

Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative (SBCI) Combined Sewage Overflow (CSO) Workgroup

SBCI CSO Workgroup Notes - May 28, 2009

Page 1

Call To Order:

The workgroup was called to order at 1:31 p.m.

Those present were:

Laura Ogar, Bay County Environmental Affairs & Community Development; Thomas McDowell, DEQ; Robert Hill, Environmental Health; Mike Kelly, TCF/WIN; Pete Ostlund, MDEQ; Jon Bloemker, MDEQ; Terry Walkington, DEQ/WHMD; Bill Washabaugh, Shoreline Resident; Tim Weiler, Bay City Yacht Club (BCYC); Rich Fenner, DNR; Jeanette Best, Saginaw WWTP; Bob Lehman, DEQ; Shirley Roberts, Bay City Convention & Visitors Bureau; and Cyndi Gaul, Bay County Environmental Affairs & Community Development.

Present, but didn't sign the attendance sheet: Bill Kaiser, Bay City WWTP; and Dale Lipar, Huron County Health Department.

April 23, 2009 SBCI CSO Workgroup Meeting Notes:

Laura Ogar handed out the meeting notes from the April 23, 2009 SBCI CSO Workgroup meeting for people to review and comment. Any changes or comments should be e-mailed to Laura at ogarl@baycounty.net. In the future, meeting notes will be e-mailed to everyone prior to a meeting.

June 5, 2009 SBCI Meeting Agenda:

Laura Ogar provided a copy of the proposed June 5th SBCI Meeting Agenda for review and discussion. The proposed agenda gives a good idea about what is planned for the meeting.

CSO Informational Handouts:

Pete Ostlund provided several handouts to those present: Combined Sewage Overflow (CSO) Summary Report for January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2007 Events, Michigan's History of Combined Sewer Overflow Control, Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Outfall and State Revolving Fund (SFR) Historical Report by Permittee, Bay City WWTP 3 Years of Fecal Coli Data, Essexville WWTP 3 Years of Fecal Coli Data, and Saginaw WWTP 3 Years of Fecal Coli Data.

June 5th Power Point Presentation:

Pete Ostlund gave a thirty minute power point presentation to the group for their critique for the June 5th SBCI Meeting as part of the CSO Workgroup introduction. This very informative and well organized presentation gave a great overview of CSOs in the Saginaw River area. The group had a few comments wanting some additional information or clarification. There was some concern that the presentation went over a lot of information and that it might be too much for the audience. Laura would like to see a slide that shows where CSO discharge actually occurs. Laura also thought that the addition of a slide to explain RTB with what happens during wet and dry weather conditions would be good. Shirley Roberts would like to see a slide that had a list of other factors and sources that contribute to the contamination of the Saginaw River. Bill Washabaugh wanted to know if the slide show, along with the other presentations being made at the June 5th meeting, would be available to view on a website. Laura thought that posting this information to a website that people could access would be worthwhile in getting information out to the community. Robert Hill thought that there should be something more about what has been accomplished to show our progress, otherwise he felt that the slide show presentation did a good job at capturing the information the workgroup is trying to get out to the public. Mike Kelly commented that it was a very well done presentation. Terry Walkington thought it was important to really be clear about the difference between the CSO events in the 80s as compared to CSO events that take place today.

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SBCI CSO Workgroup Notes - May 28, 2009

Page 2

Pete felt that one of the key points to the presentation was to show how little contamination CSO events contribute to the River, especially when you put the discharge amounts from CSO events next to other factors. Terry Walkington thought there should be a slide showing what is being worked on right now and that this might be a good time to mention the upcoming town hall meeting. There was also discussion that there should be a slide that shows estimated costs for eliminating CSO events. Bill Kaiser discussed the stimulus funds that are available and how people don't understand that it is a partial loan. When talking about costs, it's important to explain the recent upgrades to the WWTPs and to show the cost of just maintaining what we have. Bill Kaiser would like to see the sewers in Bay City upgraded and there is movement forward, however funding is the main issue with getting improvements done. It's important to find out what are people willing to pay to eliminate CSOs in their community. People also need to be well informed in order to make such a determination. Bill Washabaugh thought that it would be important to explain the standards and legislation that currently exists to deal with CSO events. Laura thought that was a good idea as this is a process and it's important to understand where we were, how far we've come, and where we are today.

While some slides still need to be updated or have more clarification before the June 5th meeting, overall it was a well organized and thought out presentation. Laura will get with Pete to review the presentation and come up with the "what's next" slide. Any comments or updated information for the slide show presentation should be submitted to Pete Ostlund at ostlundp@michigan.gov.

June 5, 2009 SBCI Meeting:

The SBCI Meeting will be an all day meeting taking place on Friday, June 5, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Bay County Community Center, Bay City, 800 J. F. Kennedy Drive, along the west shore of the Saginaw River.

Adjournment:

The May 28, 2009 meeting of the SBCI CSO Workgroup was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Next Meeting:

SBCI CSO Workgroup Meetings take place on the 4th Thursday of the month. The next meeting is Thursday, June 25, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. in the MDEQ Office located at 401 Ketchum Street, Bay City, Michigan 48708.

Transcribed by C. Gaul