Pig's Eye Dump Task Force

Agenda for Pig's Eye Dump Task Force Meeting #7

Friday, December 6, 2024
9:30-11:30 a.m.

Virtual

1. **Welcome, introductions, agenda (9:30 a.m.)**
2. **Re-cap of previous meetings and next steps (9:35 a.m.)**
3. **Remediation and restoration goals (9:45 a.m.)**
4. **Public engagement next steps (9:55 a.m.)**
5. **Bringing remediation and reuse strategies together (10:05 a.m.)**
6. **Task Force discussion (10:45 a.m.)**
7. **Public comment (11:10 a.m.)**
8. **Adjourn (11:30 a.m.)**

Pig's Eye Dump Task Force

Notes for Pig's Eye Dump Task Force Meeting #7

Friday, December 6, 2024
9:30-11:30 a.m.

Virtual and Main Level Room 100 - MPCA 520 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155

Members in Attendance

- Dan Scollan, Water Resources Ecologist, Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Sam Paske, Planning Assistant General Manager, Metropolitan Council
- Jimmy Francis, Mayor, City of South St. Paul
- Bill Sumner, Council Member, City of Newport
- Melanie McMahon, Executive Project Lead – Mayor's Staff, City of St. Paul
- Victoria Reinhardt, Commissioner, Ramsey County
- Dave Magnuson, Waste Regulation Supervisor, Dakota County
- Caleb Johnson, Environmental Program Manager, Washington County
- Nathan Wallerstedt, Project Management Branch Chief, Army Corps of Engineers - Saint Paul District
- Kirk Koudelka, Assistant Commissioner, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)
- David Bell, Environmental Research Scientist, Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)

Other Contributors

- Hans Neve, MPCA
- Alexa Golemo, MPCA
- Kara Van Lerberghe, Zan Associates
- Ashley Thompson, Zan Associates

Presenters

- Hans Neve, MPCA
- Kara Van Lerberghe, Zan Associates
- Ashley Thompson, Zan Associates

1. Welcome, introductions, agenda

Ashley Thompson (Zan Associates) kicked off the meeting, thanked everyone for being in attendance, introduced herself, and went over the agenda. Task force members and consultants followed by introducing themselves.

2. Re-cap last meeting

Hans Neve (MPCA) provided a recap of the September Task Force meeting where he went over the highlights of the case study guest speakers and funding strategies. Hans shared a timeline and went over the three phases: education, decision-making, and documenting and review. The task force is currently at the end of the education

phase and is transitioning into the decision-making phase. He went over some of the key voices in the decision-making process and how they influence different decision points for remediation and restoration.

3. Remediation and restoration goals

Hans kicked off the remediation and restoration goals portion of the presentation by sharing an overview of the contamination at the site and the remediation and restoration goals. The restoration goals can be grouped into a few future land use options: recreation, ecological, and industrial/commercial future uses. Jimmy Francis (City of South Saint Paul) asked if the industrial/commercial use would include keeping the site as a landfill. Hans shared that they would be discussing that as a possible future use option in today's meeting.

4. Public engagement next steps

Kara Van Lerberghe (Zan Associates) provided an overview of the public engagement pop-ups, community meetings, and online engagement that has been completed so far. The next steps include sharing an online survey, social media toolkit, and additional in-person engagement over the course of January through March. She shared the information that would be included in the survey to gather public input about what they would like to see as a future use option. Ashley Thompson (Zan Associates) paused to ask the Task Force members if they had any questions or initial thoughts. David Bell (Department of Health) asked how the specific future use options for the public were developed and Kara answered that some are options are ideas the team has heard from the public and others were brainstormed. Melanie McMahon (City of Saint Paul) shared concern about determining the future end use of the site instead of leading with remediation and wanted to make sure the public has context on what is feasible. Hans shared that they would talk more about the limitations when blending remediation and restoration together and he agrees that feasibility information should be communicated to the public. Commissioner Reinhardt (Ramsey County) asked if they had investigated other options for addressing the waste like pyrolysis or anaerobic digestion instead of moving the waste elsewhere. Hans shared that due to the type of waste on site, there aren't many options but that they could investigate pyrolysis and anaerobic digestion as an option*****. Sam Paske (Met Council) brought up concerns about how realistic some of the future use options are due to the difficulty accessing the site. Bill Sumner (Newport) asked how realistic some of the future use options are if they were to experience a larger flooding event. Hans responded that some uses are flood tolerant and some are not, so it would depend on how the site is remediated to make sure they are compatible.

5. Bringing remediation and reuse strategies together

Hans Neve (MPCA) shared they would be discussing how remediation and reuse strategies overlap and the considerations for each option. He gave a background on the remedial options that are on the table and shared additional information including estimated construction costs and timeline, landscape changes, and waste management impacts. He then went into the different future use options for each remediation option and how the waste would need to be managed to reach certain end use goals.

6. Task Force discussion

Hans Neve (MPCA) started off the discussion portion of the meeting by sharing some questions for the Task Force to answer. Nathan Wallerstedt (Army Corps) shared that the potential for backfill needs may be an opportunity from the Corps perspective to leverage federal dollars. Dave Magnuson (Dakota County) shared concern that any option that removes waste from the site will have significantly high costs and would greatly impact the amount of available space in existing permitted landfills for future generations. Jimmy Francis (South St. Paul) shared that he feels there is still a way to effectively clean up the site by utilizing the legislature and

people in the Capitol who would want to support this cause and help solve this problem. Commissioner Reinhardt (Ramsey County) pointed out that the legislature were the ones that came together and requested the Task Force be formed. She added that they acknowledged the reason it has stalled in the past is due to high costs, and that they will be looking for answers from the Task Force on how to best address the dump and how to fund it. Kirk Koudelka (MPCA) asked the Task Force how they would like to see the limitations shared with the public and if there were specific information they would like to see be shared. David Bell (MDH) confirmed that he would like to see the limitations shared in some format to provide people filling out the survey with more context. He also asked for clarification if they could provide multiple options in the final report that will be sent to the legislature. Kirk confirmed that the report can include multiple options, and it is up to the Task Force's discretion on what goes into the report. Jimmy agreed that he would like to have a few options in the report. Melanie McMahon (Saint Paul) confirmed that she would like to see the limitations be shared with the public and also supports having a report that shares multiple options and is actionable. Dan Scollan (DNR) agreed that he would like to see the considerations shared with the public in a video format. Dave shared that they would need to put forward more than one option since the remediation options will affect each of the Task Force member's organizations differently and it will likely not be a unanimous decision. He shared that he will ultimately refer to the communities directly impacted on the future land use option. Caleb Johnson (Washington County) asked how the changing climate and increasing rain events would overlay with the sustainability of keeping the waste in place in a floodplain. Hans shared that they have similar questions of how flooding would impact the site during construction and long-term maintenance of the facility. Caleb also asked about commercial neighboring properties and how that would be impacted by some of the remedial options. Hans shared that they haven't heard from some of those groups and that we will look into getting their input in the process. Kirk confirmed that the team would share the survey with the Task Force and some additional information on sharing the limitations with the public.

7. Public comment

A member of the public shared that they do not support turning the site into any form of an industrial site and would like to see the site be a natural area that supports wildlife. Another attendee shared that he would also like to consider the plans that have already been in development towards protecting the area for ecological purposes. Another member of the public shared concern for wildlife in the area, the severity of the pollution, and emphasized the importance of cleaning up the site for the health of the public. A member of the public shared concern about turning the site into an industrial site because it would turn back progress that has been made to clean up and care for the wildlife currently. A member of the public asked how deep the waste goes and Narayanan Raghupathi (WSP) shared that they know it goes at least down to 20-25 feet but that they are scoped to determine how far the water impacts go and that it is close to 8 million cubic yards of waste. The community member shared that they would not like to see the site turn into an industrial site and would like to see the area turn into a marshland area for water quality and wildlife benefits. Kirk Koudelka (MPCA) asked the public if there was anything on the future site options list that is missing. One member of the public mentioned that lake access could be added. Another member of the public shared that she would like the area to serve the people for generations to come and does not want the cost to drive the public's perception.

8. Adjourn

Hans Neve (MPCA) adjourned the meeting.

***Pyrolysis** is a process where waste materials are heated in the absence of oxygen. This causes the materials to break down into gases, liquids, and a solid biochar residue. The gases and liquids can be used as fuel, while the biochar can be used for various applications. Pyrolysis requires specialized equipment and facilities and energy to maintain high operating temperatures making costs higher. Pyrolysis is currently being pilot tested to better understand PFAS destruction efficiency, gas emissions and cost considerations. When the technology is viable the*

cubic yard cost to remediate the PFAS contaminated waste is likely to be in the hundreds of dollars per cubic yard and depending on the capacity of the treatment plant the process could take decades to process the 8 million cubic yards of waste at the Pigs Eye Dump.

***Anaerobic digestion** is a biological process where bacteria break down organic waste in the absence of oxygen to produce biogas that can be used for energy and digestate a nutrient rich solid or liquid material that can be used as fertilizer. Anaerobic digestion relies on the presence of organic matter to produce biogas and digestate. This process has limited applicability at the Pigs Eye Dump waste because the waste has been in the ground for over 50 years and much of the organic matter has degraded. The low organic matter content of the waste would make it challenging to implement anaerobic digestion due to the low amount of viable organic material.*

MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

Pig's Eye Dump Task Force Meeting #7

December 6, 2024

Agenda

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Pig's Eye Dump Task Force
Welcome and Introductions

Welcome and Introductions

- Consultant introductions
- Taskforce members to share:
  - Name
  - Title
  - Organization

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Recap from Previous Meetings and Next Steps

Recap September Meeting

September meeting:

- Doyne Park in Milwaukee
  - Public engagement on future use
- Big Marsh in Chicago
  - Remediation of industrial site and transformation into a park
- Funding strategies

Timeline

Sept 2023-Dec 2024

Education

- Learning the site case studies from other sites
- Public awareness

Feb 2025-Jun 2025

Decision-making

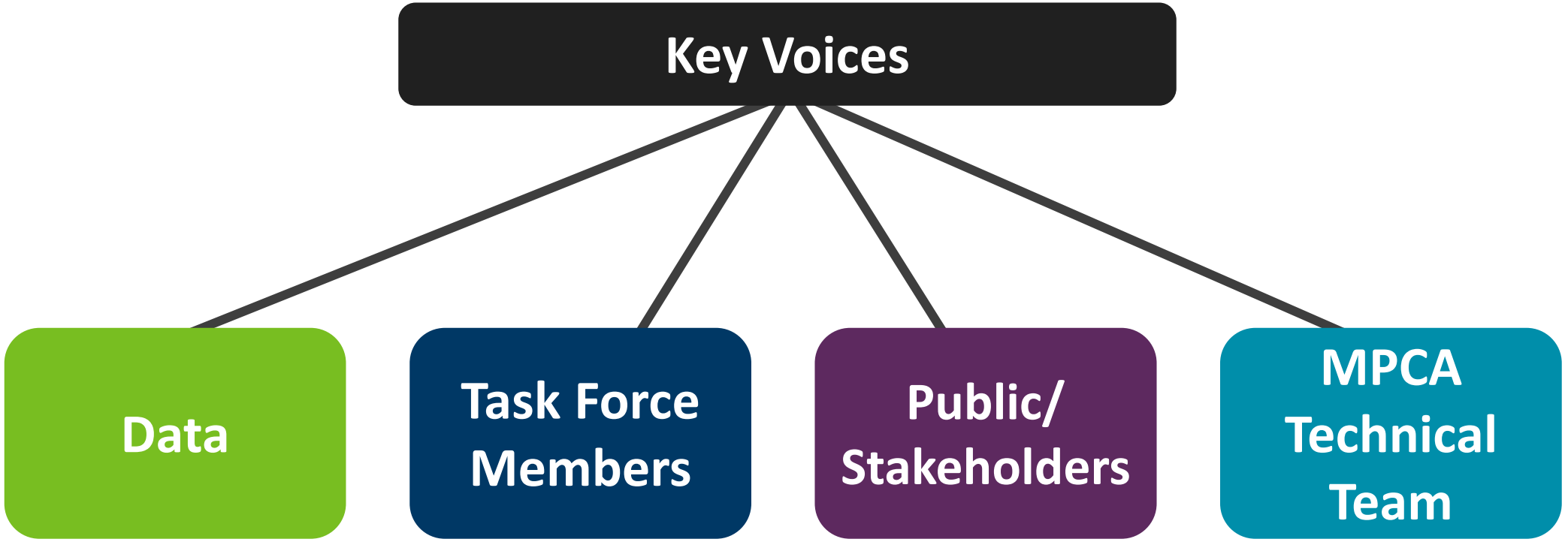
- Public Input
- Remediation and Restoration strategies and goals
- Funding options

Aug 2025-Dec 2025

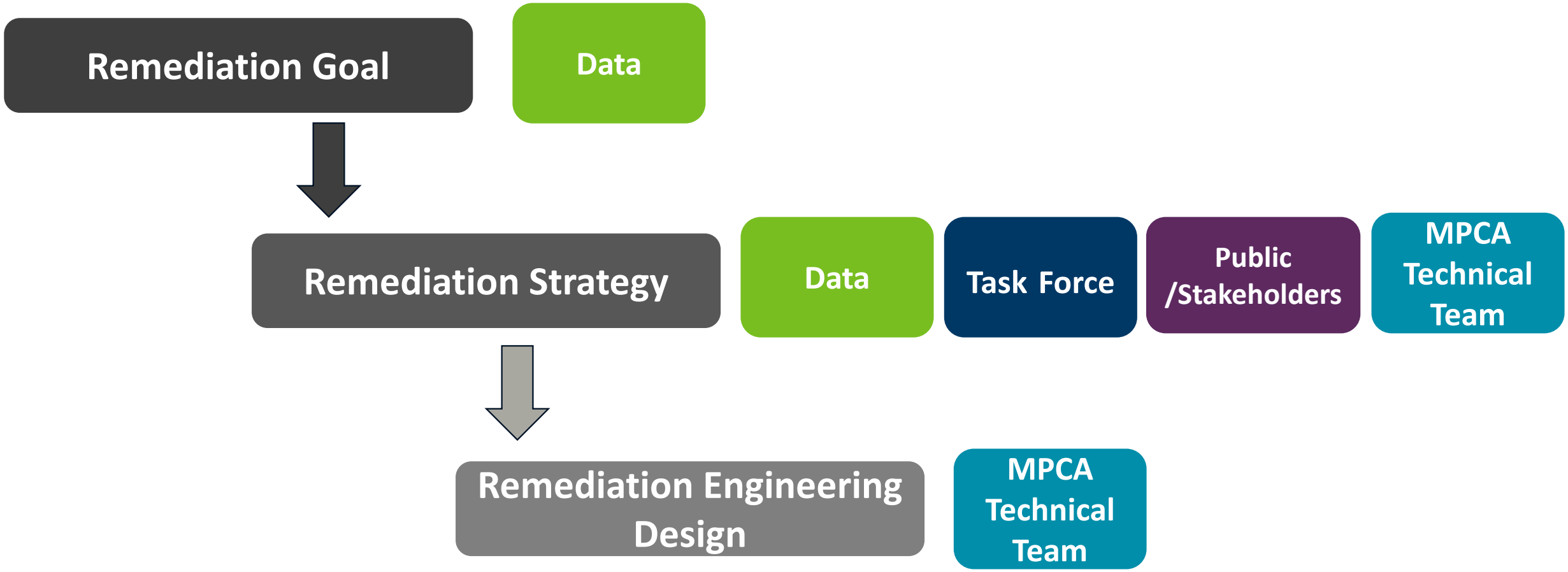
Documenting & review

- Develop legislative report
- Finalize funding options

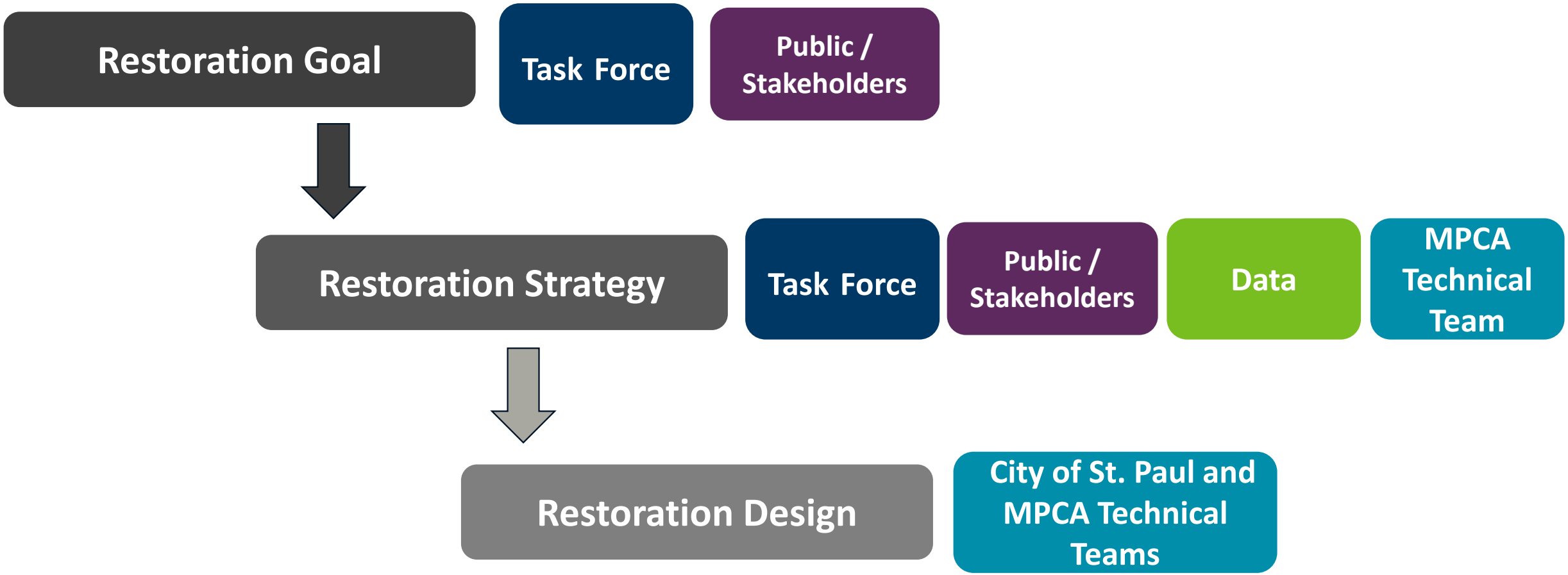
Informing Voices



Remediation Decision Points and Voices



Restoration Decision Points and Voices



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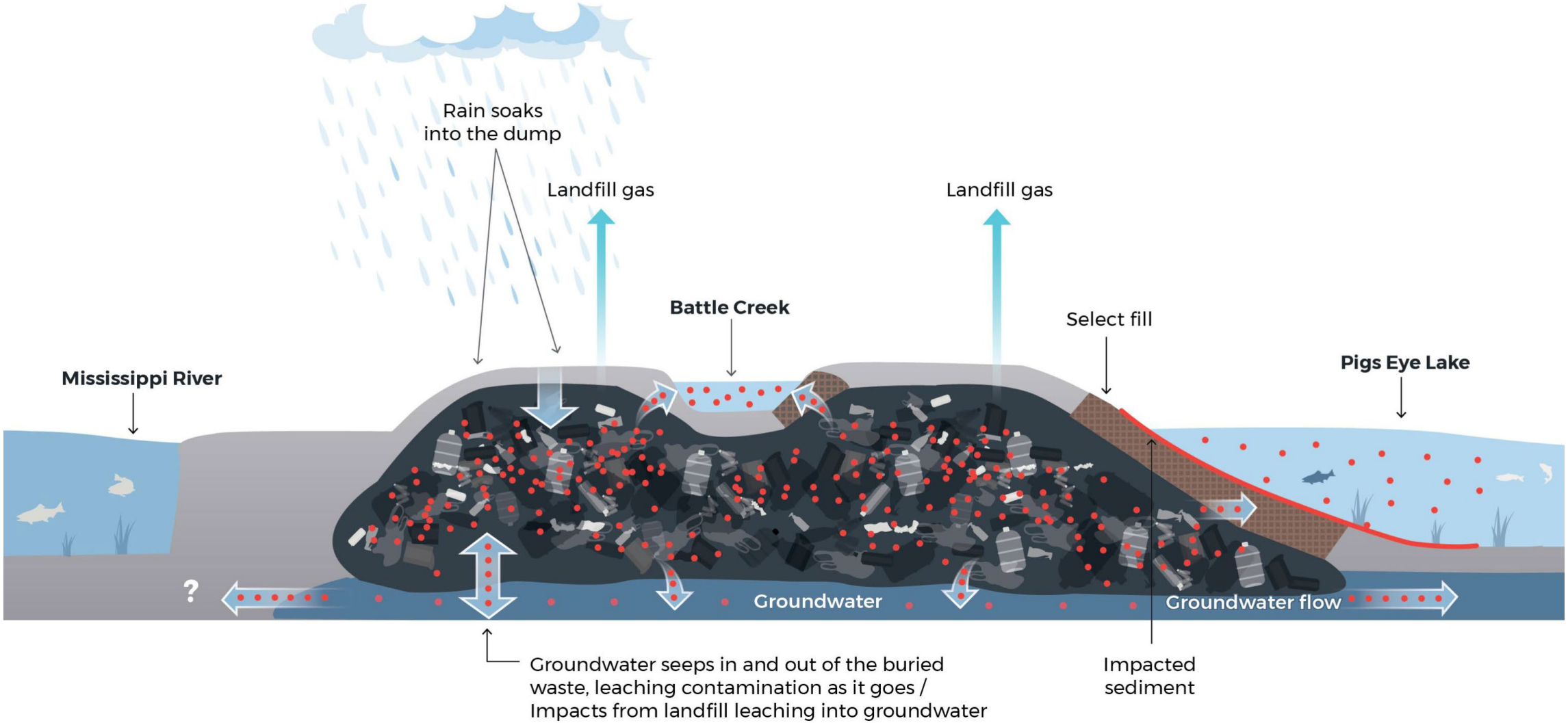
Remediation & Restoration Goals

Contamination Overview



Remediation Goals

Remediation Goals:

- ✓ Address waste (source)
- ✓ Address Pig's Eye Lake sediments
- ✓ Address groundwater impacts
- ✓ Address upstream sources

Restoration Goal

FUTURE LAND USE OPTIONS

Recreational

Ecological

Industrial/ Commercial

Restoration Goal

FUTURE LAND USE OPTIONS

Recreational

<u>Active</u> recreation use - Built to facilitate recreation

- Hiking trails, sport facilities, children's park, etc.

<u>Passive</u> recreation use - Mix of some access with an ecological focus

- Similar to current use, minimal upkeep

Ecological

Ecological site

- Expanded wetland areas with focus on environment
- Habitat expansion
- Native vegetation

Industrial/Commercial

- Solar reuse
- Greenhouse/urban farming
- Outdoor materials storage/warehouse
- Manufacturing
- Office/service-related business

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Public Engagement Next Steps

Public Engagement Recap

- **Pop-ups**
  - Art in the Hollow, June 2024
  - Pollinator Festival, August 2024
  - South St. Paul On The Road Again, October 2024
- **Community Meetings**
  - Community site tour, 9/10
  - Community virtual meeting, 9/12
  - Community conversation at Swede Hollow, 9/16
- **MPCA Social media and Gov Delivery**
  - Advertising 2024 meetings and community events

9/16 Conversation at Swede Hollow

10/5 South St. Paul On The Road Again

Public Engagement Next Steps

Goal of engagement: Gather input on public's comfort with future land use options

Methods:

- Online survey
- Social media toolkit
- Pop-ups/small group meetings
- Task Force member outreach

Audiences:

- Neighborhoods near Pig's Eye Dump
- MPCA followers
- Community groups
- Local government

Public Engagement Next Steps

January 2025

Survey Launch

- Survey posted mid-January
- Open four weeks

February 2025

Engagement Update

- Share survey update with Task Force
- Plan additional outreach

March-April 2025

Engagement report

- Final report on engagement prior to April Task Force Meeting

Public Engagement Survey

Four proposed future use options:

1. Active use – built to facilitate recreation
2. Passive use – basic recreation access ecological focus
3. Ecological site – no recreation, wetland restoration
4. Industrial/commercial – Solar, greenhouse/urban farming, outdoor materials storage/warehouse, manufacturing, office, service-related business or other industrial use

Public Engagement Survey

How comfortable are you with this future land use option? *[Rate 1-5]*

- 1 – Uncomfortable
- 2 – Somewhat uncomfortable
- 3 – Neutral
- 4 – somewhat comfortable
- 5 - Comfortable

Why did you rate it this way? *[open ended]*

Public Engagement Survey

What would you like to see the future site transformed into?
[select all that apply]

- ❑ Park or green space
- ❑ Sports or recreational facility (e.g., soccer fields, playgrounds,)
- ❑ Walking, biking, or nature trails
- ❑ Community garden or agricultural space
- ❑ Public art installations or cultural space
- ❑ Educational facility or environmental center with hiking trails
- ❑ Wildlife sanctuary, conservation area, wetlands
- ❑ Commercial development (Office / service related businesses)
- ❑ Solar
- ❑ Industrial use (Greenhouse, outdoor materials storage/warehouse, manufacturing)
- ❑ Other (please specify)

Public Engagement Survey

Demographics

- Age, gender, race, language, city, etc.

How did you hear about Pig's Eye Dump? *[select all that apply]*

- ❑ Newsletter
- ❑ Social media
- ❑ Word of mouth
- ❑ MPCA website
- ❑ Other _____

Public Engagement Survey

Task Force involvement:

- Social media toolkit advertising survey
  - Text
  - Images
  - Newsletter/email content
- Distribution on your organization's platforms

Task Force Discussion

Confirmation on:

1. Public engagement next steps

Is there additional information you would like to ask the public to assist in decision-making?

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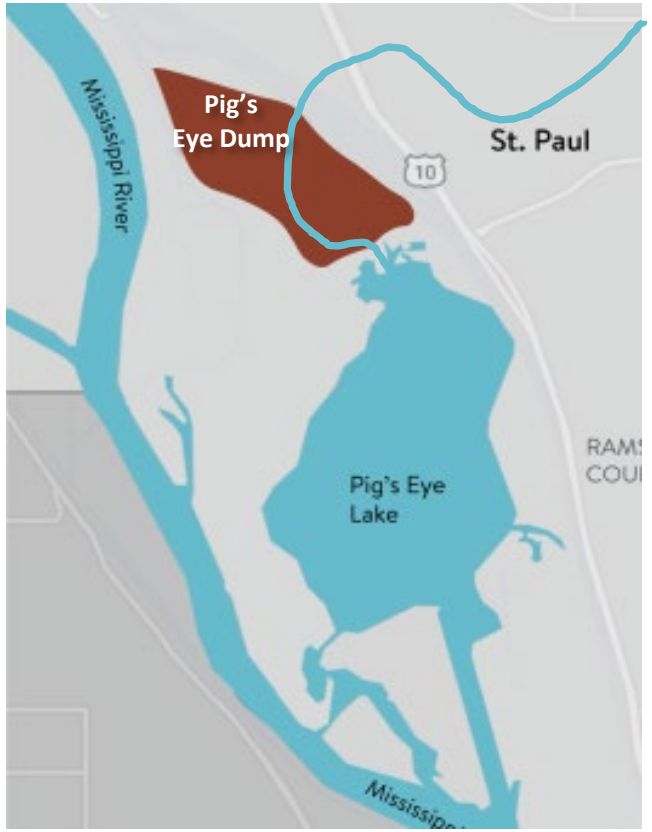
Bringing Remediation and Reuse Strategies Together

Remedial Strategy Comparison

Considerations	Targeted Waste Relocation and Filter	Dig and Haul and Backfill	Dig and Haul No backfill	Dig and Line
Leachate Impacts	Reduced but not eliminated	Eliminated	Eliminated	Controlled using landfill liner and leachate collection system
Construction Cost	Tens of Millions	Greater than $500M	Greater than $500M	Greater than $500M
Construction Timeline	< 5 years	10+ years	8-10 years	10+ years
Landscape changes from Remediation	Minimal to moderate topography changes	Determined by amount of backfill	Waste area becomes wetland	Waste area footprint smaller but much higher, significant topography changes, backfill adjacent areas
Benefits	• Lower Cost • Allows for phased approach	• Eliminates waste from site	• Eliminates waste from site	• Waste remains onsite preserves capacity at other landfills. • Improved leachate collection
Disadvantages	• Leachate impacts reduced not eliminated	• Would consume significant capacity at existing landfills • High Cost	• Would consume significant capacity at existing landfills • High Cost	• Significant constructability unknowns • Required long term O&M • High Cost

Joining Restoration and Remediation Strategies

Targeted Waste Relocation and Filter



Possible Restoration Goals

Recreational

- Expand current passive recreational use
- Could include more active recreational uses

Ecological

- Remediation limitations may limit effectiveness

Industrial/ Commercial

- Limited flood tolerant uses

Joining Restoration and Remediation Strategies

Dig and Haul and Backfill

Possible Restoration Goals

Recreational

- **More backfill**- larger trail systems, buildings if above flood area, less aquatic use
- **Less backfill**- smaller trail systems, more aquatic use

Ecological

- **More backfill**- more upland habitat
- **Less backfill**- more wetland habitat

Industrial/ Commercial

- **More backfill**- Solar, commercial/industrial buildings if backfill above flood area
- **Less backfill**- limited flood tolerant uses

Joining Restoration and Remediation Strategies

Dig and Haul No backfill
"New Pig's Eye Lake"

Possible Restoration Goals

Recreational

- Limited recreational opportunities including limited paddling activities and wildlife observation

Ecological

- Area returns to wetland

Joining Restoration and Remediation Strategies

Dig and Line
"New Pig's Eye Landfill"

Possible Restoration Goals

Recreational

- Recreation on or adjacent to landfill cap
- Use in adjacent areas determined by amount of backfill

Ecological

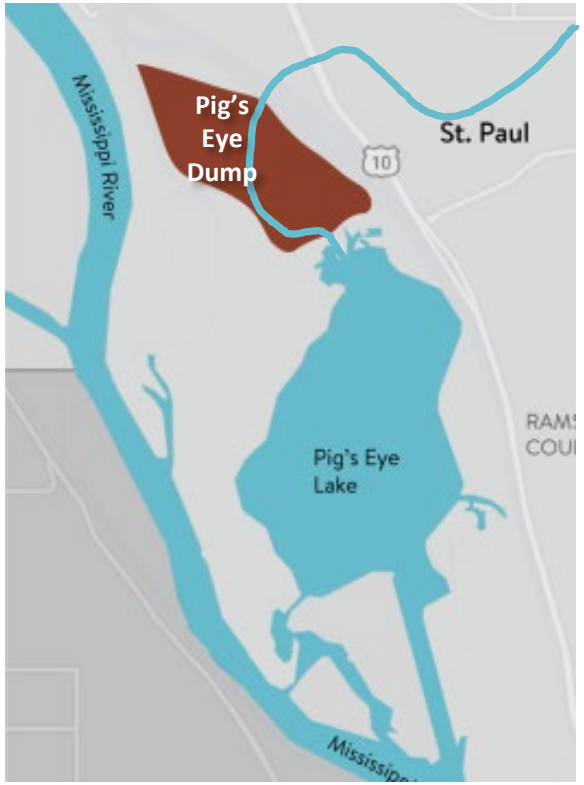
- Pollinator habitat on new landfill
- Wetland in adjacent areas depending on amount of backfill

Industrial/ Commercial

- Solar reuse on new landfill
- Limited flood tolerant uses in adjacent areas

Joining Restoration and Remediation Strategies

Targeted Waste Relocation and Filter



Dig and Haul and Backfill

Dig and Haul No backfill
"New Pig's Eye Lake"

Dig and Line
"New Pig's Eye Landfill"

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Task Force Discussion

Task Force Discussion

Confirmation on:

1. Decision-making timeline
2. Restoration/future use goals and remediation strategies

Do you have any concerns or questions? Is there additional information needed?

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Pig’s Eye Dump Task Force – Public Comment

Public Comment

Please limit your comments to two minutes.

Start by sharing:

- Your name
- Your interest in the project

Next Meetings

In-person:

Meeting #8: February 13th, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Meeting #9: April 17th, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Thank you!

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