

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

**September 20, 2016  
10:00 am – 11:30 am**

**Room M-653  
Texas Department of State Health Services  
1100 West 49<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, Texas 78756**

**Attendance:**

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Richard Beauchamp	Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
Heidi Bojes	DSHS
Robin Cypher	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Josh Duty	DSHS
Emily Hall	DSHS
Joseph Haney	TCEQ
Sandra Hernandez	DSHS
Amanda Kindt	Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)
Laura Morse	DSHS
Andrew Myers	DSHS
Leticia Nogueira	DSHS
Cress Obamwonyi	DSHS
Beth Patterson	DSHS
Michael Tennant	DSHS
Melissa Valadez	Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
David Villarreal	Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
Tina Walker	DSHS

**Call to order and welcome visitors:**

Laura Morse, DSHS

**Approval of minutes dated June 21, 2016:**

Committee members approved the minutes.

**Presenter:**

Dr. Barbara Mahler, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

*“USGS Science on Coal-Tar-Based Sealcoat and Environmental and Human Health”*

**Subcommittee reports:**

- Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) workgroup meeting update (Michael Tennant, DSHS)
  - The Texas HAB Subcommittee has not met again since the meeting on April 21, 2016.
  
- Fish Sampling subcommittee meeting update (Michael Tennant, DSHS)
  - *Subcommittee Meetings*
    - The subcommittee has not met in 2016.

- *Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Fish Project (Ongoing)*
  - Ellison Creek Reservoir
    - ◇ Fish samples collected May 2014.
    - ◇ Action memo sent to DSHS Division for Regulatory Services management for review (August 25, 2016).
  - Mountain Creek Lake
    - ◇ Fish samples collected November 2015.
    - ◇ Mountain Creek Lake chemical contaminant analyses completed August 31, 2016.
    - ◇ Mountain Creek Lake chemical contaminant data QA/QC review is in progress.
  - Lake Worth
    - ◇ Sampling scheduled for November 2016.
  - Unscheduled Sampling
    - ◇ Leon Creek (six sample sites;  $n = 60$ )
    - ◇ Trinity River DFW (12 sample sites;  $n = 192$ )
- *Other Projects*
  - Updated Texas Fish Consumption Advisory Program Standard Operating Procedures Field Operations and Data Quality.
  - Updated fish consumption advisory booklet—“Fish Smart. Eat Smart. Be Healthy. A Guide to Health Advisories for Eating Fish Caught in Texas Waters”—is in review.
  - Health Assessment Comparison (HAC) Value Workgroup (DSHS, TCEQ, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department [TPWD], TDA, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry [ATSDR], Baylor University, and Texas A&M University) is meeting on Wednesday, September 21st.
- *Potential Future Projects*
  - DSHS Seafood and Aquatic Life Group (SALG) applied for a TPWD grant to fund collection of additional fish tissue samples from the San Jacinto River near the San Jacinto River Waste Pits (SJRWP) Superfund Site. The project was not selected for funding.
  - DSHS SALG submitted a Galveston Bay fish tissue monitoring proposal to the Galveston Bay Estuary Program Monitoring and Research Subcommittee. If funded, the project would be funded for FY 2018.
- Environmental Health and Toxicology workgroup update (Laura Morse, DSHS)
  - The Health Assessment Comparison (HAC) Value Review workgroup is a component of this group. It will resume meeting with a new structure.
    - The purpose of the HAC Value Review workgroup is to collaborate with various agencies and researchers in the review of the latest science and public health policies pertaining to the health risks and benefits of fish consumption.
    - Participants will consist of agency personnel from the TPWD, DSHS, TDA, TCEQ, and ATSDR.
    - Researchers from Baylor University and Texas A&M University will also be participating.
    - The first meeting for 2016 will be held tomorrow afternoon, September 21st.
      - ◇ Meeting objectives

- To review the science used to develop the ATSDR chronic oral Minimal Risk Level (MRL) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) chronic oral Reference Dose (RfD) for dioxin.
- To evaluate the use of these health guidelines in fish consumption advisories.
- To identify and develop a recommendation as a Workgroup in support of the best health guideline for the Texas Fish Consumption Advisory Program to use for the assessment of dioxin health risks.

**Agency updates on department policy and/or legislative issues:**

- Texas Department of State Health Services (Laura Morse, DSHS)
  - *Environmental & Injury Epidemiology and Toxicology Unit (EIET)*
    - On September 5, 2016, Dr. Leticia Nogueira joined the Environmental Epidemiology and Disease Registries Section (EEDRS) as the new director of the EIET Unit. Leticia has a PhD in molecular biology from the University of Texas in Austin, and was the manager for the epidemiology group of the Cancer Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch at the Texas Department of State Health Services. Prior to that position, she worked as an epidemiologist with the Cancer Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch. In addition, she has worked with the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland.
  - *Zika Virus*
    - As of September 19, 2016, Texas has had 195 reported cases of Zika virus disease. All the cases were associated with travel to an area where Zika is being spread. This count includes 12 pregnant women, two infants infected before birth, and two people who had sexual contact with travelers. For more information please see our website: <http://www.texaszika.org/>.
  - *Occupational Health Program*
    - The Occupational Health program worked with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to conduct a health hazard evaluation at two vape facilities in the Austin area to assess worker exposure in the electronic cigarette industry. Investigations were conducted July 26-30, 2016. Results are pending.
  - *Health Assessment and Consultation Group*
    - The Health Assessment and Consultation Group conducted exposure investigations in Bruni, Texas on July 8-11, 2016, and in Hebronville, Texas, on August 15-19, 2016, to determine if people are being exposed to arsenic. The public water system (PWS) has consistently shown high levels of arsenic in drinking water compared to the national drinking water standard. Results of the investigations are pending. Previously, DSHS conducted an arsenic exposure investigation in Hebronville in 2006.
    - Also, staff has been working to revise the TSCC website. Within the next week, Tina Walker will send out a link for the draft website to each agency contact. Please review and provide comments to her by 5 pm on October 10th.
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (Joseph Haney, TCEQ)
  - Three Air Pollutant Watch List (APWL) areas removed:
    - Beaumont – sulfur dioxide
    - Dallas – nickel

- Texas City – propionaldehyde
  - TCEQ regional air data health effect reviews to be posted soon.
  - Final Development Support Documents (DSDs):
    - Cadmium
    - Dibutylamine
    - Diisopropylamine
  - Out for public comment:
    - Decanes, chlorine, heptanes, octanes, nonanes DSDs
    - CrVI oral assessment DSD
    - Cobalt DSD out for public comment soon
  - Requesting toxicity data for n-hexane DSD.
  - TCEQ toxicity factor database to be rolled out by end of October.
  - Reviewing ATSDR Public Health Assessment (PHA) for Refinery Row, Corpus Christi.
    - PHA states that it had been previously shared with the state.
      - ◇ However, TCEQ did not previously receive it.
    - TCEQ considers the PHA full of errors and feels that these could have already been addressed if the agencies had worked together. The errors noted by TCEQ include:
      - ◇ Comparison of an instantaneous on-facility and a 15-minute sample result to 36-hour toxicity study Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level (LOAEL) and 14-day Minimal Risk Level (MRL) to draw public health conclusions.
      - ◇ TCEQ already requires Best Available Control Technology (BACT).
      - ◇ Lifetime excess cancer risk cannot be calculated based on short-term data.
- Texas Department of Agriculture (David Villarreal, TDA)
  - TDA is responding to any public inquiries about the “Glyphosate Issue Paper: Evaluation of Carcinogenic Potential” from the EPA’s Office of Pesticide Programs released September 12, 2016. In this lengthy report EPA determined and proposed a classification that glyphosate is “not likely to be carcinogenic to humans at doses relevant for human health risk assessment.”
  - TDA is also responding to inquiries regarding the extensive National Academy of Sciences report examining the range of questions and opinions about the economic, agronomic, health, safety, or other effects of genetically engineered (GE) crops and food. This report again confirms the safety and benefits of these crops and foods.
  - TDA is working with other state agencies on preparations for the emergence of local transmission of the Zika virus. TDA is the state lead agency for pesticide regulation and will, thus, play an integral part in the chemical control of mosquito populations.
- Texas Department of Public Safety (Melissa Valadez, DPS)
  - DPS Toxicology and Blood Alcohol group is very busy with increased caseloads.
  - DPS Controlled Substance group is currently receiving questions related to Penalty Group 2 substances that were affected by Senate Bill 172, which went into effect September 1, 2015. The law excludes any substances approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) from Penalty Group 2, even if they are specifically listed in the Texas Health and Safety Code Section 481.103.

- This means that drugs such as Amphetamine (e.g., Adderall), Lisdexamfetamine (e.g., Vyvanse), and Dronabinol can no longer be charged or prosecuted as Penalty Group 2 offenses (Sections 481.113 or 481.116). Prosecution may still be possible as a misdemeanor under Texas Health and Safety Code Section 481.119 based upon the charge that the drug is a miscellaneous substance that is scheduled but not listed in a penalty group.
- Railroad Commission of Texas (Amanda Kindt, RRC)
  - RRC is celebrating its 125th year.
  - RRC is undergoing Sunset review.
    - The first hearing was in August and the next hearing is scheduled for November 10th for additional committee discussion and public comment.
    - None of the proposed recommendations will affect RRC's cleanup programs.
    - One of the proposed recommendations is to change the name of the agency.
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)
  - Staff was unable to attend and provide an update.

**Public comment:**

- No members of the public were in attendance.

**Review of upcoming meetings:**

- 2016
  - December 20, 2016 - DSHS, M-653, 10:00 am
    - Speaker is Dr. Bryan Brooks, Baylor University
- 2017
  - March 21, 2017 - DSHS, M-653, 10:00 am
    - Speaker is Dr. Peter Langlois, DSHS
  - June 20, 2017 - DSHS, M-653, 10:00 am

**Adjourn:**

- Meeting adjourned at 11:28 am.