

**Drinking Water Advisory Council
Lead in Drinking Water (LIDW) Work Group
Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2016**

In attendance: Greg Heitzman, Chair (BWK), Jennifer Burt (DPH), Obe Cox (CCW), Gary Larimore (KRWA), Bill Robertson (PWWKY), Thomas Rockaway (UofL), Kay Sanborn (KYTN-AWWA), Rengao Song (LWC), Brian Thomas (MWD)

Absent: Mike Gardner (BGMU), Ron Lovan (NKYW), Brad Montgomery (ACEC)

Division of Water (DOW): Peter Goodmann, Director; Tom Gabbard, Asst. Director; Carole Catalfo, Internal Policy Analyst

Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP): Bruce Scott, Commissioner; Larry Brannon

Public/Liaison Attendees – Amber Agee (DPH), Mark Campbell (LWC), Tom Kutcher (City of Murray), Susan Lawson (DPH)

The meeting began at 1:05 p.m.

Introductions

Chair Greg Heitzman led the roll call, work group introductions, and introduction of guests.

Purpose and operation of LIDW Work Group

Greg Heitzman explained that the phone call on March 23 was organizational only, and that this was the LIDW Work Group's first official meeting. All meetings are open to the public, and the work of the group will be available as a public record through FOIA requests. All members are volunteers. The work group was formed due to recent publicity and issues surrounding lead in drinking water prompted by the Flint, Sebring, and Jackson events. The Division, Cabinet, and water providers wanted a coordinated effort by a diverse panel to examine where Kentucky currently stands, where future action might need to be taken, and eventually develop recommendations. Kentucky is not reacting to a crisis, all of its systems are in SDWA compliance and the state as a whole is in very good shape. However, Kentucky wants to stay ahead of the curve as regulations get tighter, and to work collaboratively towards regulatory compliance and public education. The information regarding lead issues is already available, but needs to be collected, processed, and presented in a useful format to potentially develop guidelines, best practices, and/or recommendations. The work should take about 4 – 6 months.

Presentation on Health Impacts from Lead

Susan Lawson, RN, from the Dept. of Public Health, gave a Power Point presentation regarding how lead is ingested, stored, and excreted in the body, and the long-lasting effects of lead poisoning. There is no kinetic model or baseline metric for the rate of lead transmission/excretion because a host of variables, such as an individual's size, age, diet, surroundings, the amount of lead ingested, etc. influence how lead is metabolized. Damage caused by lead ingestion is irreversible; the emphasis is on catching exposure early and treating the patient to excrete lead which is stored in the musculoskeletal system, and can leach out into the bloodstream at any stage of life, usually initiated by injury. Ms. Lawson stated that so far there have been no incidents of lead poisoning from water in Kentucky; the usual sources are lead-based paint in older homes and natural lead content in the soil. Usually once the source of lead in the home is

mitigated, lead blood levels decrease and there is no need to test the water.

The group discussed the events that lead to blood testing (Medicaid and Head Start require blood testing), the level that triggers home inspections (15 µg/L), costs (\$17 for capillary tests; \$36 for venous), and reporting mechanisms (private doctors vs. health departments).

The group discussed the importance of partnering with schools, and the successful program that the Louisville Water Company has in place with Jefferson County Public Schools. There may be some areas for the group to work on, including developing guidelines via best practices from other states, the latest research, regulations, and financial resources.

Kentucky DOW letter to the EPA

Peter Goodmann explained that the EPA had sent the letter to each state. The Flint situation has exponentially increased the attention placed on lead in drinking water, and though the Lead & Copper rule is 25 yrs old and has some shortcomings, it appears the EPA is reinterpreting it to some extent. Infrastructure replacement would take decades with many funding obstacles, but corrosivity and treatment can be dealt with more immediately.

The Kentucky response points out that Kentucky systems are primarily small and medium, rather than large like Flint, and discusses the challenges for those systems to achieve compliance with very limited resources. Since 2007 a collaborative effort by the informal drinking water advisory group has resulted in increased compliance with the SWDA, and the formation of the LIDW work group to further examine and improve Kentucky's specific status and program oversight.

A copy of the EPA letter and Kentucky's response will be sent to the work group members, and made available to the public by FOIA request.

Assignments and Timeline

Greg Heitzman distributed a draft list of subgroups, which can acquire whatever resources and expertise it needs to carry out their work. Subgroups have no decision-making authority but are meant to share information and education, and if a subgroup is less than a quorum of the Work Group, then it is not subject to the open meetings requirements. an open meeting. He requested that each work group member serve on two sub groups.

Changes to subgroup membership: Obe Cox indicated his interest in Communication/Education and Regulatory issues subgroup.. Justin Sensebaugh indicated his interest in Treatment/Corrosion Control rather than Regulatory subgroup. Tom Rockaway indicated an interest in Public Health subgroup. Rengao Song suggested creation of an Early Warning/Monitoring subgroup for which there may be crossover with Public Health.

The new subgroup (Early Warning/Monitoring) was placed ahead of the Communication/Education subgroup on the timeline for reporting back to the Work Group. This will give the new subgroup more time to develop and present information.

The Regulatory/Legislative subgroup will report on the status of the current Lead and Copper Rule, and on Compliance, at the next LIDW meeting. The legislative activity of this subgroup may be warrant a separate subgroup if EPA or the State purpose new lead regulations.

Deliverables

Greg Heitzman stated that subgroup information will be presented via the Power Point "ASCE report card" model, i.e., background, current status, best practices, recommendations, resources/references, acknowledgments. He will develop a draft template that everyone can use. The summary and recommendation portions can always change since this is work of a subgroup rather than the LIDW Work Group as a whole.

Greg Heitzman also distributed and briefly discussed a draft set of ground rules for the LIDW Work Group. He asked members to review the ground rules for discussion and adoption at the next meeting.

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Next Meeting

The group reached concensus that meetings will be held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at least until October. The location of meetings after June 1 will be TBD due to the Cabinet's move to a new building at the beginning of June.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 18, at 1:30 p.m. EST at the Division of Water, 200 Fair Oaks Lane, Conf. room 204A, Frankfort, KY.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.