



**Environmental Management (EM)/
Stewardship Combined
Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 26, 2013, 5:30 p.m.
DOE Information Center
Office of Science and Technical Information**

Committee Members Present

Donna Campbell, Stewardship
Alfreda Cook, Vice-chair, EM
Susan Gawarecki, EM/Stewardship
(via teleconference)
Bob Hatcher, Chair EM
Bruce Hicks, EM
Roger Macklin, Stewardship
David Martin, EM/Stewardship
Donald Mei, EM
Norman Mulvenon, EM/Stewardship
Bob Olson, EM
Julia Riley, EM
Lorene Sigal, Stewardship
Ellen Smith, Stewardship
Corkie Staley, Chair, Stewardship

Others Present

Dave Adler, Department of Energy (DOE)
Sid Garland, UCOR/RSI
Spencer Gross, ORSSAB support staff
John Kubarewicz, UCOR/RSI

Absent

Jimmy Bell, EM
Carmen DeLong, EM
Gracie Hall, EM
Dave Hemelright, EM
Jennifer Kasten, EM
Dick Ketelle, EM
Steve Kenworthy, EM
Fay Martin, Vice-chair, Stewardship
Gloria Mei, EM
Lance Mezga, EM
Tim Myrick, EM
Curt Walker, EM/Stewardship
Kevin Westervelt, EM

Discuss and prioritize EM and Stewardship objectives, activities, and issues to address in FY 2014

Mr. Adler said at the July combined committee meeting he had asked the leadership of the EM and Stewardship Committees to provide a list of things that were important to the committees – objectives, activities, carryovers from FY 2013 – that they wanted addressed in FY 2014, or at least continue to be tracked. The committee leadership provided that information (Attachment 1).

Mr. Adler used the list plus what was provided by the agencies (DOE, Environmental Protection Agency, and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation) at the annual meeting and he put together a proposed draft work plan for the committee members in consider for FY 2014 (Attachment 2).

A number of topics the committees have typically received updates on were status reports on projects but didn't usually result in a recommendation. He thought project updates should be done at the board level.

Mr. Adler proposed that topics suggested by the agencies should be presented first to the board and then to the committees for more detailed discussion for possible recommendations.

Mr. Adler briefly reviewed each month's proposed topic (Attachment 2):

October – Representatives of DOE, EPA, and TDEC met in a series of workshops to discuss groundwater on the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR). A final report is being written. It will be sent to EPA and TDEC for review at the end of September. The board should receive a copy as well, and a presentation on the report can be made in October. Mr. Adler said the report includes discussion of institutional controls for groundwater on the reservation.

November – Mr. Adler said the agencies are working on a final decision about soils in Zone 1 around the industrial complex at East Tennessee Technology Park. There are lingering problems with groundwater at the site, some burial grounds that will require long-term stewardship, and some areas are to be transferred out of DOE control.

December – Mr. Adler said the last couple of years the committees and the board have not met in December. No topic is scheduled.

January – The discussion in January is proposed to be on sufficient waste disposal capacity, the site of a second waste disposal facility, and a discussion about the operation of the current waste disposal facility in Bear Creek Valley, and lessons learned from the operation of that site that could be applied to a new facility.

February – This is the time of year when discussions begin about how work on the reservation should be sequenced and what should receive the focus of the FY 2016 DOE EM Oak Ridge budget request to DOE EM headquarters.

March – This would be an appropriate time (prior to a report on the Remediation Effectiveness Report) for an update on the status of the Land Use Manager for tracking stewardship requirements and the development of the Oak Ridge geographical information system.

April – As follow-on to the March meeting, the annual Remediation Effectiveness Report should be available and a report on how well cleanup remedies are working and how related stewardship programs are working.

May – Another stewardship-related topic is the work being done to adjust the National Priorities List (NPL) boundaries of the ORR. Through data collection and sampling it's been determined that much of the ORR has no contamination. Changes in the NPL boundaries would indicate contaminated areas only, not the entire reservation.

June – This presentation would discuss groundwater challenges at Y-12 National Security Complex, including the offsite plume to the east of Y-12. The presentation would discuss engineered and institutional controls in place to prevent groundwater use.

July – The presentation would update the committee on the status of legacy waste disposition on the reservation.

August/September – These months are typically used for recurring topics of providing issues for the semi-annual EM SSAB Chairs’ meetings, developing a work plan for the next fiscal year, developing committee budget requests, and electing committee chairs and vice chairs. These items don’t usually take much time and the balance of meetings could be used for other topics.

Mr. Adler said the proposed work plan captured all of the issues requested by the agencies and the most important topics expressed by the committees.

Mr. Olson asked if the committee could still receive brief updates on topics of recurring interest. Mr. Adler said that could be done.

Ms. Smith asked what was left off the list. Mr. Adler asked staff to provide the proposed work plan and the list of committee interests to all members for comparison.

He asked all committee members to review the proposed work plan and be prepared to more fully develop the work plan at the September meeting for FY 2014.

Discuss committee leadership structure

The committee members discussed various ways to handle committee leadership of a combined committee. Ms. Staley said at previous meetings the idea of co-chairs was discussed, with one having more of an interest in stewardship and the other more interested in EM projects.

Mr. Hatcher said an issue with co-chairs is the question of who runs the meetings. He suggested have someone else conduct the meeting and the co-chairs would respectively coordinate EM and stewardship issues. Ms. Smith said the co-chairs could alternate running meetings.

At this point Ms. Sigal asked if the decision had been made to merge the committees. Mr. Hatcher said that was something to be discussed more. Ms. Cook said perhaps a list of pros and cons should be made.

Mr. Hicks felt the issue was being ‘kicked down the road’ and a decision should be made now. He also said he liked the idea of alternating chairs.

Mr. Hatcher asked for a vote to merge the committees. Eight members present vote for merging, two voted against, and two abstained.

The discussion returned to committee leadership. Ms. Cook said all committee members should have the same goals for EM projects and stewardship and a single chair should have as much interest in stewardship as EM projects. Ms. Campbell was concerned that not all committee members have a complete understanding of stewardship and she feared one person might not have the background of stewardship to keep its focus. She suggested having co-chairs at least for the first year. Mr. Adler said instead of each month alternating co-chairs to have the co-chair most interested in stewardship chair meetings with a stewardship focus and similarly with EM presentations. Mr. Hicks said it should be left up to the co-chairs to work out how topics would be handled.

Mr. Hatcher asked for a show of hands for using co-chairs. All members agreed to have co-chairs for the combined committee.

Mr. Mulvenon made the point that this group is the only one left in Oak Ridge that has an interest in stewardship. He said much work had been done early on to make stewardship viable and the contractors have done a good job of putting stewardship elements in place. Mr. Hatcher said combining the committees should strengthen stewardship efforts because more board members will be involved and all EM projects will have stewardship as part of the discussion.

Draft recommendation on nickel

Mr. Martin presented a draft recommendation on disposition/recycling of DOE EM nickel (Attachment 3). He said nickel will be discussed at the EM SSAB Chairs' meeting in October. He thought perhaps this could be a joint recommendation with the Portsmouth and Paducah boards, which have large amounts of nickel at their sites.

Mr. Hatcher asked if the Paducah/Portsmouth/Oak Ridge nickel have the same chemical composition. Mr. Adler said he thought that was the case. Mr. Olson asked if it had the same degree of contamination. Mr. Adler said that it had the same degree with the same impurities.

Ms. Sigal asked what volume of the nickel would be considered waste. Mr. Adler said he'd have to find out.

Mr. Martin continued his explanation of the recommendation saying Fluor-B&W, LLC, was studying a process to decontaminate nickel and making it available for recycling.

Ms. Gawarecki said the recommendation should include a statement about lifting the moratorium on the sale of nickel or at least a conduct a study of lifting the moratorium. The committee discussed the suggestion but decided not to include it.

A few minor changes were made to the wording of the recommendation and Mr. Garland said he would check the amount of nickel noted (16,500 tons) for accuracy and also the first bullet point about restricted release of any metal with radiation levels higher than background.

The committee agreed to send the recommendation to the Executive Committee to determine if the recommendation should go to the chairs' meeting for discussion.

Determine next meeting date

The committee decided to meet next on Tuesday, September 17 at 5:30 p.m.

Staff was asked to poll all committee members for their preference for a permanent meeting day.

Suggestions for top issue, board activity, board accomplishment for Fall Chairs' meeting

Mr. Gross explained that at each chairs' meeting the individual boards can discuss a top issue at their site, a board accomplishment, or a board activity.

Something new this coming meeting is each board can ask the DOE Senior Advisor for EM a question instead of discussing one of the three topics above.

He asked members to send him suggestions for all four and they will be forwarded to the Executive Committee to determine which item to take to the chairs' meeting.

Mr. Adler asked that all committee members be emailed a request to provide input so everyone will have an opportunity to submit something.

Other business – Ms. Gawarecki noted that ORSSAB had made a recommendation to DOE to improve search capabilities for documents on the DOE Information Center's online search function. She said nothing has really changed and wondered why. Mr. Hatcher asked Mr. Adler to follow up on that process.

Action Items

Open

1. Staff will send proposed work plan and EM and Stewardship items of interest to all committee members via email for review.
2. Staff will email all committee members asking for preference of committee meeting day.
3. Staff will email all committee members asking for input on topics to present at fall chairs' meeting.
4. Mr. Garland will check on the volume of nickel in storage that is considered waste.
5. Mr. Garland will check on the volume of nickel in storage at Paducah/Portsmouth/Oak Ridge and check on the restrictions of release of any metal with contamination levels above background.
6. Mr. Adler will check on the progress of improving search capabilities for documents at the DOE Information Center.

Closed

1. Mr. Martin will revise his draft recommendation on nickel based on comments at the June meeting and bring it to the July meeting. **Complete.** Discussed at this meeting.
2. Mr. Hatcher and Ms. Cook will work on a list of EM Committee priorities to include in a combined committee FY 2014 work plan. **Complete.**
3. Ms. Staley and Ms. Sigal will work on a list of Stewardship Committee priorities to include in a combined committee FY 2014 work plan. **Complete.**
4. Staff will provide the Stewardship list of priorities to all Stewardship Committee members for review and additional input. **Complete**
5. DOE and staff will schedule EM and Stewardship priorities/activities in a draft work plan for FY 2014. **Complete**
6. Ms. DeLong will provide an abstract for a paper to the Executive Committee for consideration for submission to the Waste Management Symposia. **Complete.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Attachments (3) are available through the ORSSAB office.

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