



**Environmental Management &
Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 17, 2013, 5:30 p.m.
DOE Information Center
Office of Science and Technical Information**

Committee Members Present

Donna Campbell
Alfreda Cook, Vice-chair, EM
Gracie Hall
Bob Hatcher, Chair EM
Steve Kenworthy
Roger Macklin
David Martin
Fay Martin, Vice-chair, Stewardship
Donald Mei
Norman Mulvenon
Bob Olson
Lorene Sigal
Ellen Smith
Ray Smith
Corkie Staley, Chair, Stewardship

Others Present

Dave Adler, Department of Energy (DOE)
Sid Garland, UCOR/RSI
John Kubarewicz, UCOR/RSI

Absent

Jimmy Bell
Susan Gawarecki
Dave Hemelright
Bruce Hicks
Jennifer Kasten
Dick Ketelle
Gloria Mei
Lance Mezga
Julia Riley

Complete development of committee work plan for FY 2014

Mr. Adler explained that development of the draft work plan (Attachment 1) was intended to incorporate both Environmental Management (EM) and stewardship issues in a logical manner. Staff emailed it to members for comment, but no comments were received.

Ms. Sigal asked that the documents associated with topics, such as the groundwater strategy, be added to the work plan. Mr. Adler said it has already been done; it has just not been distributed yet. Ms. Sigal asked if they will be the D1 versions of the documents. Mr. Adler said yes—that's the version the regulators and the public will receive and should make comments on.

Ms. Staley reminded Mr. Adler that when Ms. Sigal gave her presentation on long-term stewardship at the September 11 board meeting, mention was made of coming up with some kind of guidelines to assist those who have never reviewed a document. Mr. Adler said he could craft a short narrative from DOE's perspective about what it's looking for in public comments. Ms. Staley said it should include associated stewardship issues. Mr. Adler agreed. In addition, as we come upon each of the work plan topics, he said, the committee should hold him accountable for providing a description of the associated document. So the document review process will then include the generic document guidelines, plus any specific directions about what DOE would like comments on that are associated with that particular document.

Mr. Hatcher noted that certain groundwater areas within the Oak Ridge Reservation cannot be remediated. Will they be covered in the basic groundwater strategy and therefore be long-term stewardship issues? Mr. Adler said yes.

Ms. Cook asked how the committee will make sure the "Topics to be Scheduled" on page 2 of the work plan will get covered. Mr. Adler said that two of the topics (transuranic waste and U-233 disposition) have been scheduled as monthly board meeting presentations. Legacy waste and the east end organic compound plume at Y-12 will have to be picked up somehow. He will propose

something, he said. Mr. Kenworthy said the plume could be done in June when the committee discusses the long-term groundwater contamination stewardship/management strategy for Y-12.

Ms. Cook asked what the expected outcome is once a topic is discussed at the committee level. Mr. Adler explained that DOE identified four or five big-picture topics at the annual meeting, and these have been scheduled throughout the year as monthly board meeting presentations. The idea is for the entire board to get a general picture of the issue and then for it to go to the EM/Stewardship Committee for more detailed examination and discussion. Any recommendations would be generated at the committee level and then go back to the board for approval.

A vote was taken to approve the work plan, and it was unanimously approved.

Elect committee co-chairs for FY 2014

Mr. Hatcher reminded the group that discussion at last month's meeting had focused on using a co-chair structure for the merged EM/Stewardship Committee. He asked if that was still the preferred structure. There was general agreement it was. The plan was also for the stewardship co-chair to lead meetings when the presentation is focused on a stewardship issue, and the EM co-chair to lead meetings when the presentation is focused on an EM issue.

Mr. Hatcher called for stewardship co-chair nominations. Ms. Sigal nominated Ms. Staley. There were no other nominations.

Mr. Hatcher called for EM co-chair nominations. Mr. Martin nominated Mr. Hatcher. There were no other nominations.

Mr. Olson moved to accept the slate of candidates. Mr. Macklin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Develop committee budget request for FY 2016

The committee reviewed the FY 2015 budget requests for the EM and Stewardship committees (Attachment 2). Mr. Osborne explained that they had been distributed for reference in developing the EM/Stewardship Committee's 2016 request.

Mr. Hatcher asked if he understood correctly that the Finance and Process Committee had recommended cutting the ORSSAB budget request in 2016. Mr. Adler explained that DOE is planning a 15 percent cut in the 2016 ORSSAB allocation, but the Finance and Process Committee intends to augment the allocation with funds from the board's previous year's carryover in order to maintain a level budget. He recommended combining the 2015 EM and Stewardship requests and submitting it as the 2016 request. He offered to compile the combined request and email it to committee members for comment. Mr. Olson asked that he include an explanation of the circumstances with the email.

Mr. Hatcher asked that responses be provided in time for the request to be submitted to the Finance and Process Committee at its meeting later this month.

Choose permanent committee meeting day of week

The committee reviewed responses to a poll conducted to help the committee decide on a permanent meeting day (Attachment 3). Ms. Smith noted that members could vote for multiple days, and she asked how many members actually voted. Mr. Osborne said he did not know.

Ms. Sigal recommended redoing the poll to ask what specific day is the member's preference and allow only one vote per member.

Mr. Olson said that since the vast majority of votes cast were for Tuesday and Wednesday, members should be asked to select from only those two days.

Ms. Smith suggested asking members to state their preferences for Tuesday and Wednesday as being “preferred, acceptable, or no.”

Ms. Sigal asked if the committee could change the week of the month it meets. Mr. Osborne pointed out that the week is constrained because the monthly board meeting is always set for the second Wednesday of the month, and the Executive Committee meeting must fall on the last Wednesday of the month so that travel or recommendations coming out of the other standing committees can be reviewed in advance of the next month’s board meeting.

Mr. Macklin suggested moving the meeting start time to 7:00 p.m. Ms. Staley thought it was a good idea. Ms. Cook asked if that’s possible. Mr. Adler suggested adding that to the email: Do you prefer meeting early (5:30 to 7) or later (6:30 to 8)?

Mr. Mulvenon noted that every organization in Oak Ridge has the same problem scheduling meetings.

Review DOE response to Recommendation 215: Recommendation on Remaining Legacy Materials on the Oak Ridge Reservation

Mr. Martin said he looked over DOE’s response (Attachment 4) and compared it to the recommendation, and he feels nothing was missed. A key point of the response is that DOE is developing a comprehensive list of all the inventory. He asked Mr. Adler if that has been done. Mr. Adler said it has. Mr. Martin asked when the committee can see it. Mr. Adler said it will be included in the July committee presentation on legacy wastes.

Mr. Martin said the only thing missing in the response was a more complete response about disposition planning. The first bullet of the response states that “Disposition planning is underway for three out of six waste streams...”, but what about the remaining ones? He asked Mr. Adler to provide the committee with an answer.

Mr. Olson asked if Trench 13 waste is legacy waste. Mr. Adler said it is not.

Ms. Cook asked if “no path” waste is part of legacy waste. Mr. Adler said it is.

Mr. Olson asked if Bear Creek Burial Ground waste is legacy waste. Mr. Adler said the Burial Grounds is a CERCLA project, so it is not considered legacy waste.

Ms. Cook noted that there are materials on the Oak Ridge Reservation that are not considered in the waste streams the board talks about. Mr. Adler explained that if the materials are not EM owned then they are not within EM’s purview. Ms. Cook said she just wanted to make the point that there are other non-EM materials out there. Mr. Adler said the Office of Science and Y-12 did a good job of giving EM everything pertinent to EM’s mission, so the materials Ms. Cook is talking about have mostly been generated since that initial hand-off.

Mr. Martin observed that the cesium casks are a difficult waste to deal with, and he wondered if the committee should track them. Mr. Adler suggested the committee operate at a higher level and not focus on specific waste streams or try to evaluate specific disposal options. Mr. Martin agreed but said he was disappointed there had not been more effort to get these materials indoors. Mr. Adler said the containment vessels surrounding the wastes should be sufficient to assure their safety.

Ms. Cook asked that the comprehensive inventory list be presented to the committee periodically so the committee can see what's been worked off. Mr. Macklin noted that legacy waste doesn't appear on the committee's work plan until July, and the committee might want to hear about it before then.

Review the status of open action items

Action: Mr. Garland will check on the restrictions of release of any metal with contamination levels above background. **Status:** Mr. Garland said he emailed information to the committee. It essentially says that any metal with contamination levels above background cannot be recycled. Mr. Olson asked if there's any possibility that position could change. Mr. Garland said it could.

Ms. Smith said that in the 1980s the Nuclear Regulatory Agency tried to address this issue, but it got shot down by Congress. That was 30 years ago, so it might be time to try again. Mr. Macklin added that Bechtel did a study on it, and an NRC commissioner got blasted for letting Tennessee go out on a limb on this issue.

Ms. Cook said she thinks the upcoming SSAB chairs meeting would be the perfect forum for raising the topic. Mr. Huizenga should be asked directly about what's being done to address this issue. Mr. Martin said it was discussed at the spring chairs webinar, so groundwork has been laid for the question.

Action: Mr. Adler will check on the progress of improving search capabilities for documents at the DOE Information Center. **Status:** Mr. Adler said he checked with the DOE Public Affairs Office and was told that the DOE Information Center system will migrate to Headquarters system in October. That move should provide improved capabilities, but we won't know definitively until that time. In the meantime, the public should continue to get assistance from the Information Center staff.

Action Items

Action Items

Open

1. Mr. Adler will craft a short narrative about what DOE is looking for in public comments on CERCLA documents.
2. Mr. Adler will make a recommendation on how to incorporate discussion of legacy waste and the east end organic compound plume at Y-12 into the EM/Stewardship Committee work plan.
3. Mr. Adler will produce the combined EM/Stewardship Committee FY 2016 budget request and send it to committee members for comment, and include an explanation of the circumstances with the email.
4. Staff will poll members regarding their preference in meeting on Tuesday or Wednesday, requesting responses as "preferred, acceptable, or no." Staff will also ask their preference regarding meeting times (5:30 to 7) or (6:30 to 8).
5. Mr. Adler will provide the committee with a response to Mr. Martin's question about the disposition pathway for the three remaining waste streams not specified in DOE's response to Recommendation 215.
6. Mr. Adler will check on the progress of improving search capabilities for documents at the DOE Information Center. **Partial response provided at the 9/17/13 EM/Stewardship Committee meeting**

Closed

1. Mr. Garland will check on the restrictions of release of any metal with contamination levels above background. **Completed by email, 9/6/13**

Public Comment

None.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Attachments (4) are available through the ORSSAB office.