

Drinking Water Advisory Council
Lead in Drinking Water (LIDW) Workgroup
Location: Kentucky Division of Water Office
300 Sower Blvd
Frankfort, KY
Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2017

In attendance: Greg Heitzman, Chair (BWK), Jennifer Burt (DPH), Obe Cox (CCW), Tom Gabbard (DOW), Mike Gardner (BGMU), Ron Lovan (NKYW), Thomas Rockaway (UofL), Justin Sensabaugh (KYAW).

Liaisons: Gary Larimore (KRWA), Kay Sanborn (KYTN-AWWA).

Absent: Brad Montgomery (ACEC), Bill Robertson (PWWKY), Rengao Song (LWC), Brian Thomas (MWD).

Division of Water (DOW): Sarah Gaddis, Samantha Kaiser, Todd Ritter.

Public Attendees: Amber Agee (DPH), S. Morgan Faulkner (KYOAG-ORI), George Haynes II (DCA), Susan Lucho (KAW), Kelley Dearing Smith (LWC), Mike West (EEC/OGC).

The meeting began at 1:45 p.m. ET.

Call Meeting to Order and Membership Roll Call – Greg Heitzman

Chair Greg Heitzman led the roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Introduce Guests – Greg Heitzman

Guests introduced themselves.

Approve Minutes of February 15, 2017 – Greg Heitzman

The Workgroup approved the February meeting minutes by consensus with changes discussed.

Update from EPA on Lead Regulatory Changes – Tom Gabbard

There was no update.

Presentation by Communications Subgroup – Kelley Dearing Smith

Kelley Dearing Smith gave a power point presentation on communication and public education. Most current communications concerning lead are discussing lead in drinking water even though lead in water is only one component of lead poisoning. Many Kentucky water utility websites contain little to no information on lead or it is difficult to find. The Workgroup discussed how smaller utilities may not have websites. Kentucky Rural Water Association currently hosts websites for water utilities and agreed that many websites they host do not contain information on lead. There are currently many communication gaps between water utilities and consumers. The industry has an opportunity to improve communications on lead. Utilities can use the attention on lead and drinking water to create an overall focus on safe

drinking water by identifying key stakeholders and creating a local network. Kentucky water utilities have a good story to tell and need to deliver a consistent message.

The Workgroup discussed possible recommendations:

1. Work with a creditable organization or entity to be a voice for the water utility
2. Integrate visual information into messages
3. Integrate lead in drinking water into trainings
4. All utilities should look into digital forms of communication for lead in drinking water, including update of websites, social media and other digital opportunities.
5. Educate the key community stakeholders utilizing the recommended Center for Disease Control Drinking Water Advisory Communication Toolbox and partner with them to deliver a consistent message.

The Workgroup discussed how Kentucky water utilities have a positive story to tell consumer and the public. The lack of communication can be viewed negatively.

Update on Lead Session at Water Professional Conference in Lexington – Greg Heitzman

Mr. Heitzman informed the Workgroup of the Water Professional Conference on July 11th. The Workgroup intends to share recommendations at the conference and receive industry feedback. There will be 15-minute segments of information shared by each subgroup.

Next Steps – Recommendations Subgroup – Greg Heitzman

All of the subgroups have shared their information. Each subgroup should take this time to work on recommendations and reports. A subgroup will be formed to discuss the recommendations before they are shared publicly. The Workgroup anticipates that the recommendations will be finalized late this year.

Open Discussion for Workgroup

The Workgroup discussed articles from the Environmental Defense Fund regarding State disclosure policies for pre-flushing.

Public Comment Period

There were no comments from public attendees.

Next meeting

The April and May meetings are canceled. The next meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. ET.