

Toxics Steering Group (TSG) Meeting Summary
June 8, 2010

In attendance:

Amy Babcock – Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE)
Shannon Briggs – DNRE
John Buchweitz – Department of Agriculture (MDA)
Dennis Bush – DNRE
Gary Butterfield – DNRE
Michael Depa – DNRE
Christine Flaga – DNRE
Kay Fritz – DNRE
Chelsea Gallagher – DNRE
Jennifer Gray – Department of Community Health (DCH)
Mary Lee Hultin – DNRE
Doreen Lehner – DNRE
Deborah Mackenzie-Taylor – DNRE
Lisa Quiggle – DCH
Divinia Ries – DNRE
Robert Sills – DNRE
Emily Weingartz – DNRE
Eric Wildfang – DNRE

1. Update from the Front Office – JoAnn Merrick for Jim Sygo

- The details of the Citizens Advisory Councils (CACs) that are part of the transition plan are being worked out. There may be as many as eight, including the ones currently active in the UP. More details are expected after the Executive Management meeting later this month.
- The open Assistant Division Chief and Regional Director positions have been posted; it is anticipated that interviews will run into July. The Director is hoping to complete them in June.
- Some divisions have yet to complete their detailed organization charts that have to be approved by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) before being finalized. It should be at least another two weeks before the charts that already have been submitted to the CSC are released.
- The Department of Technology, Management, and Budget is investigating the consolidation of staff in Constitution Hall. This is still in the cost estimate stage.
- Along the lines of consolidation, library space was mentioned. It may be necessary to examine splitting up the collection vs. keeping it together, but these discussions are also in a very preliminary stage.
- JoAnn suggested that, if significant issues (e.g., SW Detroit community air quality concerns) need to be elevated to the Director's attention, then a briefing document could be developed.
- A meeting of the Environmental Justice Workgroup is to be scheduled so that the public comments to the Workgroup's plan may be reviewed and addressed. A

summary of the comments has been compiled by University of Michigan Law School students.

2. Response to the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Press Release on Triclosan – Amy Babcock

- In response to Jim Sygo's request for the TSG to review the FDA's determination on triclosan, Ms. Bush provided a copy of correspondence from 2007 that addressed a similar issue, as well as links to several other information sources. The available data support, and the TSG does not dispute, the FDA's statement that, "...the agency does not have evidence that triclosan in antibacterial soaps and body washes provides any benefit over washing with regular soap and water."
- The FDA is currently reviewing the scientific data on triclosan to assess whether changes to the consumer use of the substance are warranted. The TSG will keep abreast of the FDA's findings and report any suggestions that could impact Michigan.

3. Final Report on Earth Day 2010 – Kay Fritz

- Approximately 1550 students and 350 chaperones from 30 schools visited the 60 displays that were set up in and around Constitution Hall to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. In addition, 200 state employees and 262 children participated in the simultaneous "Bring Your Child to Work Day".
- The theme for the "TSG Room" (Con-Con Rooms A and B) this year was "Dust Off Your Waders, Let's Go Fishing!" and featured displays staffed by 29 volunteers (and 3 children!) from MDA, DCH, and DNRE. Displays included "The Fishing Hole", "Build-a-Trout", "Dusty the Dog", and "Clean World Coloring Table". The DNRE Fisheries Division shared their fish mounts for the event and offered fishing license holders to attendees.
- Many thanks to Dr. Fritz for coordinating the TSG's contribution to Earth Day 2010.

4. Farming/Gardening on Lead (and Other Heavy Metals)-Contaminated Residential Soils – Eric Wildfang and John Buchweitz

- Drs. Buchweitz and Wildfang presented information regarding some of the potential concerns surrounding "urban gardening". Commercial-scale farming is planned for the Detroit area and several calls have come in from district staff asking for safe soil lead levels for agricultural use. Lead is only one contaminant expected to be found at these sites.
- The University of Minnesota Extension and the University of Rhode Island have produced educational material with tips for reducing exposure to soil contaminants while gardening/farming. Even though we may not be able to develop risk-based standards for this exposure scenario, we could share the prevention suggestions.
- The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry is offering a Brownfield Redevelopment grant that could sustain further investigation into this issue. If a

grant application is to be submitted, MDA will be the lead. DCH has offered technical support, etc. in completing the application.

- It was suggested that a subcommittee/workgroup be formed to model exposures for the urban gardening pathway utilizing the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Human Health Risk Assessment Protocol for Hazardous Waste Combustion Facilities (HHRAP) and biosolids land application model. Formation of a subcommittee/workgroup should be initiated by a formal proposal in accordance with the draft TSG procedure. This endeavor may produce screening levels or other qualitative information to which soil data from the Detroit area can be compared and evaluated.

5. Example of Endosulfan to Illustrate Emerging Issues Regarding Pesticide Registration in Michigan – John Buchweitz

- The USEPA is considering revoking the registration of endosulfan because of human health and environmental effects. The TSG will review and decide whether or not to support revocation of Michigan's registration of the pesticide upon receipt of additional information from Dr. Buchweitz.
- **UPDATE – On June 9, 2010, the USEPA announced that they are “taking action to end all uses of the insecticide endosulfan”, citing the environmental persistence of the substance and “neurological and reproductive risks to farmworkers and wildlife...”.**

6. USEPA's Dioxin Science Plan and Potential Submission of TSG Comments on “EPA's Reanalysis of Key Issues Related to Dioxin Toxicity and Response to NAS Comments” – Deb Mackenzie-Taylor

- USEPA has released an 1800-page document detailing a reference dose and updated cancer slope factor for dioxin, and the Agency's responses to comments from the National Academy of Sciences. Comments on this document are due to the docket by August 19, 2010, but if we want our comments to be reviewed by the Science Advisory Board, they must be received by July 7, 2010.
- It is undecided at this time if the DNRE will submit comments; Dr. Mackenzie-Taylor will keep us informed of any input/review she may need from the TSG.

7. Summer Internship “Projects” for Ms. Chelsea Gallagher – All

- Ms. Gallagher introduced herself and several staff expressed interest in working with her this summer. The TSG Brown Bag scheduled for June 10, 2010, will afford us another opportunity to provide Ms. Gallagher with some background on the DNRE, DCH, and MDA, and to determine where her skills and expertise are most needed at this time.

8. Adjourn

Next meeting – Tuesday, July 27, 2010, 9 am – 11 am, Katherine Cushman Conference Room, Constitution Hall