## Allegan City Dam Community Meeting Notes, 8/7/19

### HOPES
- End up in a better place than where we started
- The state and federal government can fund the project
- Increased recreation along the riverfront
- Potential for new businesses along the lower level of buildings on Hubbard St.
- Wetlands for outdoor classrooms (library and schools)
- Increased green space
- Safer river
- New wildlife
- Safe fish to eat
- Risk of flooding in Mill District decreases
- More firework seating

### FEARS
- Losing the Riverfront
  - River goes down to 10’ wide
  - Private and Public
- No permit being issued by the Army Corp. of Engineers
- Having a marshy, unmaintained area; Leaving muck
- How fast will water flow?
- Where will the river channel be located?
- What will happen with wildlife? (Turtles, Swans, Geese, Frogs, Etc.)
- Losing property value on riverfront flats
- Flooding Lake Allegan
- Increased landscaping costs
- Current health concerns w/ contamination
- Fear of flooding the Mill District
- Decision has already been made
- Won’t know final design until the decision has been made
- Superfund won’t pay for dam removal
- Impound continues to fill in w/ sediment and we’re left w/ a mucky and weedy riverfront
- Dam fails, contaminates move downstream, and city liability greatly increases
- Current health risks unknown
- Powerhouse collapses into river before it is demolished

### KNOWN FACTS
- River is a superfund site (PCB’s)
- Powerhouse is condemned and uninsurable (structure and liability)
- Dam serves no utility purpose
- Fish cannot pass through dam
- Dam is an impediment to full recreational opportunities
- Dam helps create “lakefront look”
- Dam is depositing sediment and filling in “lakefront”
- Water is stagnant, resulting in unwanted plant growth
- Maintaining the dam results in perpetual liability

### OTHER
- Don’t like “coercion”, state is lying
- No insurance policy if concepts aren’t realized
- River defines city’s character