

Local Hazardous Waste Management Program
Final Approved Management Coordination Committee Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2017
6th Floor King/Chinook Conference Rooms, King Street Center, Seattle, WA
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Attendees MCC:

Joan Lee, KCWLRD, MCC Chair

Hank Myers, SCA, City of Redmond, MCC Vice-Chair

Susan Fife-Ferris, SPU

Darrell Rodgers, PHSKC

Jeff Gaisford, KCSWD

Other Attendees:

Lynda Ransley, LHWMP

Vicky Beaumont, LHWMP

Ryan Kellogg, LHWMP

Leisl Sackschewsky, LHWMP

Liz Tennant, LHWMP

Madelaine Yun, LHWMP

Laurel Tomchick, KCWLRD

Taylor Watson, KCWLRD

Linda Van Hooser, PHSKC

Mendy Droke, KCSWD

Ashley Pedersen, KCWLRD

Charles Wu, KCWLRD

Reema Rafii, KCWLRD

GENERAL BUSINESS

MCC Minutes:

MCC reviewed and approved March 21, 2017 minutes with no revisions.

Announcements

Darrell announced that Tracee Mayfield had been promoted to the Public Health supervisor position and his official start date was last Monday.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2016 Annual Report

Ryan reviewed the new annual report format, focused on three major areas: improving report usability, appealing to a wider audience, and the ability to use the reports as a communications tool both inside and outside the program. The Program is also intending to make the reports more functional online, with interactive features. Ryan noted that the current version is not yet final and we will send out the final versions to MCC in the next few weeks. Ryan asked for MCC input on the following four questions:

1. What type of information is most important to your agency leadership?
2. What type of information do you think is most important to LHWMP rate-payers?
3. What are you particularly proud of that should be included in an accomplishment report?
4. What are you most excited about in the year(s) ahead?

DISCUSSION

- Darrell suggested adding “draft” to this mock-up to avoid any confusion. Ryan agreed.
- Lynda added that she likes this format, as it provides a better narrative of what the LHWMP is, what we do, our services, as well as how people can access those services.
- Darrell asked when we expect to engage with the Board of Health on the rate increase. Lynda said that she anticipates a preliminary briefing (LHWMP 101) in the 3rd Quarter of this year.

- Joan likes the format, and added that the new lines of business provides improved clarity.
- Joan wondered if the cover image of a river appropriately reflects the Program mission. Susan recommended a collage of several photos as another option.
- Joan suggested adding goal statements for each section.

What type of information is most important to you?

- Susan said she would like information about where we are going.
- Jeff said that he gets very specific questions and would like a place where detailed information is easily accessible. Having access to current data is the most important thing for him.
- Hank commented that he would like links to secure medicine return sites.
- Darrell commented that he would like to see a visual that emphasizes the specialty of each agency as well as overall partnership between them – a high level reflection of how they come together for this Program.

What type of information do you think is most valuable to ratepayers?

- Susan said she would like to show people what they are getting for their dollar. It needs to reflect the goals of the Program, and how those achieved various initiatives. She added that she likes having a hard copy, but also an online reference with links for more information.
- Darrell commented that we should show how environmental outcomes of the Program saves public and business costs in the long run. Taylor responded that data on this would be very helpful, so it could be included in the report.
- Susan recommended that we show the value to the community. Ryan suggested that a summary page may be helpful. Susan agreed. Ryan added that his work plan includes an analysis of performance measures for the program, so this will be more robust next year.
- Susan commented that we need to know who the primary and ancillary audiences are for the annual reports.

What are you most proud of that should be included in an accomplishment report?

- Susan suggested we highlight we have moved into a 21st century mode.
- Joan suggested we highlight how the interagency structure shows government at its best, by being more efficient and effective. Joan also suggested having a section where we highlight our equity work and how the Program and services reflect the people who live in the county.

What are you most excited about in the years ahead?

- Hank likes the new layout and is excited to let staff do the jobs they are great at.
- Darrell likes the visioning and structure of the program and the opportunity to highlight it as a model governments can use across the United States.
- Susan thinks this is an example of a good, viable, and sustainable model that can be replicated in other areas. Hank agreed.

Line of Business Overview-Technical Assistance and Incentives

Laurel presented an overview of the Technical Assistance and Incentives program. See PowerPoint also. She highlighted the various services provided as well as recent accomplishments. She also discussed the team's efforts to identify number of businesses reached as well as behaviors changed.

DISCUSSION

- Hank would like to know more about specific services offered by the team and available to businesses. Laurel responded that we have promotional materials that describe services.

- Susan recommends coming back with something that describes services available to different types of businesses and industries.
- Linda Van Hooser commented that it is hard to understand the work until you see it. She offered the opportunity for MCC members to go out in the field with staff.
- Susan asked about Envirostars funding through EPA, and Laurel's comment about sensitivity to climate change language. Susan wants us to be careful but honest, and to focus on the science and best management practices.

Rate Proposal - Development Guidance

Lynda described the current status of a rate proposal, and reminded the MCC that they will receive more detailed information in May.

DISCUSSION

- Darrell asked if there could be a built-in increase for inflation. Lynda said that she would like that, such as an indexed rate that met revenue needs. However, there is uncertainty about Board of Health openness to an indexed rate, and potential risks related to cost variables we cannot control.
- Susan discussed learning from the rate process used by SPU and their stakeholder input. Susan suggested we could get the needed big adjustment and then incremental increases over time. She also recommends assessing our true needs for a reserve fund.
- Hank asked if the financial forecast will reflect a fully staffed model. Lynda responded yes.
- Hank would like the Board of Health to appreciate our record of disciplined spending, and how this has saved rate payers money over the years. He feels we have done a good job.
- Jeff asked about financial impacts from recent changes to the fee structure on solid waste accounts. Liz responded that those changes were designed to be revenue neutral.
- For planning purposes, Lynda confirmed that MCC was comfortable with the following general assumptions: 2019 increase start date, scenarios that considered either 4- or 6- year duration, and revenues that would allow for current levels of service.

Policy Update

Mendy provided a status update of state legislative activities, including the pending special session.

- Paint stewardship: Mendy said that HB 1376 did not receive a floor vote in the House, and that Senator Ericksen indicated he was not interested in giving the bill a Senate hearing. There will be an election in November for former Senator Andy Hill's seat in the 45th; if a Democrat wins, the Senate will be in Democratic control, which may increase the chances for this bill next year.
- State-wide Secure Medical Return: the bill passed out of the Healthcare and Wellness committee and was scheduled for a floor vote when some amendments that would negatively impact our local program were proposed. These included discontinuation of local programs as of 7/17, a sunset provision for the state-wide program, program costs to be shared among manufactures, local governments, and pharmacies. Due to these amendments, Representative Peterson asked that the bill have a floor vote. We expect the bill will be back next year.
- MTCA/CPG Funding: current budget proposal includes \$10 million, down significantly from last year. A House bill sponsored by Representative Peterson (HB 2182) would establish a tiered rate for the Hazardous Substance Tax for 2018-2025 to create a surcharge. Under this bill the rate would increase until revenues reached \$170 million. She noted that this legislation is a stopgap measure and not a permanent solution. However, as oil revenue is reduced and not anticipated to rise in the near future, this bill is better than having a chronically underfunded MCTA program.
- Mercury Lights: SB 5762 lowers the amount that manufactures pay from \$5K to \$3K and increases the number of program audits that Ecology must conduct. Ecology was supportive of this bill. We are monitoring it because the decreasing number of CFL's sold.

Ashley discussed lead funding in both the proposed House and the Senate Operating Budgets. In the proposed House Operating Budget, there is funding for “Community Exposure” which would provide funding for screening, case management, and a data reporting system, with \$2.3 million designated for water fixtures. Also in the proposed House Operating Budget, there is funding for “School Exposure,” which offers \$3.4 million in funding to test water fixtures in schools across the state. In the proposed Senate Operating Budget, there is funding for “School Exposure,” which would provide \$2.3 million in funding to test drinking water and drinking water fixtures in public schools across the state. No bills related to synthetic turf were introduced in the 2017 session. We won’t know until final passage of a Budget bill what funding will ultimately be provided.

DISCUSSION

- Darrell asked about what the Senate and House are doing directly related to Governor’s directive on lead, and how and where the funding will be dispersed. Ashley said that the funding in both bills is in response to the Governor’s directive. The funding will go to the Department of Health.
- Lynda asked the MCC to let us know what they are most interested in hearing during these policy updates. Mendy added that the legislative session will end soon and they could pivot to new topics the Policy Team is focusing on.

Secure Medicine Return

Taylor said we are turning a corner with SMR. Implementation is basically done, and the project is now focused on long-term maintenance. Promotion of the program is underway. Ad placements include radio and online promotion and social media ads. We have received positive feedback from residents.

DISCUSSION

- Jeff asked when we will have data on collection. Taylor said the regulation did not require quarterly reporting, only annual. However the stewardship organization has agreed to provide quarterly updates if available. She hopes to have 1st Quarter results at the end of this month.
- Hank asked about acceptance of sharps. Taylor said it depends on where you live, and information is available on solid waste websites. Darrell added that people should treat used and unused sharps the same, disposing in official sharps containers if possible.

Director’s Report and MCC Look-Ahead Calendar

Lynda provided her monthly report and MCC meeting calendar. Highlights included recent thoughtful planning and support of recent staff reassignments, as well as training - particularly with project managers and supervisors, hiring status and equity planning. Lynda invited MCC to the staff meeting on May 3rd, and would like a member to help open the meeting. Hank and Susan both offered to do so if they were available.

Success Story – Thanks to the work of Larry Brown and many others, LHWMP is receiving a national EPA Safer Choice Partner of the Year award. More details are available in the Director’s Report.

Next Meeting: June 20, 2017, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, 6th Floor King/Chinook Conference Rooms, King Street Center, Seattle.