

Pollution Prevention Roundtable

Region 6
Teleconference Minutes
December 7, 2006



Attendees:

Chris Campbell
David Greer
Michelle Vattano
Audree Miller
David Bond
Annette Smith
Naila Ahmed – LCRA

Status of Action Items:

Thomas noted that several outstanding action items were too broadly worded and that we needed to identify some steps within the action items. He suggested the leaders have a conference call to develop these steps.

- * David J - Develop missions and strategies and prepare for next roundtable
Status: Under development
- * Susan - Send a summary of operating principles via email. Roundtable to discuss and finalize on next teleconference
Status: Under development
- * Include energy assessment in site visits (David James, Dianne Wilkins, Susan Roothaan)
Status: Need to identify steps to make this happen
- * P2 Policy and Regulatory Integration (Thomas Vinson-Peng)
Status: Need to identify steps to make this happen
- * Resource Exchange Programs (Audree Miller, Chris Campbell, Scottie Mcknight)
Status: Agreed to a January teleconference. Also, Thomas reported TCEQ and RCC funding Zero Waste to expand the on-line tool and work with states.
- * *Regional Priorities to Javier ASAP (for recommendation on grant)*

Status: Done

- * *Regional members to agree on priorities in next two to three weeks:*
Status: Done. Members discussed these priorities on the call. Although this list will always be changing we agreed to a working list below.
- * *Javier will send draft priorities that we have in an order*
Status: Done
- * *Thomas go through flipcharts and put points to ranking*
Status: Done, Justin assisted
- * *Put the near final on the public list serve, and post on website.*
Status: Done
- * *Justin to have minutes to Javier, Susan, and Thomas by Friday*
Status: Done
- * *They will review and turn around within a week.*
Status: Done
- * *Israel to get a link on EMS for small governments, and also a link to EMS for Casino's*
Status: Working on it.
- * *Thomas to work individually with states to get measurement data on-line*
Status: Measurement data received for WERC, TMAC, Zero Waste, ADEQ, NMED. Need Nurtured World, ODEQ, TCEQ (3-4 datasets).

New Participants

David Bond of EPA Region 6 introduced himself as the new P2 project officer. David has a background in EMS, QAPP and other programs with a strong P2 component.

Naila Ahmed introduced herself Naila has a degree in Chemical Engineering and a masters from the LBJ school. She works on environmental compliance for water issues.

Regional Priorities

The group modified the regional priorities agreed to at the summit. These priorities were picked by the roundtable as where we would want to focus our efforts. The Regional Priorities below were agreed by the participants. Several people were unclear about which priority was the top regional priority. This was unclear from the exercise and everyone agreed the order of these priorities is not relevant; participants agreed to list them in alphabetical order

- Local Governments – Municipal and tribal
- Energy - Sources and Conservation

- Public Consumption
- Regulatory Integration [of P2 Programs]
- Water Quality/Quantity

STAG

EPA is considering four possibilities for funding allocation with the STAG grants. David outlined the possibilities as follows:

1. No change, P2Rx is funded at same proportions as it was last year.
2. Funding proportions stay the same, if money goes up, money is reported to go up to \$6,000,000.
3. 100% allocation to state grants
4. HQ would take a portion for a national P2 information service.
 - a. One to replace P2Rx centers with one national center

EPA Region 6 is leaning towards option 2 where funding stays the same. David invited all members to provide feedback.

State Innovation Grants

This is the fifth year of the State Innovation Grant Program See:

<http://www.epa.gov/innovation/stategrants/2007letter.htm>

*“1) support the development of State Environmental Results Programs (ERPs);
2) involve the application of Environmental Management Systems (EMS), including those that explore the relationship of EMS to permitting or otherwise promote the use of EMS to improve environmental performance beyond permit requirements; or
3) implement National Environmental Performance Track (PT) or similar performance-based programs by states, particularly including the development and implementation of incentives (see the solicitation for details). EPA is interested in permitting innovations as they relate to one of the priority environmental issues targeted in the Innovation Strategy (i.e., reducing greenhouse gases or smog, improving water quality, reducing the cost of water or wastewater infrastructure), or other priorities established through joint state/EPA strategic planning.”*

National conference

Deadline for abstracts is tomorrow at noon. Chris raised the idea of working with local charities to do a small cleanup project or some form of community service. Michelle will take lead for looking at some community service. The participants agreed not to do a presentation, but to focus their efforts on something for the community.

Regional Updates

New Mexico

- WERC and NMED worked with the H2E program to conduct a training (Taos). This half day workshop is being used as a recruitment tool for the hospital associations environmental task force. Will also be opportunities to incorporate tribal efforts.
- Green Zia annual recognition for 2006
- NMED has convened a task force to look at modifying the Green Zia program.
- NMED and WERC are working together on a mercury reduction task force starting in January.
- Working on P2 integration with the air quality bureau as an example of how to promote P2 into daily activities
- Presented seven generations to address environmental issues to the national planner's association conference.
- WERC is conducting a web CT, distance learning program on pollution prevention.
- Chris will be conducting an Arsenic in drinking water seminar in India

ADEQ

- Recently gave a presentation on the P2 to the River City Conservation council in Fort Smith.
- ADEQ had it's second annual environmental stewardship program.
- Been making revisions to agencies EMS manual.
- Working with hangers cleaners on putting carbon dioxide cleaning system.
- Got two new H2E partners.
- VA medical center that Chris and Audree visited applied for an ENVY award.
- No idling policy was approved by agencies policy approval committee
- Prepared an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing policy for the Director to Review

TCEQ

Ted Hazen has taken over the management of Pollution Prevention, the section includes the Education section. Section will be known as the Pollution Prevention and Education Section. They are working to maximize efficiency by combining staff duties.

On November 14 Pierre Lichaa and Kelly Coleman had an H2E workshop on the border.

TCEQ worked with Zero Waste to train over 120 industrial facilities on basic pollution prevention. They are planning to advocate having an additional workshop in the future.

Zero Waste

Measurement is up to date. Worked with TCEQ on workshops and will be helping them with follow up. Preparing work on a regional resource exchange.