



## Toxic Contaminants Workgroup

January 13, 2016 Conference Call  
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### Minutes

#### 1:00 Welcome, Introductions, Announcements

- STAC Workshop Proposals
  - TCW will resubmit the workshop proposal from 2015 on identifying barriers to more frequent use of EPA method 1668.
- Microbeads Ban: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/1321/text>
  - STAC report on microplastics is still being finalized. CBC is looking at the recent federal regulation and evaluating it to see if any additional state actions could be taken.
- Anne Arundel County, MD issued a coal-tar sealant ban, becoming the third county in the state to ban the PAH-contributing sealant.
  - ACTION: Greg, Scott and David will follow-up with Marel to discuss other efforts to ban coal-tar sealants.
- TCW obtained \$10k for Tetra Tech to begin working on the PCB track-down study best practices guidance document. Tetra Tech will begin a literature review and hopefully have hours remaining to develop an outline for the guidance document.

#### 1:15 PCB Story Map Update – Greg Allen, EPA

*Workplan: Policy and Prevention; Approach 1, Key Action 4*

Greg provided an update on the PCB story map and invited participation in a small group to help develop next steps for the communication of the product.

(<http://arcg.is/1MxTvgm>)

- Information in the story map has been reviewed by jurisdictions and should be complete.
- Two possible applications of the story map are general public awareness-building, and to help target waters that have PCB impairments but no TMDL in-place for future TMDL development.
- Next steps involve working with the CBP Communications Workgroup to develop language for each of the tabs and a strategy for how to effectively communicate this information.
- ACTION: Any volunteers who wish to help with advancing this PCB story map should contact Greg Allen ([Allen.Greg@epa.gov](mailto:Allen.Greg@epa.gov)) and David Wood ([Wood.DavidM@epa.gov](mailto:Wood.DavidM@epa.gov)).

#### 1:25 Toxic Contaminants from Agriculture and Wastewater – Tom Schueler, CSN

*Workplan: Policy and Prevention; Approach 4, Key Action 4*

Tom discussed the findings from the Chesapeake Stormwater Network's report on toxic contaminants generated from the agricultural and wastewater sectors, and the effect of BMPs and Wastewater Treatment Plan upgrades implemented for the Bay TMDL in reducing those contaminants.

- Scott Phillips: The WQGIT and other CBP Goal Teams are currently looking into optimization tools and other ways of generating multiple benefits from traditional nutrient and sediment BMPs, and this report could be very useful information for those purposes.
- Tom Schueler: A major takeaway is that we are asking jurisdictions to spend a great deal of money on these Bay clean-up efforts, and it can be a very positive message to be able to show that there are other, potentially significant, benefits from the work that is being done.
- ACTION: Please submit comments on the report to Tom Schueler ([watershedguy@hotmail.com](mailto:watershedguy@hotmail.com)) by Friday, January 29.

2:00 Chesapeake Bay Osprey Field Study -- Rebecca Lazarus, USGS  
*Workplan: Research; Approach 2, Key Action 3*

Rebecca presented a summary of the recently published 3-year study on the exposure and transfer of pharmaceuticals in osprey from the Chesapeake Bay region.

- Phillips: Next meeting we will have a presentation on the results of a literature review that assessed what is known about the impacts of toxic contaminants on various wildlife groups (i.e. birds, reptiles, etc.) We will be asking for feedback on which of those wildlife groups would be the most important to further address. This presentation is a precursor to that discussion.
- Multiple TCW members expressed interest in seeing the information presented, broken down on a per-site basis, since many members have region-specific concerns.
- ACTION: Rebecca will send Scott materials to help with the development of a brief fact sheet with major takeaways from the study.
- Allen: The results seem to further support our decision to focus on PCBs in the policy and prevention strategy since there is evidence that they are persisting throughout the watershed.
- If anyone has questions for Rebecca, she can be contacted at [rlazarus@usgs.gov](mailto:rlazarus@usgs.gov).

2:40 Workplan Next Steps -- Greg Allen, EPA and Scott Phillips, USGS  
*Workplan: Policy and Prevention, Research*

Greg and Scott provided an update on the two Toxic Contaminants Workplans, including an overview of the review schedule and public comment period.

- Comments from the Management Board are due on January 15<sup>th</sup> and the workplans will be released for public comment on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. It will be a 45-day public comment period.

- Sherm Garrison (MD DNR) noted that they have been meeting internally to review the workplans and that there were some questions raised about possible cross-outcome collaborations with citizen science and education components.
- Greg and Scott agreed that would be a discussion to have as we move through the comment and revision period, but warned that adding new tasks to the number of tasks already committed to in the workplans might be a challenge.

2:55 Wrap-up and Next Steps -- Greg Allen, EPA and Scott Phillips, USGS

**Schedule of Upcoming TCW Meetings:**

February 10

March 9