

**FINAL MINUTES
TOXIC SUBSTANCES COORDINATING COMMITTEE
(TSCC)**

**March 17, 2015
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

**Room T-607
Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756**

1. Call to order and welcome visitors – Heidi Bojes

Attendees present: Heidi Bojes (DSHS), Natalie Archer (DSHS), Richard Beauchamp (DSHS), Josh Duty (DSHS), Kitten Holloway (DSHS), Amanda Kindt (DSHS), Michael Tennant (DSHS), Jose Velez (DSHS), David Villarreal(DSHS), Tina Walker (DSHS), Tina Williams (DSHS)

Visitors: Beth Patterson, Versa Burnett, Nina Leung, Allison Jenkins, Prakash Patel, Angela Kennedy **and** visitor from Dallas County, Food Born Illnesses

2. Approval of minutes: Minutes from December 2014 and March 2015 meetings will be sent via email for committee members to review prior to the next meeting in June. Approval of both sets of minutes will take place at the next meeting, scheduled for June 16, 2015.

3. Presentation – Emily Hall, MPH, Epidemiologist, DSHS, Environmental Epidemiology and Toxicology Unit

Topic: “Response to the First Domestic Ebola Case”.

4. Subcommittee reports:

- a. **Harmful Algal Bloom workgroup meeting update – (Mike Tennant)**
(Alex Nunex was not present). The workgroup is revising the Harmful Bloom Response Plan.
- b. **Fish Sampling Subcommittee meeting update – (Mike Tennant)** no update
- c. **The Environmental Health and Toxicology Workgroup update – (Heidi Bojes)**
The workgroup last met in October 2014. At that time, Carrie Bradford spoke about convening a Fish HAC Value Review Workgroup with the purpose of reviewing available dioxin and mercury studies as they relate to fish consumption advisories. The Fish HAC Value Review workgroup met in February 2015.

5. Agency updates

TDA:

- Listeria outbreak linked to Blue Bell Ice Cream

- Salmonella out break at a Texas Steakhouse
- Legislative – TDA is receiving many inquiries from the legislature about water-related issues; foot-to-mouth disease; and, Mexico’s super highway. The highway may be a primary way to transport for illegal pesticides and exotic plants from Mexico to the U.S.
- Monarch butterflies may becoming an endangered species; pesticides from farmers may need to be limited

Texas Parks and WildLife: not present

DSHS: no bills that affect the program (Mike Tennant)

DSHS HAT Group:

- The cancer cluster investigation for east Harris County is still being reviewed by DSHS leadership and is expected to be released to the public soon.
- The prevalence of MS in Valley Mills, Texas, the document is currently being reviewed by DSHS leadership and is expected to be released to the public soon.

Railroad Commission of Texas: (Amanda Kindt)

- The FracFocus website will be updated soon. The website provides a central location for public and industry to communicate and relay information on the chemicals used during the process of hydraulic fracturing of oil or gas wells.
- Two different house bills are proposing a name change for the Railroad Commission of Texas (including Texas Energy Resources Commission and Texas Energy Commission). This is the third legislative session in a row to attempt a name change for RRC.
- The public has access to oil wells through agency’s website

TCEQ:

- TCEQ requesting toxicity information from interested parties until 5/22/2015 on: diethylamine, dipropylamine, diesel exhaust, 1,2-cyclohexanediamine, and 2-methyl-1,5 pentane diamine
- TCEQ has revised procedures for deriving odor-based ESLs, to concentrate on chemicals with pungent, disagreeable odors) i.e., those chemicals more likely to result in nuisance odor conditions). A position paper describing the new procedures will be posted for public comment in April
- The TCEQ is making minor revisions to the Guidelines to Develop Toxicity Factors, which will be posted for public comment in May
- TCEQ will host a conference on ozone science April 7-9, 2015 at the University of Texas AT&T Conference Center. A free webcast and reduced attendance registration fees available for government employees. Go to TERA.org and search on ozone for registration information.
- Poster presentation on Barnett and Eagle Ford Shale monitoring data at the Texas Public Health Association annual conference in Austin at the end of February
- Toxicologist are presenting several posters at next week’s Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting

6. *Upcoming meetings:*

2015 TSCC Meetings and locations

June 16, 2015 – DSHS, T-607, 10:00 -11:30am

Sept 15, 2015 – DSHS, T-607, 10:00 -1130am

December 17, 2015 – DSHS, T-607, 10:00 -11:30 am

7. Adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

TSCC Mission:

Our mission is to protect and promote the health of the people of Texas through the prevention and control of adverse health effects related to toxic substances and harmful physical agents. This is accomplished through interagency coordination of regulation development, health risk assessments, cooperative studies, information dissemination, and public education efforts.