

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Lansing, Michigan**  
**Thursday, January 21, 2010, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Members in attendance: Jon Allan, Brad Garmon, Jeffrey Haynes, Chuck Hersey, Mindy Koch, Larry Merritt, Del Rector, David Rinard, Doug Roberts, Rhonda Ross, Mike Shriberg, Andy Such, Gildo Tori, and Paul Zuger.

DNRE Staff in attendance: Liz Browne, George Bruchmann, Bill Creal, Bryce Feighner, Kim Fish, Hal Fitch, Vince Hellwig, Jim Kasprzak, Lynelle Marolf, JoAnn Merrick, Frank Ruswick, Julie Sims, Jim Sygo, and Bob Wagner.

**Opening**

Frank welcomed everyone to the new Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE).

**Current Issues**

Frank indicated the Administrative Order of Consent was signed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Dow Chemical to establish a structure for addressing the dioxin issue under the Federal Superfund program. It went into effect January 21, 2010.

Frank shared that the final permit decision for the Kennecott mine was issued last week. The timing of the permitting decision was appropriate based on where it was in the process.

Frank provided an update on issues relating to Asian Carp. Governor Jennifer M. Granholm and other Great Lakes Governors requested a meeting with the President's office. A Congressional hearing has also been scheduled. Members had general discussion on this topic including economic impacts of closing the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal to Michigan.

**Transition Plan Discussion**

Frank and Mindy recently met with Director Humphries, who indicated she sees a role for the EAC in the future and expects the EAC to continue to provide advice and recommendations on major policy and program issues to the Director. In addition, there is an opportunity to expand on membership. Frank explained that over the next month or so decisions will be made on how the EAC will proceed and determine how the EAC relates to the Natural Resource Commission. Director Humphries has expressed an interest in participating in EAC discussions as much as Director Chester did.

Mindy summarized the key components of the Executive Order (EO) that took effect January 17, 2010, and another EO that will take effect March 15, 2010. She discussed Bruce Rasher's Final Transition Report and described the new DNRE matrix organization which is roughly based on a watershed approach for decision making and planning. She presented a slide that showed the state divided into four regions (Upper Peninsula, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, and Lake Erie). Each region will have a Regional Director that will focus on issues within the region, create and participate in citizen advisory committees, deal with conflict resolution and cross disciplinary issues, participate in biodiversity planning, and build relationships.

A member asked if the final approval for a permit will be the responsibility of the Deputy Director or Regional Director. Frank and Mindy indicated the decision falls within the line of authority. The Regional Director will play a role in the decision making process and may have an opportunity to review but will likely not be involved in every permitting decision.

Mindy and members discussed the role of the citizen advisory councils and the benefits they may provide including increased transparency. Mindy also described why it may be difficult having citizen advisory committees that address issues from both the former DEQ and DNR due to the wide range of complex issues and competing values and objectives among stakeholder groups.

Mindy announced that two of the Regional Directors have been identified: Stacy Welling will remain the U.P. Regional Director and Rodney Stokes will be the Lake Erie Regional Director.

Frank pointed out to members that the EAC recommendations in the document, *A Roadmap to a New Environmental Management Model for Michigan* (Roadmap), are specifically mentioned on page 11 of the Final Transition Report. It endorses the conclusions of the Roadmap and directs the administration of the DNRE, including process re-engineering and continuous improvement efforts, to integrate the recommendations.

Frank shared the organizational chart and described the structure of the department as laid out in the Transition Report (page 16). The basic structure includes three bureaus, each with a Deputy Director. The bureaus consist of Resource Management, Stewardship, and Environmental Protection. Frank identified the various programs within each bureau and how it will be important to recognize the cross-disciplinary nature of programs and maintain connections.

Members questioned whether this organizational chart will be implemented as recommended in the Transition Report. Frank and Mindy explained that except for a few oversights in the program lists, the structure will be implemented as recommended. Current operations will continue under the former organization until the new organizational chart is approved. The DNRE will be going from 22 divisions to 14 divisions, which will create some disruption and dislocation. It is expected that the implementation will happen in a phased approach with some implementation happening rapidly (e.g., management structure) while other phases will occur over a longer period of time (e.g., building consolidation).

There was further discussion about the role of Regional Directors and district staff. For example, the Regional Direction for the Lake Michigan region will cover an area from Emmet County to Berrien County. District staff will serve as a resource to the Regional Director to make sure they are aware of pressing issues. Additionally, the Regional Director will serve as a resource to staff by providing a direct line to the Director. It was also noted that district offices will be configured with the new regions.

### **Roadmap Discussion**

Jon Allan facilitated a discussion of the implementation of the Roadmap in the context of the transition to DNRE. When the Roadmap was finalized, the EAC left the door open on how to expand the conversation to include others. The EAC needs to consider who else, how else, and who takes the lead on expanding the discussion and addressing the recommendations.

A member suggested that we need to further develop our thesis before determining what sort of discussion needs to occur and with who. Additionally, members are interested in what the Director's interests are in focusing on. Members discussed several opportunities ranging from very high level process engineering to focusing on specific outcomes. Members discussed the appropriateness of timing where some issues may be more appropriate to focus on now and others may be more long-term.

A member pointed out that the Final Transition Report appears more process-based and the EAC's Roadmap is outcome-based. This led to a discussion between the process and the outcomes including who can help inform what those outcomes should look like and how to measure them. Members pointed out the importance of continuing to meet federal requirements with the conventional process and keep in mind the cultural change required as we expand the conversation and implement the recommendations of the Roadmap.

Members discussed in general about where to go with the Roadmap and provided insight and shared examples. It was recommended that stakeholders should be involved in the process and be a part of the discussion.

A member noted how the state is changing and smaller companies are popping up in various areas of the state with the loss of large manufacturers. We need to keep in mind that these small companies likely don't have the resources to house environmental staff like the large manufacturers did. However, there is still an opportunity to consider more incentive type programs (e.g. ISO 14000) to encourage environmental performance.

A member shared an example of how several groups have been joining the sustainability movement with little initial direction on where it was heading. Once a sustainable business forum was formed, it provided an opportunity for dialogue among participants. This forum provided the means to connect with people with similar interests and create some synergy. This group was able to agree upon what sustainability is and define the goals posts. Another model to look at is Healing our Waters which has proven to be very beneficial in understanding goals and objectives.

Consensus by the members was to implement the Roadmap by looking at the short-term items first while keeping in mind longer-term items.

A member suggested the Regional Directors should be invited to participate in the EAC meetings. Frank also encouraged EAC members to use the Roadmap and inform others of its use.

## **Conclusion**

Frank concluded the meeting by requesting members to share any thoughts or suggestions with him on implementation of the Roadmap in the context of the transition. He noted the Planning Committee will meet before the next EAC meeting. He thanked everyone for their input.

The next EAC meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. in the ConCon Conference Rooms, Constitution Hall.