

**Kalamazoo River Superfund Site CAG
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as of June, 2019**

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Kalamazoo River Superfund Site CAG
Member Information
as of June 2019

Amber Balkema, Otsego

Hello All!!! My name is Amber Balkema. I am 38 years old and I reside in Otsego with my husband, Joel and my teenage son, Austin. We live on the Northside of Otsego, in a multi-generational household, near the most current Superfund Site; Rock-Tenn. My passion is healthcare, whether animal or human, it does not matter. My other passion is the environment, and the effects the environment has on our health. I have a long history of working in the medical field. In 2003, I received my Certificate for Medical Assisting. Then I started working in home care. I worked with the State of Michigan in providing care for the elderly in their homes. I also worked privately, providing care. I worked as a Resident Care Specialist while obtaining first my Associates Degree in Science, followed by Bachelor's Degree in Health Care Administration. I love nature, and studying the wildlife, trees, rivers, and lakes. I joined this CAG Group because of my love for all of those things. I am very concerned with all of the variables that could harm or potentially harm the beauty of all things in nature. I have spent most of my adult life providing care, and now it is nature's turn. My wish is to leave this world better than what I have found it.

Timothy Campbell, Plainwell

I am a life-long resident of the Otsego/Plainwell area. As a practitioner with the Southwest Michigan Wellness Center I am concerned with the quality of health and well-being of this community.

Gale Dugan, Otsego

Life-time resident of Otsego Township. Graduate of Otsego Public Schools and Michigan State University College of Engineering, occupation self-employed farmer and Allegan County Commissioner. Family: wife and two children at home.

Lois Heuchert, Plainwell

Lois is retired from her professional career in the agricultural pharmaceutical industry; she has a degree in Animal Science from Kansas State University. Lois has lived in S.W. Michigan for over 25 years and currently lives in Plainwell on the Kalamazoo River tributary called the Mill Race. She is owner of Plainwell Kayak Company established in 2017. Lois' passion to be a C.A.G. member is to communicate the facts about the superfund clean up and help with the preservation of the Kalamazoo River. In particular river access for all while establishing standards to maintain its natural beauty and seclusion of the river banks.

Sarah Lindley, Plainwell

Sarah Lindley Viviano resides in Plainwell, MI, a short walk from the former Plainwell Paper Mill and Kalamazoo River Superfund site. She is currently the Arcus Social Justice Leadership Professor of Art at Kalamazoo College, where she has taught sculpture and ceramics since 2001. Her sculptures and installations address environmental trauma and the power dynamics between American Industry and surrounding communities. The Kalamazoo Watershed and its numerous Brownfield and Superfund sites have been the main focus of her research and artwork for over ten years. Her artwork and community-based teaching have been recognized by numerous grants and exhibitions, including biennales in France, Korea, and Taiwan. In 2017 she spent three months as a Resident Artist at the European Ceramic Work Center in the Netherlands and has been an Arts-Industry Resident at the Kohler Factory in Wisconsin in

2003, 2010 and 2012. She holds degrees from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, BFA, and the University of Washington, MFA.

Mark Ludwig, Fennville

Mark was born and raised in Michigan. His youth was spent assisting his father during the early days of the environmental movement, studying Great Lakes water birds effected by industrial pollution. He settled in Allegan County, founding a small beef farm in Clyde Township in 2005 with his wife Kim. Mark served on the Fennville Public School Board, Clyde Township Planning Commission and currently on the Allegan Conservation District Board of Directors. Mark graduated from Michigan State with a degree in Environmental Issues and has a Short Course Degree from UW Madison in Grass Based Dairy.

Pamela McQueer, Otsego

I am the mother of five children .married for 39 years and my background has been Certified Personal Trainer, a Martial Arts Instructor, Boxing Coach and former Mrs. Allegan County America and Mrs. Southern Michigan America One of my greatest Achaemenes have been being awarded the Innovation Award from the Women In Defense in 2012 for my breast protection technology made my passion for women breast health a priority as a practionier. My specialties as a Dr of Naturopath are women's health, environmental health and children's special health and restoration in gut health. I strive to make a difference in my communities health and building the bridge between western and eastern medicine ensuring integrative care.

Jennifer Meilinger, Kalamazoo

Jennifer Meilinger, Community Science Director, will represent the Kalamazoo Nature Center (KNC) as a member of the Allied Paper Superfund Site CAG. The KNC's largest and oldest property occupies 1,140 acres in northern Kalamazoo County and includes two miles of Kalamazoo River frontage. With its location along the river and its investment in the protection of our natural areas, the KNC has a deep interest in working with other Michigan residents to improve the health of the Kalamazoo River. KNC brings biological expertise and its close ties with the community to this advisory group and is grateful to be included as part of the team bringing awareness to this local issue.

Kenneth Nesbitt, Lawton

Kenneth Nesbitt of Lawton, MI. Born, raised and lives in the St Joseph River Watershed on the edge of the Kalamzoo River Watershed. My experience as an active participant in watershed environmental, stewardship, educational and recreational activities in Western Michigan and Northwestern Indiana has given me wide exposure to watershed issues. I am actively involved with water related activities for youth groups, vision impaired groups, senior groups, disabled veteran groups, community groups, National Park groups and Soil & Water Conservation groups. We are borrowing this earth from future generations. I hope, that together, we can leave the watersheds in better shape than we have often experienced them

Roland Peterson, Douglas

RJ is as the owner of marinas in the Kalamazoo River that are rapidly being destroyed by an uncontrolled siltation.

Kimberly Pitsch, Dorr

Tony Schuster, Otsego

I moved from Venice CA at about 5 years old and was raised in Otsego through high school. A few engineering related classes at KVCC. Worked at Parker Hannifin for 14 years and then several other manufacturing places in a Quality Assurance role until changing from automotive suppliers to EMS and a Paramedic since 2004. Volunteer Firefighter now retired in Bronson, MI. for 16 years. Worked at Plainwell Area Ambulance Service (Borgess) before fully retiring May 2019. I live on the North Branch of the Kalamazoo river. Kayaking the river is a big pastime. Saved an older abandoned home on the river and am rebuilding it now. Planned to keep it but now with them talking about shutting down the North branch I'm hoping to save it also. Concerned with water wildlife, wetland preservation here. Deer, Sandhill Crane nesting, geese, multiple species of duck, muskrat, Eagles, and now beaver reside in the areas that would be shut off from the natural river as it currently is. Restoring the river to its natural state includes keeping the North Branch intact and cleaning up ALL the waterways associated with the main river.

Coco Soodek, Allegan

An American attorney, business advisor, speaker, writer and entrepreneur. Coco, a business lawyer of 21 years, helps business people around the world close deals and manage all aspects of their ventures. Coco writes and speaks extensively on business, law and politics in the media and at live events. She is the author of the best-selling book on business law for entrepreneurs, "Birth to Buyout: Law for the Life Cycle of Your Business." Coco runs Seasongood Law, Inc., a business law firm which uses technology and best practices to take excellent care of business people at a reasonable price. Coco founded and leads Profit and Laws, Inc., a business advisory and consulting firm. As a specialist in art law, Coco is the sole editor and writer of the Lexis-Nexis Art Law Contracts treatise. Coco is also active in her communities. In Chicago, Coco serves on the Weizmann Institute Midwest board, the Board of Directors for Change Chicago, Inc. and as a block club captain for Buena Park. In Allegan, Michigan, Coco is active with the Allegan County Democrats and organizer of the Lake Allegan Neighbors' Coalition.

Melvin Visser, Portage

Mel is a chemical engineering graduate of Michigan Technological University who studied graduate chemistry at Western Michigan University prior to a 36-year career at The Upjohn Company. On retirement as V.P. of Environmental, Health, and Safety in 1995, he wondered why banned PCBs remained at constant levels in the Great Lakes. Extensive Arctic travel and research eventually resulted in understanding of the source, transport, fate, and effect of PCBs, and the publication of Cold, Clear, and Deadly: Unraveling a Toxic Legacy by Michigan State University Press (2007). Mel has used his knowledge of PCBs to give community groups and individuals comfort in proposed remedies. Mel's science background will be of value in understanding, assessing, choosing, and promoting future remediation proposals.

Mare Westin, Otsego**Bill Wykhuis, Allegan**

I began working in Allegan in 1972 and I bought my first home there in 1988. After retirement my wife and I operated a coffee shop in Allegan. I am a board member of the Kalamazoo River Protection Association and the Kalamazoo River Cleanup Coalition.