



1st National Tribal Natural Resources Damages Assessment & Restoration Conference

NRD Cooperative Assessments - A case study

Greg Cochran
Global Director of Remediation
The Dow Chemical Company

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Define “*Cooperative*”

“.....Dow and the Trustees work cooperatively to find ways to measure/quantify ecological and human service losses.....”

“.....a process aimed at resolving liability in a “Restoration-based settlement” in a timely manner.....”

“.....initiated early so that it would be up and running and coordinated with investigative and remedial activities.....”



Cooperative NRD Assessment



3 Key Agreements:

- Confidentiality Agreement
 - Allows open discussion
- Memorandum of Agreement
 - Structure and process
- Tolling Agreement
 - Extends/delays formal process



Organized to “*Get the Work Done*”

3 Technical Working Groups (TWGs):

➤ Ecological TWG

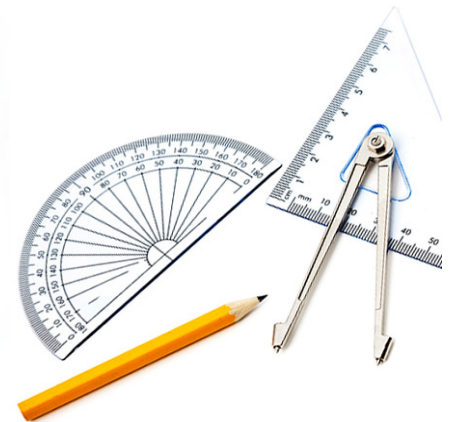
- Floodplain and aquatic ecological resources

➤ Human Service TWG

- Human use resources, fishing, hunting

➤ Restoration TWG

- Identification of opportunities and projects



So after 4 years how is it going??

In general:

- Shared, centralized database
- Studies and surveys were developed by consensus
- Promoted understanding and trust – and minimized conflict
- Open exchange of ideas and concepts
- Resulted in speedy, comprehensive analysis





Dow and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan..... A closer working relationship in many ways

- Trust, admiration, respect
- Common Goals
 - Energy Conservation
 - Renewable Energy
 - Energy self-sufficiency
- Mutual Interests
 - Sustainable economy
 - Quality of life of area communities



Lessons Learned

Cooperation is not easy:

➤ Consensus decision making can be tedious

➤ Easy to get bogged down in details

➤ Stay focused and keep the “big picture” in mind

➤ Cooperative \neq Cheap
so don't make assumptions

➤ Everyone has to do their part for success; a team effort





Thank you!!