

Toxics Steering Group (TSG) Meeting Summary

Thursday, February 11, 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) and Michigan Department Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)

TSG Chairperson
Shane Morrison (EGLE)

Aubrey Brewer (DHHS), Dennis Bush (EGLE), Shannon Briggs (EGLE), Jacob Carrick (DHHS), Aaron Cooch (DHHS), Michael Depa (EGLE), William Farrell (DHHS), Jen Gray (DHHS), Brian Hughes (EGLE), Rosa Jaiman (DHHS), Ricardo Jaimes (EGLE), Sesha 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), Joe Rogers (EGLE), Joy Taylor-Morgan (EGLE), Marcus Wasilevich (DHHS), Eric Wildfang (EGLE), Keisha Williams (EGLE), Dan Dailey (EGLE), Courtney Fung (EGLE), and Shaun Shields (EGLE)

Meeting Highlights

- 1) The meeting was started at 9:00am with roll call and introductions.
- 2) MDHHS' Environmental Site Contamination Unit Presentation (Rosa Jaiman)

The presentation discussed how the unit evaluates exposure to hazardous substances from environmental media by showcasing specific projects that unit members are involved in.

ACTION – This presentation will be made available to the TSG via SharePoint.

- 3) Keisha Williams led discussion of potential of TSG recommendation for screening levels (SLs) used in RCRA site ambient air monitoring at property fence line.

Suggestion to use a site-specific, risk-based approach with ambient air screening levels (addresses air pollutants coming from soil and groundwater). Suggestion to use ATSDR MRLs that can account for different and specific exposure durations (similar to RIASLs). Discussion as to whether the approach would apply for a specific-site or be developed to for a generic approach.

ACTION – Dan Dailey will work with MMD staff to develop hazardous substance list to potentially setup a generic approach for similar sites.

ACTION – Keisha would like a TSG written response addressing any recommendation(s). A formal request will be provided in the future.

- 4) Doreen Lehner led discussion on the opportunity for a dedicated Microsoft Teams Page for the TSG.

There is an opportunity to obtain a dedicated Microsoft Teams Page for the TSG. The Pros and Cons of SharePoint and Microsoft Teams were presented. The presentation discussed how the current SharePoint is not being efficiently utilized and has accumulated many documents over time that need to be cleaned up regardless of decision to switch platforms.

ACTION – This presentation will be made available to the TSG via SharePoint.

ACTION – A poll will be sent out to TSG members to gauge interest after some additional information is gathered.

- 5) TSG Newsletter/Quarterly Risk assessment and Toxicology Summary (QRATS)

Brian Hughes proposed to start QRATS newsletter as a forum for sharing information of mutual interest among the TSG. Doreen and Brian will lead a pilot/trial demonstration and request 3-4 people to assist in production. It was suggested that this newsletter may go out monthly to effectively promote timely webinars.

- 6) LARA Risk Assessors

Shane presented information on behalf of Kay Fritz regarding a previous TSG action item to consider inviting toxicologist/risk assessors from other state agencies. LARA did not identify toxicologist or risk assessor positions within that agency. The most relevant positions were fire safety inspectors, sanitarians, industrial hygienists, and laboratory scientist specialists.

DHHS has epidemiologist positions that could be considered.

ACTION – Follow-up with Kay on the action item. A poll will be sent to TSG members to consider inviting these positions to the TSG meetings.

- 7) Keisha Williams provided an update on previous agenda items:

- a) 2020 Annual Report

Draft will be circulated with goal to post final document by March 2021.

- b) Earth Day Exhibit

No specifics yet but likely too late to participate this year.

- c) Subcommittee Survey Results (All Ages Lead Model, Brown Bag, Emerging issues in toxicology)

Polled during meeting to identify members interested in each of the subcommittees.

d) Charter/Policy and Procedure

Poll results indicate majority in favor of charter. Dissenter(s) requested to contact Keisha directly. Consideration of forming a group to draft and finalize the charter. Members should contact Shane Morrison if interested in joining this group.

8) MDHHS Unit Structure (Jen Gray)

DHHS organizational chart was reviewed as there have been a number of retirements and vacancies.

9) Round Table: Updates from Toxicology Programs

a) DHHS Environmental Assessment and ATSDR (Andrea Keatley)

Proposed updates for future TSG meetings from PFAS workgroup health studies and a garden pilot study of PFAS in vegetables and soils.

b) DHHS Environmental Site Contamination Unit (Rosa Jaiman)

No update

c) DHHS Vapor Intrusion Unit (Aaron Cooch)

Looking into use of air purification units rather than evacuations

d) EGLE Air Quality Division (Keisha Williams, Mike Depa, Doreen Lehner)

Following interactions with EPA, Dow Silicones has to address a large number of air permits (53). Facility-wide addressing their air permitting. As a toxics unit, they are evaluating 400-600 toxic air contaminants (TACs). 200 have screening levels, the rest they will be evaluating as a team. Also figuring out how to address cumulative risk.

A number of members are involved with environmental justice efforts. For instance, the MiEJ screening tool and cumulative risk considerations.

e) EGLE Materials Management Division (Joe Rogers)

Toxicology Specialist Vacancy to be posted.

f) EGLE Remediation and Redevelopment Division (Eric Wildfang)

Business as usual last quarter. Working on site-specific requests, vapor intrusion. Recap of Wurtsmith PFAS site.

g) EGLE Water Resources Division (Dennis Bush)

2 vacancies – mammalian toxicologist and ecotoxicologist

10) Clarification of action items identified above.