

TSG Meeting Summary
January 26, 2010
9 am – 11 am
Katherine Cushman Room

In attendance:

Amy Babcock – Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE)	
John Buchweitz – Department of Agriculture (MDA)	
Christina Bush – Department of Community Health (DCH)	
Dennis Bush – DNRE	Deborah Mackenzie-Taylor – DNRE
Gary Butterfield – DNRE	Divinia Ries – DNRE
Michael Depa – DNRE	Amy Salisbury – DNRE
Christine Flaga – DNRE	Abby Schwartz – DCH
Kay Fritz – DNRE	Robert Sills – DNRE
Jennifer Gray – DCH	Joy Taylor-Morgan – DNRE
Mary Lee Hultin – DNRE	Lisa Quiggle – DCH
Doreen Lang – DNRE	Emily Weingartz – DNRE

1. Update from the Front Office – Jim Sygo

- Budget woes continue; Jim encouraged us to “stay positive”
- The organizational chart presented in Bruce Rasher’s transition plan is being filled in; the only certainties at the moment are that the former Air Quality Division will be housed in the “Air” box on the org chart, and the former Groundwater Permits Unit of the former Water Bureau will move to the “Groundwater” box

2. Comments on EPA’s Advance Notice of Rulemaking Regarding Pesticide Inert Ingredients – Christina Bush

- Comments will be sent to the EPA from the TSG as a whole, not just from the Children’s Health Subcommittee
- The letter to the EPA will most likely be signed by the Directors or Deputy Directors of MDA, DCH, and DNRE
- Comments are due to Chris by Friday, January 29, 2010; final comments are due to the EPA by Monday, February 22, 2010
- Discussion focused on the practicality of including all of the ingredient information on pesticide product label; perhaps a Material Safety Data Sheet is the more appropriate repository of such information. It was also noted that an allergy or other health effect warning statement, where applicable, on the product may be more helpful to the general consumer than the “laundry list” of ingredients
- It was suggested we include a comment supporting the adoption of a protocol similar to the European “Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemical Substances” regulation, known as REACH, allowing the EPA to compile a list of substances allowed to be present in pesticides “inerts”; any chemical not on the list would have to be reviewed

3. Proposal for the Formation of a Cumulative Risk Workgroup – Kay Fritz

- Postponed until the March meeting

4. Earth Day 2010 – Kay Fritz

- Kay will seek approval to once again lead the Earth Day room planning
- Volunteers will be needed to staff displays on Thursday, April 22, 2010

5. Other Business:

Annual Report

- On track for completion

Relevant upcoming meetings (e.g., SOT)

- John and Divinia will be attending the SOT Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, March 7-11, 2010
- The TRAC Meeting will again be held in Cincinnati this April; Deb will look into attending

Committee/Workgroup Updates?

- Jim Sygo requested an update on the comments due to the EPA on Friday, February 26, 2010, regarding the Draft Interim Preliminary Remediation Goals (PRG) for Dioxin in Soil. Deb requested that comments from TSG members be sent to her by Friday, February 5, 2010. Comments regarding the applicability of the Great Lakes Water Quality Guidance to the PRG are especially solicited.
- Chris Bush mentioned that the DCH is conducting workshops regarding the offgassing of mercury vapors from old polyurethane floors typically used in school gymnasiums. This is less a public health issue than it is a waste management issue. The DCH is working with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and DNRE staff to determine best management practices. If anyone is interested or has pertinent info, please let Chris know.
- Chris Bush also noted that Internet sales sites such as craigslist and eBay may be allowing the sale of mercury (and other hazardous materials?). It may require legislative action to increase the restrictions that are currently self-imposed on the sites.
- Finally in mercury news, Chris Bush mentioned that the DCH is interested in suggestions/comments to enhance its educational efforts (e.g., risk of thimerosal in vaccines vs. mercury thermometers) to make the issues more tangible.
- Deb Mackenzie-Taylor has received a request for speakers from Charlie Bauer. A three-talk series on toxics is scheduled for March 2, 2010, April 6, 2010, and May 4, 2010, at the Bay City State Recreation Area. Topics to be covered include persistence, accumulation, exposure, wildlife and human health effects, and regulation. PCBs, dioxins and furans, mercury, arsenic, and pesticides are the toxicants of interest.

6. Adjourn

Next meeting – Tuesday, March 23, 2010, 9 am – 11 am, Katherine Cushman Room