

**HPV Chemicals Conference Steering Committee
Draft Notes for the Conference Call
February 13, 2006, 1:30 – 3:30**

Prepared by: Jennifer Griffith, NEWMOA

Attendees: See Attached List

Introduction

Terri Goldberg, Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA) opened the call and reviewed the call agenda

Diane Sheridan, EPA provided background information about EPA's High Production Volume (HPV) chemicals program and the conference. The HPV Chemicals Challenge is voluntary cooperative program. EPA has partnered with the American Chemistry Council and Environmental Defense among others on implementation of the program. There are approximately 2,800 HPV chemicals and data has been supplied on 1,300 of these to date. The HPV Chemicals Information System (HPVIS) will be available on the EPA website in a searchable database in the next month or so. The purpose of the conference is to raise awareness of the HPVIS and other sources of HPV chemicals data and to obtain input on the database and how to improve its accessibility and usefulness. There will also be an international component to the conference.

The conference is scheduled to take place in Austin, Texas, December 12-14, 2006.

Terri Goldberg, NEWMOA stressed that this is the first major conference on this topic – organizers want broad participation and involvement in planning and attending the conference. NEWMOA has a cooperative agreement with EPA to plan and manage the conference and to coordinate the logistics.

EPA has also provided funding to support travel for certain participants in the conference – priority would be for state/local government officials, NGOs, speakers, and steering committee members.

Ken Geiser, Lowell Center for Sustainable Production (LCSP) stated that the vision of the conference is to model it on what was done in the early years of the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) – to encourage awareness and inspire uses of the data. The Lowell Center will be managing the preparation of four research papers that will be presented at the conference.

Jeff Burke, National Pollution Prevention Roundtable (NPPR) will assist with organizing a coordinated series of presentations on how the data can be used to promote pollution prevention.

Role of the Steering Committee

Terri reviewed the role of the Steering Committee in planning the conference:

- Plan the agenda
- Determine key topics and conference theme
- Suggest ideas for speakers
- Determine other aspects of conference – exhibits, posters, etc.
- Help publicize call for papers
- Help promote conference attendance – target is 300 attendees
- Also – want conference co-sponsors – not necessarily financial, just promise to promote to members

Anticipate four conference calls of the steering committee with e-mail correspondence in between. NEWMOA agreed to post materials for Steering Committee use – such as drafts of the conference agenda, and conference call notes – on the conference webpage.

HPV Chemicals Data Research Papers

Ken Geiser, LCSP described four HPV chemicals research projects that will be funded through the conference planning grant. These research papers will be prepared to provide substantive examples of how the data can be used – to provide lessons learned. The EPA and conference organizers want the papers to reflect different perspectives. There are funds to support the researchers (about \$10K) – one each from a private company perspective; state/local government; academia; and an NGO.

NEWMOA/LCSP will be putting out an open solicitation by end of the month – due back by end of March – then LCSP will select principal investigators that they will work with over the summer and fall – reports will be done and a good presentation developed for the conference

LCSP is interested in working with the Steering Committee to obtain input on publicizing the solicitation. LCSP is also interested in forming a sub-committee of the Steering Committee to review the proposals that come in and to oversee the work as it progresses. The LCSP is seeking a few Steering Committee members to volunteer for the group – participants are asked to contact Ken if they are interested.

LCSP plans to publicize the solicitation to the private sector through trade associations and EPA lists. LCSP also hopes that Steering Committee members will help publicize it.

Someone asked whether there are established criteria for reviewing the proposals? Not yet – Ken is drafting suggestions - the sub-committee would establish these.

Participants brainstormed how the solicitation could be publicized to academics and suggested the following:

- Lynn can provide information about an existing listserv

- Journal solicitations – probably not enough time – but maybe if they have an on-line version or e-mail list
- Professional associations

The group suggested that the conference organizers use the research paper outreach list that LCSP develops for outreach for conference attendance.

Conference Theme

Terri presented a list of possible conference themes that was sent out via e-mail prior to the call. Participants brainstormed additional suggestions for recommending conference themes to both NEWMOA and EPA:

- What do we know about chemicals produced in the greatest quantities in the US?
- Toxic knowledge/information: promoting understanding of ...
- From Data and Systems to Information You Can Use
- Fighting Toxic Ignorance: Expanding Awareness of Chemical Data
- Environmental Data for the 21st Century
- Improving Access to Environmental Information on HPV Chemicals
- Chemical Literacy: Connecting the Dots Between HPV and Other Chemical Data
Building Chemical Literacy
- Responding to the Challenge: then something about HPV
- Addressing the Challenge:

Other comments on the conference theme:

- should HPV be in the name? – in the subtitle? – many might not know what this means and so is not compelling – downplay the term HPV
- need to focus on both environmental and occupational health
- don't want to promise more in the conference theme than can be delivered – it is only screening data – can't be used for human health risk assessment
- conference should focus mostly on the HPV chemicals and the database -
- need to put the data in context – what it can and cannot do
- not information about where the chemicals are used or the products they are in – again don't want to mislead/promise too much

Target for Conference Attendees

Who is the target audience for the conference – that would help determine the theme that would appeal to them most? The target audience is not the general public, but rather those that work with the public – bringing technical information to the public – probably not already knowledgeable of the HPV chemicals program specifically, but would be interested in learning about and using the data. The agenda could address different levels of scientific knowledge with different conference tracks.

Communications and Public Relations Sub-Group

Steering Committee participants decided that a small subgroup should work on developing the conference theme and other communication and PR strategies, and provide their suggestions to the whole Steering Committee for final recommendations . Jim Cooper, SOCMA; Tom Natan, NET; and Chris DeRosa, CDC volunteered to participate in this Communications Sub-group.

Conference Outline Tracks and Plenaries

Terri suggested ideas for five conference tracks that were sent out in an e-mail prior to the call. Tracks are a way to organize concurrent sessions. One track suggestion was “Scope and quality of data” – participants thought this should be a plenary – not a track – at the beginning of the conference - everyone should hear about the limitations of the data.

Data Accessibility, Uses of Data, and Connecting to Other Data Sources, are all good for tracks. Then Communicating with the Public might make a good closing plenary.

Need a presentation that demonstrates the HPVIS – what it contains and how to navigate it – needs to be repeated several times so everyone can attend at some point during the conference.

Presentations on international activities could fit in many places – probably does not need its own track.

Other data sources – what is the focus? What are other data sources, such as Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) – describe them. Or how other data sources work with and augment the HPVIS?

Steering Committee participants suggested that there will probably be a welcoming plenary where senior EPA officials would present. Then a keynote speaker could provide context about the importance of the conference and provide inspiration. Participants strongly suggested that there should be a plenary session each day – plenaries are important to tie the conference together.

Possible keynote speakers mentioned for recommendations to NEWMOA and EPA included: Warren Muir, National Academy of Sciences; George Grey, EPA Scientist; Paul Anastis, Green Chemistry Institute; Kim Nelson, private industry. Industry participants agreed to send keynote speaker ideas to Terri via e-mail.

Organizers anticipate both an open solicitation for presentations/content, and that Steering Committee members would approach those they feel should present. For an open solicitation, participants stated that organizers need to develop a strong selection process – criteria – in order to focus the review.

Next Conference Call

On the next conference call the Steering Committee would work on finalizing the conference theme and the agenda outline, and really focus on identifying potential presenters. Also the solicitation for the research papers will be available by that time. The next conference call was scheduled for Friday March 24th from 1:30 – 3:30 EST.

NEWMOA agreed to post a list of Steering Committee members and their affiliations up on the website.

**HPV Conference Steering Committee
Participants in February 13, 2006 Conference Call**

Darius Sivin
United Auto Workers

Shannon Baldwin
National Institutes of Health/National Library of Medicine

Alan Becker
FL Department of Health

Jeff Burke
National Pollution Prevention Roundtable

David Conrad
National Tribal Environmental Council

Jim Cooper
Synthetic Organic Chemicals Manufacturers Association (SOCMA)

Chris DeRosa -
CDC - ATSDR – Division of Toxicology

Seth Dibblee
EPA Region 5

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Ron Dyer
Maine Department of Environmental Protection

Scott Everett
Utah Department of Environmental Quality

Paula Flores
EPA Region 6

Christina Franz
American Chemistry Council

Ken Geiser
University of Massachusetts Lowell

Lynn Goldman
John Hopkins School of Public Health

Todd Holderman
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Michael Hulse
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Nora Lopez
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Valerie Meyers
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

John Morawetz
International Chemical Workers Union

Tom Natan
National Environmental Trust

Mark Saperstein for John Nepywoda
BP

Dwight Peavey
US EPA Region 1-NE

Lyn Penniman
OSHA

Julia Quint
California Department of Health Services

Robin Ruppel-Kerr (representing ACC)
Bayer Material Science

Margaret Sealey
Environmental Council of the States (ECOS)

Wilma Subra
Subra Company

Mark Townsend
US EPA Risk Assessment Division (RAD)

Conference Organizers Participating

Karen Hoffman
US EPA OPPTS

Cathy Crumbley
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Terri Goldberg
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