TOXICS STEERING GROUP (TSG) QUARTERLY MEETING
Thursday, October 2, 2014
MEETING SUMMARY

Members in attendance:
Department of Community Health (DCH):
Linda Dykema Jennifer Gray

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ):
Shannon Briggs Kristen Kellock Bob Sills
Mike Depa Doreen Lehner Eric Wildfang
Christine Flaga Joy Taylor Morgan Keisha Williams
Divinia Ries - Chairperson

Others Present:
Emily Weingartz, DEQ
Jim Sygo, DEQ Deputy Director

Highlights:

New TSG member:
Dr. Keisha Williams is the new Air Quality Division toxicologist and TSG member.

Follow-up on previous activities:
Linda announced that the Division of Environmental Health’s grant application for funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to establish and maintain a Michigan portal to the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network was approved. Michigan was one of 2 states that received the grant out of many applicants. For the first year of the grant, the activities lined up include establishing the IT structure and establishing a data sharing agreement with Air Quality and Water Management Divisions. This grant also includes monitoring of health measures such as cancer, birth defects, carbon monoxide poisoning, asthma and hospitalization data.

Front office update:
Jim shared some front office issues including budget, public health departments relating to total coliform and beach monitoring program, and the Flood Plain Response action for the dioxin clean up levels for residential areas and for scrub/wooded areas along the Tittabawassee. One of the concerns for the latter is the possible recontamination of the flood plain or frequently flooded residential areas. Jim also provided information on the Carbon Rules. Jim indicated that the TSG Subcommittee’s 1,4-dioxane report will be released after the RRD stakeholder’s process is completed. This will allow the department to determine the toxicity endpoint based on the stakeholder’s recommended process.

TSG Subcommittees updates:

a) 1,4-Dioxane Subcommittee: The TSG along with four other state Departments of Health/Environment and Toxicology supported the Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment (TERA) request for copies of the original 1,4-dioxane drinking water and inhalation studies conducted by the Japan Bioassay Research Center. TERA received these materials and they are in the process of being translated. Christine will distribute again the draft report to the TSG members who have not provided their feedback yet. The report will
focus on comments to TERA’s proposal for the mechanism of action by which 1,4-dioxane causes cancer.

b) PFCs Workgroup: The group did not meet this past quarter. Joy has received information on studies from Bob Delaney that would need to be discussed by the Subcommittee. DCH has some PFC data from the Great Lakes Initiative (GRLI) project which has not been processed. Upon inquiry of possibly getting an EPA grant for PFC related work, Linda indicated that EPA priority is on habitat restoration and control of invasive species rather than human health. Jennifer completed a guidance document for PFOS in fish: Technical Support Document for Assessment of Perfluorinated Chemicals and Selection of a Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) Reference Dose as the basis for Michigan Fish Consumption Screening Values (FCSVs). This document is available at the DCH website: [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/MDCH_PFOS_Health_Consultation_2014_468766_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/MDCH_PFOS_Health_Consultation_2014_468766_7.pdf). Jennifer explained that her assessment and numbers match that done by Amy (Water Division) and are right around EPA’s numbers.

**Updates from DEQ, DCH and MDA:**

a) The issue of harmful algal blooms (HAB) was discussed. Linda shared what DCH is doing. A Council of State Territorial Epidemiologist fellow is working with Linda's group on the HAB. They plan to form an interdepartmental group which will include DEQ, DARD, DNR and DCH. Shannon shared information on microcystin. Her group noted that the dermal exposure (e.g. bathing) may be a greater impact than drinking the water. The current microcystin criterion is 1.0 ppb (µg/L). Japan uses a 0.5 ppb level. EPA is doing an assessment that may be out for peer review in December but they are not sharing information yet. It was suggested that the Toledo, OH report could be checked for dermal effects. Shannon informed the group that Water Resources Division (WRD) has some monitoring data for microcystin. Mr. Mike Walterhouse (WRD) is the contact for the monitoring data. Linda noted that the DCH concern is the presence of HABs in bigger bodies of water. One of their deliverables for climate change is the work on HABs.

b) Emily presented literature search options (CAS search, Google scholar, Medline, Web of Science, Scifinder, JSTOR), document delivery and library issues (complete updates, who updates in the future, 2 versions/front ends, and connectivity). Some members suggested Research Gate as another document delivery option. Emily plans to create a resource list for full text online and will talk to DTMB concerning the connectivity issue. She will also get more information on costs for Scifinder as it is an easier to use interface for CAS searches. She noted some areas for training for TSG members on the use of the search options mentioned. Several TSG members expressed interest in having informational meetings where Emily could give pointers on how to do a thorough and efficient online literature search.

**Others:**

a) Mike finalized the 2013 TSG draft report.

b) The Michigan Triennial Report, Emerging Contaminant section contained the following emerging contaminants that may be of concern to Michigan.

- Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products
- Perfluorinated Compounds
- Polychlorinated Naphthalenes
- Nanomaterials
- n-Propyl bromide
- Endocrine disruptors
• Bisphenol A
• Triclosan
• Microplastics

c) Eric inquired if the TSG group would like to do a Brown Bag Lab tour at MSU with John Buchweitz. John, a former TSG member, is the Toxicology Section Chief of the MSU Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health. Many members expressed interest in the tour.

d) The group was asked whether the TSG webpage needs to be maintained, and if so, should it be updated into a more useful source of information. Eric shared similar toxicology or risk assessment web pages of other states with the group. Divinia will check if the TSG policy contains a mandate for a webpage or ask Jim if the webpage is necessary.

Next meeting:
Date: December 9, Tuesday, 9-11 a.m., Lillian Hatcher Conference Room, Constitution Hall.