

**Toxics Steering Group  
Meeting Summary  
January 3, 2018**

**Attendance:**

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Jennifer Gray	Abiy Mussa
Sesha Kallakuri	Alexandra Rafalski
Jacob Carrick	William Farrell
Aaron Cooch	

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Christine Flaga (Chairperson)	Tim Achee (Librarian)
Bob Sills	Keisha Williams
Dennis Bush	Brandon Armstrong
Kristen Kellock	Sarah Bowman
Joy Taylor Morgan	Shannon Briggs
Eric Wildfang	Divinia Ries
Mike Depa	Shane Morrison
Doreen Lehner	Sara Nedrich

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)

Kay Fritz

TSG Director

Michael McClellan, DEQ Environment Deputy Director

Guests

Christina Pastoria, Office of the Great Lakes (OGL), DNR	Emily Finnell, OGL, DNR
Richard Benzie, DWMAD	Eric Oswald, DWMAD
Amy LaChance, DWMAD	

**Meeting Highlights:**

New Staff:

Sara Nedrich, DEQ	William Farrell, DHHS
Aaron Cooch, DHHS	

**Update from the Front Office: Michael McClellan**

DHHS-DEQ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): The MOU is still in process and primarily addresses data sharing between the two departments. Michael has a meeting with Susan Moran (DHHS) on January 18 at which the MOU will be discussed. Related to vapor intrusion, DEQ has made one official referral to DHHS in the past few months.

**Potential Restructure of the TSG:** Although members of the TSG currently come from DEQ, DHHS, and DARD, the TSG has historically been a DEQ group. The TSG has a DEQ policy and procedure and is supervised by a DEQ executive manager. Since collaboration between the departments has increased significantly in the last few years, it was suggested that it become a multidepartment group. The most feasible way to make that happen is through an MOU. Chris Flaga will convene a small group (toxicologists from each department) to discuss, prepare a recommendation to the departments' management, and draft an MOU. It is likely that DNR will also be included.

**PFAS:** Michael briefly mentioned the groups and activities related to this group of contaminants. Sue Leeming has the lead on PFAS issues for the DEQ.

**Emerging Contaminants (EC):** Christina Pastoria, Office of the Great Lakes (OGL), DNR  
Christina presented the work the TSG Workgroup on Emerging Contaminants conducted since the last TSG meeting in September. The group was formed at the September meeting following a discussion initiated by Christina Pastoria and Emily Finnell of the OGL. The group was formed for the purpose of developing a framework for summarizing and assessing current DEQ and DHHS process for identifying and addressing ECs. The group was also asked to make recommendations on the state's ability to address ECs. The draft report presents the information the group was able to collect since the last meeting; they will continue their work, build on the report, and present again at the April TSG meeting. *Comments on the existing draft report should be sent to Christina by COB January 12.*

**Proposed Lead and Copper Rule Update:** Amy LaChance, DWMAD

A Summary of the proposed rule and comparison to the current rule was provided. Some of the major changes include:

- Water suppliers will be required to remove lead service lines over the next 20 years even if the lead concentrations in the water are below the lead action level
- The lead action level is proposed to be reduced from 15 ppb to 10 ppb
- A household advisory level of 40 ppb is proposed to trigger faster notification to residents

### **Subcommittee/Workgroup Updates**

**PFAS Workgroup (Joy and Eric):** The TSG PFAS Workgroup was absorbed into the larger multiagency PFAS Technical Workgroup which is a part of the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART). Members of the Technical Workgroup have been given assignments on which they are currently working.

The TSG PFAS completed an addendum (August 2017) to the PFAS White Paper that was finalized in 2011. The addendum has been reviewed by Michael and Susan Leeming and revisions have been incorporated into the document. Michael will follow-up with Susan regarding the Addendum so that it can be finalized.

**Children's Environmental Health Subcommittee (Chris):** The subcommittee was not convened over the last year however Deb MacKenzie-Taylor (chair of the subcommittee prior to her new position at DHHS) did continue to provide support to RRD during stakeholder discussions on the process for

addressing developmental toxicants. The process is based on the report that was written by this subcommittee. Members of the group will have a meeting to discuss membership and selection of the next chairperson.

**Renewal of SciFinder subscription:** Tim Achee (DEQ librarian)

The current SciFinder subscription (DEQ only) will terminate February 28, 2018. Staff is working to negotiate the price of the subscription, but it is clear that it will be higher than the current subscription rate. The subscription is a critical tool used by Tim and DEQ toxicologists to collect the scientific data needed to develop air toxics screening and permit levels, water quality standards, and cleanup criteria.

**TSG Annual Report:** Chris Flaga

A request was sent out by Chris to all TSG members for input on the 2017 TSG annual report. The deadline for input is January 12 and the goal is to have the final report done by January 31.

**Next TSG Chairperson:** Chris Flaga

The TSG chairperson for 2018 is Shannon Briggs.

**Highlights from Toxicology Units/Sections and Programs**

DEQ/RRD (Eric & Shane): Eric presented the status of the proposed 1,4-dioxane drinking water criteria rule and the generic cleanup criteria proposed rules revisions. The public comment period for the proposed criteria rule package ends January 24, 2018 and the hope is that the rules will be promulgated before this summer. A webinar is taking place on January 10 to showcase the tool the DEQ is developing to assist in the implementation of the proposed rules associated with the volatilization to indoor air pathway (VIAP). Shane spoke of the many site-specific VIAP evaluations that he has and is conducting (approximately 350 have been conducted to date). Divinia is involved with several site-specific risk assessments (non-VIAP) for the cleanup program including petroleum-contaminated and recreational sites. Divinia shared her involvement with two ITRC technical teams, Bioavailability of Contaminants in Soil and TPH Risk Evaluation. She will be scheduling a brownbag seminar on the two topics in the near future if there is interest.

DARD (Kay Fritz): Kay has been working on the heptatis A outbreak in SEMI and the statewide PFAS issue. Related to PFAS, Kay has developed emergency draft PFAS food safety limits for milk, eggs, beef, and chicken. She plans to refine the values and present them to her management.

DHHS (Bill Farrell): The Toxicology and Response Section is now comprised of three units: drinking water, vapor intrusion, and ATSDR site assessment. Hiring of managers for all three units is in process.

DEQ/AQD (Bob): Doreen is managing the Air Toxics website and all staff are updating the screening levels as needed. Keisha is evaluating data coming from the new ambient air monitoring station in southwest Detroit (48217 ZIP code). Mike has evaluated ambient air monitoring data and is participating in an upcoming public hearing for the Arbor Hills Landfill in Northville. Joy has been gathering air-related PFAS information and coordinating with AQD staff regarding PFAS activities.

DEQ/WRD (Dennis): A monitoring plan for measuring PFAS in fish and surface water is being developed which will help track the sources of the contamination. Surface water locations near drinking water intakes are included. A wildlife project which includes the analysis of bald eagle serum, forage fish tissue, and mink livers for PFAS and PCBs is on-going. Analysis of mink jaws for deformities is also included. WRD is hoping for additional mink samples from Kalamazoo trappers before the trapping season ends. The unit continues to address issues related to aquatic toxicity by developing screening levels or deriving criteria for chemicals in surface water. The DEQ budget includes \$500,000 for the Real Time Beach Monitoring Program to support qPCR monitoring at Michigan's beaches. The qPCR method measures DNA of *E. coli* that gives local authorities same day results to open and close beaches. The qPCR method also has the ability to identify DNA of the sources of fecal contamination.

DEQ/OWMRP (Kristen): Mostly business as usual for Kristen with vapor intrusion being a significant focus.

**Next TSG meeting:** Monday, April 16, 2018, 9:00 – Noon  
Joseph Sablich Conference Room (5S) 517-284-5173

**Tentative Agenda Items for the Next Meeting:**

Environmental justice (DEQ-AQD)  
ECs continued (Update by the TSG EC Workgroup)  
Environmental Public Health Tracking (DHHS)  
Guidelines for remediating fentanyl (opioid) contamination (DHHS)  
TSCA Presentation (WMPRP?)  
TSG involvement in Earth Day (Divinia)  
Update on making the TSG a multi-agency body (Chris Flaga)

Please send additional agenda items to Shannon Briggs