

Toxics Steering Group (TSG) Meeting Summary

Tuesday, May 4th (Be With You), 2021

9:00am to 12:00pm

Meeting Minutes are posted on the [Toxics Steering Group home page](#), under General Information.

In Attendance

Attendance from staff from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD), and Michigan Department Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE).

TSG Chairperson
Shane Morrison (EGLE)

Jordan Bailey (DHHS), Aubrey Brewer (DHHS), Dennis Bush (EGLE), Shannon Briggs (EGLE), Jacob Carrick (DHHS), Xun Che (DHHS), Aaron Cooch (DHHS), Michael Depa (EGLE), William Farrell (DHHS), Lisa Fischer (DHHS), Kay Fritz (MDARD), Jen Gray (DHHS), Brian Hughes (EGLE), Rosa Jaiman (DHHS), Sessa Kallakuri (DHHS), Andrea Keatley (DHHS), Amber Klase (DHHS), Grace Kuan (EGLE), Doreen Lehner (EGLE), Mounica Nandula (DHHS), Alex Rafalski (DHHS), Brandon Reid (DHHS), Divinia Ries (EGLE), Geoff Rhodes (EGLE), Joy Taylor-Morgan (EGLE), Joost Vant Erve (DHHS), Marcus Wasilevich (DHHS), Eric Wildfang (EGLE), Keisha Williams (EGLE), Courtney Fung (EGLE)

Meeting Highlights

- 1) The meeting was started at 9:00 am with roll call and introductions.
- 2) EGLE Remediation and Redevelopment Division's Toxicology Unit Presentation (Grace Kuan)

The presentation highlighted Bio Sketches for each unit member and allowed everyone to chime in and speak to their own background and specialties for the division. The information can be found in the May 2021 QRATS newsletter.

- 3) QRATS Newsletter (Brian Hughes)
 - a. Brian Hughes walked group through the first draft of the QRATS newsletter
 - b. Purpose to provide continuity of practice with the TSG and create awareness of our group's work
 - c. Group discussed usefulness of QRATS and provided initial feedback
 - i. Comments: well-organized, informative, useful; positive feedback on the webinar notices/links and fun Q&A part

ACTION: Provide additional feedback regarding improvements, personalization, content, frequency, format, length, audience, etc.

- 4) PFAS Health Studies in Michigan (Jordan Bailey and Joost Vant Erve)

Presented PFAS health studies available on the MDHHS website. (North Kent County Exposure Assessment, Michigan PFAS Exposure & Health Study, PFAS Exposure and Antibody Response to COVID-19 Vaccine Study, Multi-Site-Health Study (analogous to MiPEHS and accept children down to 4 years old; launching late summer), PFAS in

Firefighters of Michigan Surveillance (currently underway), Michigan Chemical Exposure Monitoring (surveillance on chemicals in adult's blood, including PFAS)

5) Risk Assessor Poll Results

Industrial hygienists received the most votes to be invited and attend the TSG.

a. Summary of Poll Comments:

- i. Industrial hygienists appeared to be the most similar to toxicologists
- ii. Positions up for votes apply regulations/guidelines/standards, but don't create them
- iii. General interest in learning from some of these positions, potential of inviting people as outside expert for specific discussions
- iv. Who ultimately decides whether the TSG should be expanded?
- v. Would there need to be a written agreement with LARA and LEO to include them in the TSG?
- vi. Other non tox EGLE field staff conduct safety and risk assessments as well. Does this mean they should be part of the TSG?

b. TSG Discussion:

- i. Question of whether enough people responded to the poll questions (open for 1 week) to make a decision.
- ii. This issue could be picked up by the TSG Charter Workgroup. The workgroup is consulting with EGLE deputy and other relevant upper management as they update the policy and procedure in TSG charter
- iii. Should the TSG policy and procedure workgroup draft how the group decides to invite additional individuals to join as they put together the charter?

6) Sub-Committee Report out

a. Brownbag Series (Eric Wildfang)

- i. Announcement of next event (topic on microplastics in the environment)
- ii. Invitation for individuals and topics you'd like to hear from or hear about; individuals may contact Eric with any ideas
- iii. Both internal and external speakers are welcome to participate
- iv. Discussion of appropriateness of storing PowerPoint slides on SharePoint

b. TSG Charter Workgroup

- i. Workgroup just had first meeting
- ii. Management concurrence will be obtained before this updated is finalized

7) Round Table: Updates from Toxicology Programs

- a. DHHS Environmental Assessment and ATSDR – no update
- b. DHHS Environmental Site Contamination Unit – Continued work on PFAS
- c. DHHS Vapor Intrusion Unit – Sampling picking back up. chemical-specific and relocation FAQ fact sheets being updated
- d. MDARD: Attempt to mail out dioxin fact sheet to those who may need it (June 1st); posted on MDHHS website (May 19th)
- e. EGLE Air Quality Division
 - i. Permitting process with Dow Silicones continues (facility wide permit). Staff are sorting through hundreds of chemicals and reviewing potential surrogates.
 - ii. Keisha and Brian are evaluating the use of cumulative risk and its impact to communities. A white paper was discussed in describing the incorporation of cumulative risk in their process.
 - iii. Keisha and Brian are in the process of obtaining software to address environmental justice concerns (VENMAP).

- iv. Recently, cheminformatics software was made available
 - 1. Joy is collaborating with Harvard on the use of passive air monitoring to investigate PFAS in Michigan. Only point sources and air sources are being investigated currently.
 - f. EGLE Remediation and Redevelopment Division – no update
 - g. EGLE Water Resources Division – in the process of filling Sarah Bowman's position (recently left) and can now offer a position to one of their applicants. A mammalian toxicologist position will be open soon for applications.
- 8) Clarification of action items identified above.
- a. Provide feedback on QRATS newsletter
 - b. Charter workgroup will potentially draft a process deciding how other state agency members are invited to TSG
 - c. Next TSG meeting is on September 20th
 - d. Next Brownbag event is on May 18th