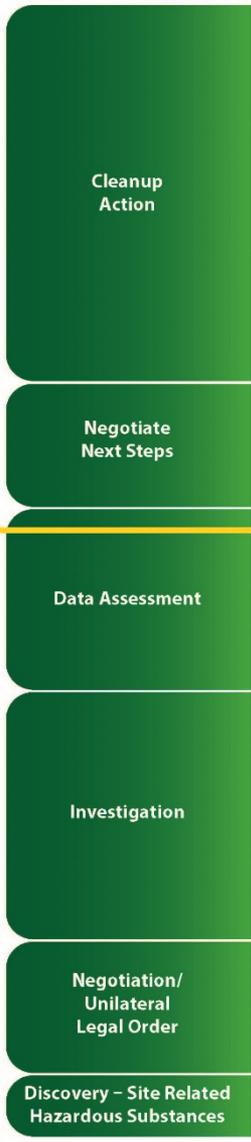


2019

Current Day

2018

2017



Community Engagement Activities

**Community Advisory Group Development**

**Community Involvement Plan Draft**

**March Public Meeting**

**Community Interviews Conducted**

**Windstone neighborhood, Russell Ridge neighborhood**

**Wellington Ridge Neighborhood**

**Freska Lake, CCRR (Citizens group), Summit Breeze & others, Cottages on the Rogue**

**Wellington Ridge, Russell Ridge neighborhood (Dec+Jan), Cottages on the Rogue (Jan+Mar), Ramsdell neighborhood, Childsdale neighborhood, Rezen neighborhood**

**House St. townhall (Sept), Algoma Township neighborhood meeting, Wellington Ridge, Rogue River Bend Association, Thorn Edge and Russett Vista neighborhood, House St/North Kent area townhall (Nov)**

# Why a CAG?



**IMPROVED ACCESS:** People affected by Superfund sites have a right to know what the Agency is doing in their community and to have a say in the decision-making process.

**STRONGER VOICE:** An effective CAG is a very powerful way to give voice to the entire community.

**DEEPER UNDERSTANDING:** CAGs bring people together and promote understanding of a range of perspectives.

**BETTER INPUT:** CAGs provide EPA in-depth community understanding and input and

**COMMON GROUND:** CAGs help identify where the community holds common concerns and builds consensus community recommendations.

# CAGs



**...are designed as a mechanism for all affected and interested parties in a community to have a voice and actively participate in the Superfund process**

# What does a CAG do?



**Hold regular, typically monthly, meetings.**



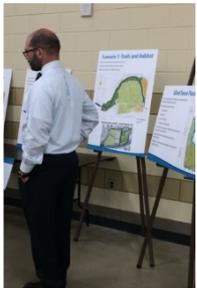
**Review technical information about site cleanup and other environmental problems.**



**Meet with EPA and state to learn about the site and related issues.**



**Work with EPA and state to solve problems.**

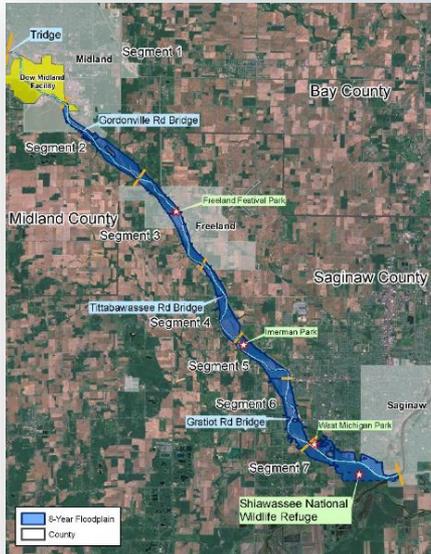


**Provide recommendations and advice and ensure that public input reflects the full range of community interests and concerns.**



**Create a strong connection to the community. Help to communicate issues to the broader community.**

# Other CAGs in Michigan



## Tittabawassee River, Saginaw River & Bay Site

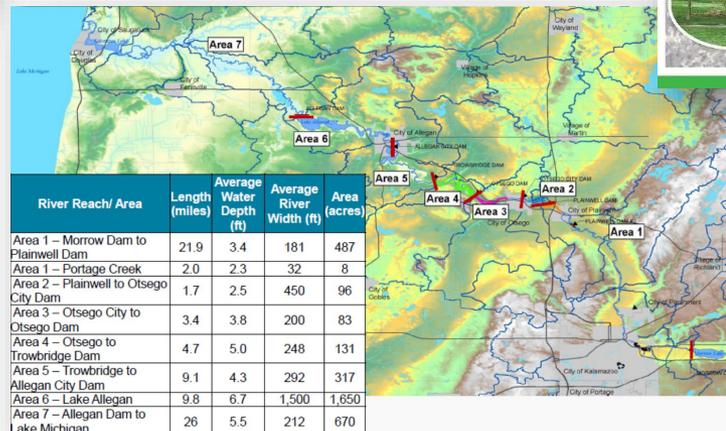
- Tittabawassee-Saginaw Rivers Contamination CAG
- [www.saginawcag.org](http://www.saginawcag.org)

## Velsicol Chemical, St. Louis, MI



## Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River

- TBD



- Pine River Superfund Citizen Task Force
- [www.pinerivercag.org](http://www.pinerivercag.org)

# Basic CAG Facts



SIZE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• generally 15 to 25 stakeholders</li></ul>
FUNCTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• provide affected and interested parties in the community a voice and opportunity to participate in the Superfund process</li></ul>
FREQUENCY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• meet regularly over the course of the cleanup project, most CAGs meet monthly or bi-monthly.</li></ul>
AFFILIATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CAGs are independent community organizations, they are not formal "EPA" groups.</li></ul>
SUPPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EPA may provide administrative and facilitation support to help convene and manage the CAG</li></ul>
CAGs ADD TO EPA OUTREACH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CAGs do not replace the other EPA public information and outreach activities.</li></ul>

# Convening the CAG



- Balanced membership
- Include all key interest groups
- Fair, open, and transparent process
- Community engagement and understanding

# Self-Selecting Model



**EPA announces the opportunity to form a CAG, the local community identifies (in a fair and open manner) CAG members who they believe represent the diverse interests of their community.**

# Wolverine CAG Status



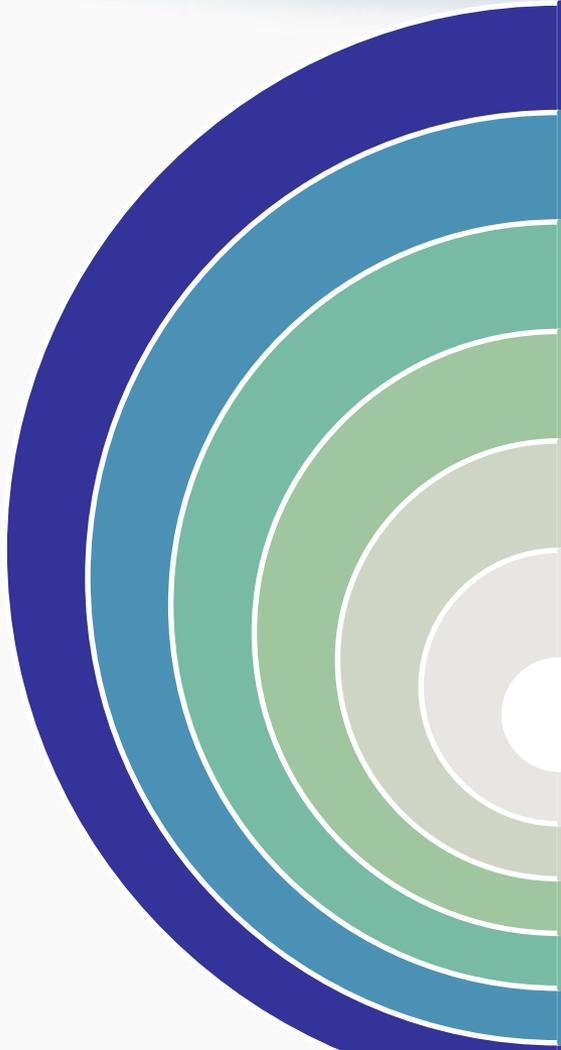
The community has taken the lead

A core group of stakeholders have convened to begin CAG formation

Looking to fill out membership to ensure broad community representation

Applications being sought from interested stakeholders

# Balance of Interests



<b>Geographic:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• key communities/locations</li></ul>
<b>Demographic:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• age, gender, race</li></ul>
<b>Affiliation:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• faith, civic, education, medical</li></ul>
<b>Environmental:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• conservation, agriculture</li></ul>
<b>Economic:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• business, labor, tourism, real estate</li></ul>
<b>Recreation:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• boating, fishing, hunting</li></ul>
<b>Other:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Directly impacted by contamination</li></ul>

# CAG Application



Open to all community stakeholders (government agencies and PRPs may participate as *ex-officio* members)

ID interests, perspectives, and affiliations

Must be willing to commit to monthly activities of the CAG

# Next Steps



**Applications for membership due by the end of April**

**Selection committee reviews applications and identify CAG members**

**Decisions by May**

**First CAG meeting in June**