

**Toxics Steering Group
Meeting Summary
September 14, 2017**

Attendance:

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Jennifer Gray	Kory Groetsch
Sesha Kallakuri	Christina Bush
Jacob Carrick	Abiy Mussa
Alexandra Rafalski	

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

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

TSG Director

Michael McClellan, DEQ Environment Deputy Director

Guests

Christina Pastoria, Office of the Great Lakes (OGL)
Emily Finnell, OGL

Meeting Highlights:

➤ **New Staff:**

Brandon Armstrong, DEQ
Sesha Kallakuri, DHHS
Alexandra Rafalski, DHHS

➤ **Update from the Front Office**

Michael McClellan, DEQ Environment Deputy Director, is the new director of the TSG.

DHHS-DEQ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): The MOU has been redrafted and now primarily addresses how the two departments communicate with each other on matters of public health. The TSG no longer plays a primary role in the MOU. Communications are primarily between the DEQ and DHHS deputy directors (McClellan and Susan Moran). Michael and other managers from the DEQ and DHHS will bring the MOU closer to final and share a copy with the chair of the TSG.

The Environmental Council of States (ECOS): DEQ Director Grether and Michael were at an ECOS meeting earlier in the week. The Director is on a Cross Environmental Media committee which focused on per- and polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) at that meeting.

ECOS Toxic Substances Control Act Workgroup: Michael had inquired about TSG participation in this group. It was determined that Deb Taylor and Liz Browne frequently participate in the Workgroup meetings by phone. Michael asked to be updated on future workgroup calls. Deb will send the related links (e.g. acetophenone) for this workgroup. Michael informed the group that Nate Zimmer will be organizing all ECOS-related matters for MDEQ.

Triennial Report of the State of Michigan's Environment (the Triennial Report): Michael was asked about the status of the next Triennial Report. He said he would inquire about it and update the TSG as to its status including the staff person who has the lead for the fourth triennial report. The last report was the 2014 State of Michigan's Environment which was not released until 2016. There is a legislative mandate that the report be produced every three years.

A department-wide PFAS group has been formed for the purpose of providing a forum for consistent communications and management throughout the department of PFAS-related issues and contaminated properties. Three members of the TSG are included in this group of experts: Kristen Kellock; Dennis Bush; and Joy Taylor Morgan.

Other PFAS-related items:

- ITRC has a PFAS technical team which has written draft fact sheets. Bob Delaney (DEQ/RRD) is a member of the team.
- ECOS will be conducting a pilot study on PFAS and harmful algal bloom communications. Mike Jury (DEQ/RRD) will participate in the discussions.

➤ Emerging Contaminants of Concern (ECC): Emily Finnell and Christina Pastoria, DEQ, Office of the Great Lakes (OGL)

Emily provided background on the OGL's involvement with the Water Strategy's Interdepartmental Water Team. They have prepared a briefing on emerging pollutants for the Water Team. The title of the document is: *Summary of Current Efforts to Address Emerging Pollutants in the Great Lakes Region*.

A discussion followed with input from many on how emerging contaminants and issues can be identified. Some ideas mentioned during the discussion include:

- How are other state agencies approaching ECCs especially Ohio and Minnesota which seem to be well ahead of Michigan in this regard
 - If a chemical is being seen in another Region V state, look in MI
 - Consider unique uses and manufacturing activities in MI; what are the highest volume chemicals in MI?
 - Consider known ECCs in one medium in other media (emerging media?)
 - When to respond to an ECC?
- Attend ECC conferences to learn and network
- Identify journals/subscriptions that may be helpful
- Include additional chemicals on the target analytical lists or use non-targeted analytical methods for screening purposes
- Re-instate reporting requirements

- Consider work of USGS (they look for novel contaminants/sources i.e., cemeteries) and NOAA
- Use Great Lakes Restoration Initiative monies to fund an ECC workshop in Michigan to build a coalition to leverage additional funding
- Identify research needs and priorities for collaboration with Michigan universities: priorities from DEQ perspective; universities need very specific research topics
- Utilize 12 Michigan water centers for collaborative research and activities
- DHHS environmental health tracking program can be tapped to have better epidemiological data

The group agreed that the DEQ needs to have a process for defining, identifying, and responding to ECCs. This process would enable the department to be more proactive. It was agreed that several members of the TSG (plus others) would be identified to continue the discussion between now and the next TSG meeting. The group will discuss how to best develop a framework and process for identifying and addressing ECCs and present their ideas at the December TSG meeting where we will discuss how to proceed from there.

➤ **Subcommittee/Workgroup Updates**

PFAS Workgroup (Joy): Background on the Workgroup and the original white paper was provided. The group finalized a White Paper on PFAS in 2011: *Perfluorinated Compounds in Michigan. Current State of Knowledge and Recommendations for Future Actions*. The Workgroup has written an Addendum to this white paper which updates the previous information including environmental data of PFAS in Michigan. Joy will send both the 2011 White Paper and the 2017 Addendum to Michael. Michael will review and approve the Addendum by October 16. The Addendum will then be shared with all DEQ Directors. The full TSG has already reviewed the Addendum.

➤ **Updates from DEQ and DHHS**

DEQ/WRD (Dennis): Brandon Armstrong is the new WRD toxicologist. Shannon has begun comparing two years of *E. coli* beach monitoring results using qPRC and the traditional method. Sarah has been working on a pesticide targeted monitoring project that involves criteria development for three pesticides and the monitoring of these pesticides in the Huron River. We continue to monitor PFAS in surface water and fish. Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI) funds that the unit has been using for the emerging issue/targeted monitoring projects are running out; WRD is preparing success stories for the work conducted with CMI funds. The unit continues to work on a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant which includes the monitoring of contaminant levels in eaglets, forage fish, and mink at select Areas of Concern.

DEQ/AQD (Bob): AQD is developing responses to the formal comments on our health-based screening levels. Comments were received on 26 out of the 1200+ air toxics that have screening levels. Our deadline for responding is October 11th. We continue to receive many requests from our permits section for screening levels for new air toxics. Other activities include public meetings regarding air monitoring data interpretation for Detroit's 48217 ZIP code, for which we have found occasional high sulfuric acid levels. Concerns about asbestos related to Detroit building demolitions is another AQD priority issue. Mike is working on a training module for our unit concerning risk assessment of air emissions undergoing deposition, persistence, and bioaccumulation.

DHHS (Kory & Christina): Alexandra Rafalski and Sessa Kallakuri are DHHS's newest toxicologists. MDHHS may be hiring one to three more toxicologists by the end of December. The Toxicology and Response Section (TRS) now consists of three units: Drinking Water Unit; Vapor Intrusion Unit; and ATSDR Site Assessments Unit. Two of the TRS's priority issues are PFAS and vapor intrusion. Related to vapor intrusion, DHHS may recommend an evacuation to address vapor intrusion risks but it is the local county health department which has the authority to implement the evacuation. Other issues in which the section is involved: safe siting of early education centers (a portion of the ATSDR site assessment grant is used for this); providing guidance to address meth and other drug labs; responding to FOIA requests for recommended vapor intrusion evacuations; and evaluating risks at a manufacturing facility in southwest MI highly contaminated with mercury.

DEQ/OWMRP (Deb): Mostly business as usual for Deb and Kristen with vapor intrusion being a significant focus. Kristen has been overseeing most of the site-specific vapor intrusion evaluations. We will be working to update the memorandum of understanding for RCRA corrective action once the Part 201 cleanup criteria rules are promulgated and enter into a new TSCA PCB remediation memorandum.

DEQ/RRD (Eric & Shane): Eric presented the status of the proposed 1,4-dioxane drinking water criteria rule and the comprehensive criteria rule package. Shane spoke of the many site-specific volatilization to indoor air pathway evaluations that he is conducting (over 200 at this time). Divinia is and has been involved with several site-specific risk assessments for the cleanup program including petroleum-contaminated sites and recreational sites.

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

TSCA Presentation (Deb)

ECCs continued (ECC Discussion Group)

Environmental Public Health Tracking (DHHS)

2018 TSG Chairman

Please send additional agenda items to Chris Flaga

The meeting was adjourned at noon.

- **The next TSG meeting/Christmas Potluck:** Thursday, December 7, 9-1:00
Joseph Sablich Conference Room (5S) (517-284-5077)