

**Toxics Steering Group
July 14, 2016 Meeting Summary**

Members in attendance:

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Linda Dykema	Kory Groetsch
Lisa Quiggle	Christina Bush

Department of Environmental Quality

Christine Flaga (Chairperson)	Bob Sills
Eric Wildfang	Mike Depa
Divinia Ries	Keisha Williams
Deb MacKenzie-Taylor	Doreen Lehner
Kristen Kellock	Dennis Bush
Joy Taylor Morgan	Sarah Bowman

Highlights:

Introduction of New WRD Toxicologist

Dennis Bush introduced Sarah Bowman who hired on with the DEQ in June of this year. Sarah has a BS in Biology from Baldwin-Wallace University (Ohio), an MS in Entomology from the University of Georgia, and a Ph.D. in Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology from Ohio State University. Her M.S. research was a study of mercury and wildfire impacts to wetland invertebrates in the Okefenokee Swamp and her dissertation is titled "Utilizing soil characteristics, tissue residues, invertebrate exposures and invertebrate community analyses to evaluate a lead-contaminated site: A shooting range case study".

DEQ-DHHS Memorandum of Understanding

Suggested revisions to the MOU were sent to Jim Sygo on June 13, 2016. The team working on these revisions included Chris Flaga, Kathy Shirey, Michael McClellan, Deb Taylor, Bob Sills, David Kline, and Dennis Bush. Jim said he would consider the suggested revisions and forward on to DHHS for their review within the next week. Jim plans to distribute a final, signed version in August.

TSG Annual Report (2015)

A revised version of the annual report incorporating all comments received to date was sent to the group on July 7. No additional revisions were suggested. Chris will finalize the report and distribute it within the next week.

Michigan Child Lead Poisoning Elimination Board (Lead Board)

Eric and Deb are the DEQ representatives on the Lead Board and they provided the following summary. The Lead Board was created by the Governor under Executive Order and is charged with making recommendations on testing of children for elevated blood lead levels, conducting follow-up monitoring and services (including case management), performing remediation and

abatement of lead in homes, and dashboards and reporting. The Lead Board is chaired by the Lt. Governor and staffed by representatives from the Departments of Health and Human Services, Environmental Quality, Michigan State Housing Development Authority, and Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, as well representatives of pediatric hospitals, local government, education, nonprofit, and other public health agencies. The goal is to provide the Governor with a written report by November 4, 2016. The Lead Board has met twice to date and will continue to meet approximately two times per month.

Librarian Update

AQD, RRD, and WRD have agreed to provide equal funding for a half-time librarian position. The position will be maintained in the Toxicology Unit of RRD. The next step is for Chris to put together all of the documents required for the hiring process. ADD IN MONTHLY CAS CHARGES.

TSG Subcommittee Updates

- *1,4-Dioxane (Chris Flaga, Chair)*: The subcommittee has not met this year since no assignments have been made.
- *Children's Environmental Health (Deb MacKenzie-Taylor, Chair)*: The subcommittee has not met since the last TSG meeting in May, 2016.
- *Perfluorinated Compounds (PFCs) Workgroup (Joy Taylor Morgan, co-chair)*: The group has not met since the May 13, 2016 TSG meeting. They continue to communicate via email and review articles and data they locate or receive from DEQ staff.
- *Draft EPA RFC for Benzo(a)pyrene (Chris Flaga, Chair)*: The subcommittee was formed to address comments and concerns related to the use of a draft EPA reference concentration as presented in the external review draft of the "Toxicological Review of Benzo(a)pyrene" (EPA, 2014). The subcommittee will review the evaluation conducted by the USEPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) as presented in the April 2016 "Review of EPA's Draft Assessment entitled Toxicological Review of Benzo(a)pyrene". After its review, the subcommittee will make a recommendation to RRD and the department as to whether the draft RfC represents the best available scientific information and if it should be used to update the RfC for benzo(a)pyrene for the current update process. The subcommittee's recommendations will be submitted to RRD in early September.

Update from the Front Office

Jim Sygo provided information on the status of the Executive Office and impending transitions including Jim's retirement on August 31. Jim also spoke about data sharing between DHHS and DEQ and the recent MOU between the two departments both in terms of vapor intrusion sites and drinking water issues.

Program Roundtable

DHHS, Toxicology and Response Section (Kory Groetsch)

Kory provided a summary of the many projects in which he and his staff are involved. The main projects include the contamination at the Wurtsmith Air Force Base, vapor intrusion sites, and drinking water-related sites and issues. A meeting has been scheduled for July 29, where staff

from both the DHHS and the DEQ will discuss the projects in which they both have staff involved and the issue of data sharing between the two departments.

DEQ/AQD (Bob Sills)

- Air Toxics Rules: The AQD Toxics Unit anticipates that the air toxics rules revisions will be finalized this fall. Soon after, the health-based screening levels and justification documents will be posted on the AQD webpage, followed by a public comment period.
- Detroit Asthma Summit: Keisha Williams and Joy Taylor Morgan were instrumental in launching and developing the program for the Detroit Asthma Summit which was held on May 11, 2016.
- Environmental Justice: Improving public communications and addressing environmental justice concerns are also program priorities. Related to that, the unit is interested in discussing possible future DHHS input and involvement when citizens feel that air pollution is causing community health problems.

DEQ/WRD (Dennis Bush)

- MI has distributed 11 QPCR machines to local entities for beach monitoring. The local entities are currently comparing QPCR results to the traditional culture method for measuring *E. coli*. Use of QPCR will allow local health departments to make decisions about beach advisories/closures more quickly. Staff will be working with MSU to determine the relationship between the two methods.
- The DEQ was awarded approximately \$130,000 from the USFWS (GLRI funds) to monitor contaminant levels in wildlife (eagles and mink) and forage fish from select Areas of Concern. This study will include the measurement of legacy contaminants such as PCBs, but will also include the measurement of PFCs in wildlife and fish samples.
- A workgroup has been created to assess the new aquatic life values developed by the USEPA for ammonia. The method used by the USEPA was unusual because they developed different values for when mussels are present and when they are absent. One of the tasks of the workgroup will be to determine how to assess whether mussels are (or could be) present.

DEQ/OWMRP (Deb Taylor)

VI Screening Level Subcommittee: Deb suggested that a TSG subcommittee be created to identify vapor intrusion screening levels that can be used to assess the many vapor intrusion sites that are coming to light across the state. Staff in both the DEQ and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has been struggling to identify a process and screening levels that can be used to evaluate the hazards associated with vapors that have migrated from chemical releases into the indoor air environment. It was agreed that a subcommittee is warranted and Jim Sygo gave his support. Deb will make arrangements to identify members and convene the group for a first meeting.

DEQ/RRD (Chris Flaga)

An update was provided on the status of the proposed cleanup criteria rules which the department hopes to have promulgated by the end of the calendar year. The public hearing is scheduled for September 12 and the public comment period ends on September 13.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2016 from 9:00 am – Noon in the Joseph Sablich conference room (5S).