

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

**June 21, 2016
10:00 am – 11:30 am**

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

Attendance:

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Richard Beauchamp	Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
Heidi Bojes	DSHS
Deba Dutta	DSHS
Josh Duty	DSHS
Chandni Jaggi	DSHS
Laura Morse	DSHS
Cress Obamwonyi	DSHS
Beth Patterson	DSHS
Michael Tennant	DSHS
Tina Williams	DSHS
Thandi Ziqubu-Page	DSHS
Xavaier Oliphant	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Tracie Phillips	TCEQ
David Villarreal	Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
Melissa Valadez	Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)

Call to order and welcome visitors:

Laura Morse, DSHS

Approval of minutes dated March 22, 2016:

Committee members approved the minutes.

Presenter:

Melissa Valadez (DPS)

“Texas DPS Crime Lab Overview”

(Brady Mills at DPS was originally scheduled to present an overview of the DPS Crime Laboratory. However, he could not make the meeting and asked another staff member to provide the presentation.)

Subcommittee reports:

- Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) workgroup meeting update
 - The Texas HAB Subcommittee held a meeting on April 21, 2016.
 - *Updates*
 - Golden Algae (*Prymnesium parvum*)

- ◇ Current bloom updates can be found at the TPWD HAB website: <http://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/water/environconcerns/hab/ga/status.p.html>.
- ◇ The last update was March 15, 2016 for the Brazos River Basin with no reports of fish kills associated with golden algae.
- ◇ Supplement report was provided by Greg Southard with TPWD Inland Fisheries regarding *P. parvum* water samples received from Ascarate Lake, El Paso, Texas on April 20, 2016.
 - Results indicated no golden alga or toxicity present in the samples.
 - A couple of fish kills had been reported the previous week.
- Texas Red Tide (*Karenia brevis*)
 - ◇ On September 13, 2015, TPWD received notification of a confirmed *K. brevis* bloom and dead fish along the Gulf beach of Mustang and North Padre Island, south of Packery Channel, Corpus Christi, Texas.
 - ◇ Notification initiated TPWD response with activities concluding November 25, 2015.
 - ◇ Fish kill estimates from Gulf Shores
 - Greatest impact along southern gulf shores from San Jose Island to Bocca Chica beach.
 - An estimated 4 million fish were impacted.
 - Fish kill was dominated by shrimp eels (29%), spot (16%), striped mullet (15%), gulf whiting (13%), ladyfish (11%), and pinfish (5%).
 - Menhaden kills at Quintana beach and Sargent beach are also suspected to be red tide related.
 - ◇ Fish kill estimates from the bays
 - Greatest impacts were observed in Corpus Christi Bay, the northern area of the Upper Laguna Madre, and the Lower Laguna Madre; fish kills were also observed in Matagorda and San Antonio bay systems.
 - An estimated 865,000 fish were impacted within the bays.
 - The fish kill was dominated by pinfish (50%), gulf toadfish (10%), gulf menhaden (9%), bay anchovy (8%), Atlantic croaker (4%), striped mullet (3%), and shrimp eel (2%).
 - ◇ Additional mortality reports
 - Dead tree frogs observed at Padre Island National Seashore.
 - Dead and disoriented ground squirrels observed along the Gulf beaches.
 - Dr. Zimba of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Center for Coastal Studies (TAMU-CC, CCS) indicated these mortalities were attributed to precipitation containing the brevetoxin that had aerosolized into the air by high wave action. He reported that impacts were observed 1-2 miles inland. In previous years, TAMU-CC, CCS had also recorded impacts to coyotes and dogs.
 - ◇ DSHS reported shellfish closures were issued in several bays during this event.

- Closures included Lavaca Bay, Aransas Bay, San Antonio Bay, Matagorda, South Bay and the Lower Laguna Madre.
 - Corpus Christi Bay had the highest count of *K. brevis* recorded. Corpus Christi bay is not a commercially harvested bay so it did not affect the oyster fishery.
- ◇ Research
 - Research partners have expressed concerns about the impacts to migratory birds as well as shorebirds.
 - Concerns have been raised about the fitness of the birds exposed to sublethal doses of brevetoxin as they pass through the area during the migratory period.
- Brown Tide (*Aureombra lagunensis*)
 - ◇ No bloom updates provided during the meeting.
 - ◇ Research
 - TAMU-CC researcher Dr. Mike Wetz is continuing the monthly (biweekly through June) Baffin Bay monitoring, which includes screening samples for brown tide.
 - Samples brought back by fishermen where they think brown tide might be re-establishing are also being processed.
 - Dr. Zimba- only samples occasionally when they get a report of elevated levels. He received a report about one month ago about discolored water with no indication of it moving up the Laguna Madre.
 - Additional information about water quality studies (including *A. lagunensis*) in Baffin Bay can be found at the following link: <http://www.cbbep.org/baffin-bay/>.
- Blue-green Algae (also known as Cyanobacteria)
 - ◇ TCEQ is in the process of securing a grant with U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to conduct a onetime survey to test different methods of analyzing and detecting cyanotoxins/cyanobacteria in 15 Texas reservoirs.
 - The results of this study may be used to develop a cost-effective means to support water quality monitoring and evaluate the presence and concentration of cyanobacteria and cyanotoxins in Texas reservoirs.
 - ◇ TCEQ reported on an incident involving the City of Ingleside Municipal Water.
 - City of Ingleside received a complaint regarding algae in the drinking water.
 - On January 29, 2016, TCEQ received notification that the City of Ingleside municipal water had tested positive for microcystin within the drinking water system.
 - This was the first time that a microcystin toxin was detected in drinking water in Texas.
 - Since no guidelines have been developed in Texas to address this situation, TCEQ initiated coordination with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other states for analytical guidance.

- Water samples were collected for two weeks based on recommended methodologies.
 - The toxin dissipated after flushing the system during the sampling period.
 - *Dinophysis*
 - ◇ Concentrations of *Dinophysis* have been reported around the Galveston area and near Port Aransas.
 - ◇ To date, no shellfish closures have been issued associated with this species.
 - ◇ DSHS will continue to monitor the situation.
 - *Discussion Topic: TPWD Red Tide Response Operations Debrief*
 - TPWD staff gave a presentation at the Texas HAB Subcommittee meeting about the response operations during the 2015 Red Tide event.
 - ◇ The presentation provided an overview of the organizational structure of the response, coordination with partners, internal coordination, and updates to the public.
 - Discussions after the presentation included the recently opened passes acting as a transport mechanism for *K. brevis* to impact areas that historically were never impacted.
 - ◇ An example was Packery Channel acting as a conduit for *K. brevis* allowing it to reach Bird Island Basin in the Upper Laguna Madre.
- Fish Sampling subcommittee meeting update
 - *Subcommittee Meetings*
 - The subcommittee has not met in 2016.
 - *Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Fish Project (Ongoing)*
 - Risk characterizations for Ellison Creek Reservoir is in internal review.
 - ◇ Fish collection in May 2014
 - Chemical contaminant analyses for Mountain Creek Lake is in progress.
 - ◇ Fish collection in November 2015
 - Plan to sample Lake Worth in November 2016.
 - *Potential San Jacinto River Waste Pits (SJRWP) Project*
 - DSHS Seafood and Aquatic Life Group applied for a TPWD grant to fund collection of additional fish tissue samples from the San Jacinto River near the SJRWP Superfund site.
 - *Fish Consumption Advisory Booklet*
 - Draft of advisory booklet is in review.
- Environmental Health and Toxicology workgroup update
 - Work group has not met in several months.
 - If an issue or issues arise that the work group needs to address, contact Laura Morse to coordinate a meeting.

Agency updates on department policy and/or legislative issues:

- Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
 - *Lead Exposure Investigations*
 - The DSHS Blood Lead Surveillance team is investigating an elevated blood lead level in a child in Tarrant County. The child was possibly exposed through a kohl eyeliner product (Hashmi Surma). A tested sample of the specimen contained 74.7% (747,000 ppm) lead. DSHS encountered this

product in 2015 in Travis County during an environmental lead investigation. The product was voluntarily recalled in 2013. Staff determined where the product was obtained and contacted the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The primary care providers of the children were contacted for retesting and referral to early childhood intervention (ECI) services.

- Several state-supported living centers have submitted blood samples for more than 500 residents and have received the lead level results on more than 280 of them. To date, only two of the samples showed slightly elevated blood lead levels. Based upon guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the results do not warrant any clinical intervention. These facilities are sampling blood because residents may have been exposed to lead through their drinking water.
- Various state hospitals are collecting blood samples from residents for lead analysis. These results are pending. Again, residents may have been exposed to lead through their drinking water.
- *Mosquito-borne Diseases- Zika and Chikungunya Viruses*
 - DSHS continues to prepare for the possible transmission of Zika virus in Texas by emphasizing how people can protect themselves, increasing the state's capacity to test for the virus, and working with local governments to assess mosquito control capabilities and activities.
 - ◇ As of June 17, 2016, Texas has had 44 reported cases of Zika virus disease. Of those, 43 were travelers who were infected abroad and diagnosed after they returned home; one of those travelers was a pregnant woman. One case involved a Dallas County resident who had sexual contact with someone who acquired the Zika infection while traveling abroad.
 - ◇ On May 27, DSHS initiated a state media campaign focusing on protection against Zika. The campaign features public service announcements on radio and television along with online and outdoor advertisements that remind people to prevent Zika by removing standing water, keeping mosquitoes out of their home and preventing mosquito bites.
 - ◇ The Birth Defects Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch has begun to conduct rapid ascertainment of cases of microcephaly and have applied for additional funding with CDC to enhance these surveillance activities.
 - On May 31, 2016, DSHS confirmed the first locally acquired case of chikungunya in Cameron County. The most common symptoms of chikungunya virus infection are fever and joint pain. Other symptoms may include headache, muscle pain, joint swelling, or rash.
 - The best way to avoid getting chikungunya or Zika is avoid being bitten. The *Aedes* species mosquitoes are quick to adapt to their environment. They bite during the daytime; peak biting times are early in the morning and late in the afternoon; live inside homes and outdoors; are attracted to standing water; and are present in urban and suburban areas.
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
 - *Development Support Documents (DSDs)*
 - Proposed – **Comments Due September 20, 2016**

- ◇ Chlorine
 - ◇ Heptane, All Isomers
 - ◇ Hexavalent Chromium Oral Reference Dose
 - ◇ Nonane, All Isomers
 - ◇ Octane, All Isomers
 - Proposed – **Comments Due August 19, 2016**
 - ◇ Cadmium and Cadmium Compounds
 - Toxicity Information Request – **Due August 19, 2016**
 - ◇ Cobalt
- *Publications*
 - Myers, J.L. 2016. Development of an inhalation unit risk factor for ethylene dichloride. *Inhalation Toxicology* 28(9): 403–409.
- *Air Pollutant Watch List (APWL)*
 - Proposed Delisting
 - ◇ APWL 0401 – Nickel in Dallas, Dallas County, Texas
 - Two supporting factors:
 - (1) Stationary monitoring has shown that the 2012 – 2015 annual averages for nickel particulate matter with a diameter of 10 micrometers or less (PM10) are all below the conservative long-term Air Monitoring Comparison Value (AMCV).
 - (2) The primary source of nickel, DC Bumper (formerly Dal Chrome), closed in November, 2013, and measured nickel concentrations decreased accordingly.
 - Under Consideration – Delisting
 - ◇ APWL 1202 – Propionaldehyde in Texas City, Galveston County, Texas
 - Source facility in the area has made significant changes to reduce propionaldehyde emissions, no complaint investigations in the area related to propionaldehyde since 2013, and a recent ambient air study did not measure concentrations at or above the current odor-based AMCV.
 - ◇ APWL 1002 – Sulfur Dioxide in Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas
 - Substantial reductions in sulfur dioxide in this area since its listing; exceedances of the regulatory standard have not been measured since 2012.
 - Under Consideration – Listing
 - ◇ Ethylene Dichloride (EDC) in Point Comfort, Calhoun County, Texas
 - EDC is above the AMCV in this area, there is one source for this chemical in the area. Since there is only one source, TCEQ is working with the company first.
- *EPA Lead Soil Screening Level*
 - Decreasing from 400 to 200 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg)
 - Do not know how it will be implemented at Superfund Sites, but it will most likely be on a 5-year review.
 - Likely will impact DSHS
- Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
 - With the potential invasion of the Zika virus into Texas and the United States, mosquito control efforts and capabilities are becoming issues. TDA is working with

EPA and other state and federal authorities to prepare and provide new mosquito control measures for this serious potential health issue.

- The National Academy of Science has released an exhaustive and conclusive report about the safety of using genetically-modified crops and the food made from them. This review showed little to no evidence of risk of these genetically-modified crops, and thus the foods in our grocery stores.
- SunOpta is recalling a large number of sunflower kernel products that have the potential to be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*. This is causing some consumer concern and confusion as these kernels are widely distributed in a large number of consumer products.
- Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
 - Staff had no agency update for the meeting.
- Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC)
 - Staff was unable to attend and provide an update.
- 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 in 2016:

- September 20, 2016 - DSHS, M-653, 10:00 am
- December 20, 2016 - DSHS, T-607, 10:00 am

Adjourn:

- Meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.