

## Minutes

### Remediation and Redevelopment External Advisory Group

9 a.m. to 12 p.m., July 15, 2022  
Rm. G09, State Natural Resources Bldg. (GEF 2)  
101 S. Webster St.  
Madison, WI 53703

#### Roll Call

##### EAG Members

- Jodie Peotter, DNR *PRESENT*
- Judy Fassbender, DNR *PRESENT*
- Sharlene TeBeest, WI DOT *PRESENT*
- Roy Irving, WI DHS *PRESENT (Zoom)*
- Sarah Gruza, U.S. EPA *PRESENT (Zoom)*
- Jason Scott, WEDC *PRESENT*
- Dave Misky, Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee *PRESENT*
- Debora Sielski, Washington County Public Agency Center Community Development Department *ABSENT*
- Chris Valcheff, True North Consultants *PRESENT*
- Donna Volk, Ramboll *PRESENT*
- Brain Bartoszek, WEC Energy Group *PRESENT*
- Sheldon Johnson, Northwest Regional Planning Commission *ABSENT*
- Noah Saperstein, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa *PRESENT (Zoom)*
- Ned Witte, Godfrey & Kahn *PRESENT (Zoom)*
- Lynn Morgan, WM *PRESENT (Zoom)*

##### Guests

###### In Person

Bart Sponseller, DNR  
Christine Haag, DNR  
Jenna Soyer, DNR  
Michael Prager, DNR  
Ben Vonda, DNR  
Mike Ursin, TRC  
Adam Roder, Sigma  
Marshal Totte, TRC  
Jim Ritchie, DNR  
Jody Irland, DNR

###### Zoom

Emma Siewert, Wisconsin Eye  
Barry Ashenfelter, DNR  
Colin Kelly, ecoSPEARS  
Lanette Altenbach, AECOM  
Donald Gallo, Axley  
Michelle Castile  
Renee Bashel, DNR  
Matthew Michalski, REI Engineering  
Margaret Brunette, WI DNR  
Brian Bailey, REI Engineering  
Maria Powell, Madison Environmental Justice  
Gena Larson, DNR  
Kate Juno, LF Green Development  
Mark Thimke, Foley

Lindsey Bereckis  
Liam Wilcox-Warren  
Vanessa Wishart, Stafford law  
Craig Sparks, DNR  
Jesse Papez, DNR  
Michelle Cook, City of Racine  
Ted Warpinski, DK Attorneys  
Evan Dujardin, Westwood Professional Services  
Jeff Ramey, TRC Companies  
Eric Englund, GEI Consultants  
Cindy Zelenka, Mi-Tech  
Tom Coogan, DNR  
Bill Nelson, GK Law  
Frank Dombrowski, WEC Energy Group  
Luke Specketer, Tetra Tech  
Erica Lawson, TRC Companies  
Roger Miller, GEI Consultants  
Heidi Woelfel, GZA  
Grant Zwiefelhofer, Kapur  
Faith Zangl-Wiese, GEI Consultants  
Becky Springer, GEI Consultants  
Marie Venne, WEC Energy Group  
Ben Peotter, Tetra Tech  
Toni Schoen, SET Environmental  
Nathan Kloczko, WI Dept. of Health Services  
Kristin Kurzka, Sigma  
Ed Buc, Terracon

### *Member Introductions/Ice Breaker*

Items members expressed they would look forward to or would like to achieve through the EAG:

- creating a shared understanding of each stakeholder's goals and coming together to form common goals
- renewing partnerships and increasing interagency coordination
- problem solving obstacles and issues cooperatively; deconstructing the idea that environmental cleanup is scary or daunting
- working on things that have a direct impact on people's lives, including honoring tribal agreements
- understanding and valuing the diversity of backgrounds and experiences people bring to the group and looking forward to learning from each other
- bringing voice to human health considerations and environmental issues and providing a mechanism for input
- sharing knowledge about projects and issues while looking forward to mutual success

### *Group Logistics & Planning*

- **Charter overview**
  - Group is meant to cover a broad spectrum of issues in the RR program, including but not limited to: investigation and cleanup policies; technical issues; feedback on legislative issues; feedback on how the DNR implements programs; funding sources and financial incentives; collaborations and partnerships
  - Still searching for academia representation
  - Membership has 3-year terms
    - initial membership staggered
    - initial members assigned for 2 or 4 years to prevent wholesale rollover
- **Function of group**
  - Create work plan for the next year
  - Subgroups can be chaired by anyone, including those who are not on the EAG, but would prefer an EAG sponsor
- **Schedule setting through July 2023**
  - Meeting times will aim to be 9:00 a.m. - noon.
  - Future meeting dates and locations TBD and emailed out as soon as feasible (pending availability results from members)

### *Infrastructure funding discussion*

- **DNR-level**

Jim Ritchie (guest speaker, DNR Community Financial Assistance Bureau) – Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) is bringing a significant amount of money to existing and new programs.

  - BIL funding is coming through a variety of federal agencies, unlike the previous ARPA funding, which creates many challenges
    - to answer that challenge, DNR created a FIT (federal infrastructure team) to coordinate agency activities: look for opportunities, develop work plans, apply for funding, address staff needs
  - Water funding
    - State Revolving Fund – low interest loans to local governments, 20 – 30 year loan repayments, principal forgiveness to some communities
    - Increase to \$142M/year focused on: lead services lines (\$48M/yr), NEW emerging contaminants- drinking water (\$12.8M/yr), NEW emerging contaminants – wastewater (\$2.8/yr)
      1. Communities that have identified PFAS in their municipal water supplies have been engaged in developing programs
    - DNR is currently working on required intended use plans (IUPs) for all areas
      1. Goal is to have program guidelines ready for public input by fall; accept applications by end of year

- Federal WIIN; new program (~\$17M//yr)– address PFAS and emerging contaminants for small and disadvantaged communities (SDC); will leverage with SRF funding
  - DNR typically has a couple of years from when the funding is approved to spend it
  - Historically DNR is not oversubscribed because of revolving fund. There seems to be plenty of capacity so will be spreading the word. EC and lead service lines; There likely won't be enough to meet demand for the lead service lines and EC funding, which is why the DNR is looking at leveraging with the SRF
  - CFA will continue to administer the SRF loans (with DOA). Programs will do the tech reviews as appropriate.
- **RR-level (Assessment Grant/128a/Superfund) – Jodie Peotter and Judy Fassbender**
    - Assessment grant
      - \$2m - Increase in funding available compared to past solicitations (available October 1).
      - RFQ process underway – goal is to hire qualified environmental professionals to hit the ground running in October
      - Continuation of WAM program. DNR also has four subgrants to issues to communities – larger sites that need to go through investigation—a similar scope and sequence to the RR Program's past "Community Managed" funding
      - New dry cleaner inventory and vapor assessment programs
- **GLNPO** –There are 43 areas of concern on the great lakes; most are sediment contamination.
    - WI has 5 AOCs:
      1. Largest is in Milwaukee- urbanized area and watershed. 32 miles of combined shoreline, bridges, under river utilities (complicated project and legacy contamination (NO RP)).
      2. Lower Menomonee River was recently delisted.
      3. Fox River and Sheboygan River have had management actions completed.
      4. St. Louis River – shared boundary with Minnesota; working on several projects with MPCA
    - DNR is working with EPA to identify work and funding – for the Milwaukee and St. Louis River AOCs. It is a competitive process.
      - The largest cleanup is the Milwaukee AOC, a \$300M+ initiative (\$200M GLNPO and \$100 million match). WEC/MMSD/City of Milwaukee/RACM/Port and many others are working with DNR and EPA to ensure the funding is focused to get the AOC to eventual delisting. In the process of moving forward with the design of the dredged materials management facility (DMMF). Project wouldn't be possible without the infrastructure dollars. Policy, politics, and teamwork is utmost of importance. It will be a complex difficult project, but worthwhile
- **Superfund** – receive money annually but now working on back log of sites.
    - Pentawood – some remediation has been done, but additional infrastructure money was received to address wood waste and wetland contamination.
    - Landfills and electro-platers – emerging contaminants are a concern. DNR requested assessment funding for several sites from the EPA.
    - Other sites that the DNR will be seeking Superfund funding for include AMCAST (Cedarburg) and Unity Automart (Town of Unity).
    - Issues to keep in mind – *how do we ensure adequate management of continuing obligations when we leave residual contamination?* DNR talking with EPA on new cooperative agreement to inventory and enhance long term stewardship of continuing obligations at Superfund sites.
    - DNR will continue to work with EPA Region 5 and headquarters to identify areas of funding that may come to Wisconsin.

- **128-A** – apply for every year through EPA.
  - Funding supporting RR EAG included in work plan, administer WAM and Ready for Reuse grants, green team meetings, VPLE program, outreach, policy, site audits. DNR requested additional BIL funding and are waiting to hear allocation amount.
- **Federal initiatives:**
  - Justice40 – Goal of 40% of benefit to disadvantaged communities. Definition of disadvantaged considers several factors and is relative within the state. DNR designed a workplan to meet these criteria and is committed to meeting this goal.
  - Build America, Buy America – DNR is figuring out how this fits in to its infrastructure funding. It seems to be learning toward construction projects. ASTSWMO and ECOS is working on how this affects brownfields and other remediation funding. Some federal awards are being held until there is more guidance about this. Federal funded transportation projects are being delayed because of US-supply shortages and are also more expensive.
    - Issues to keep in mind – *What impacts will the sourcing of these materials might have on communities? What is happening at the point of extraction? Such as the mine that is being operated and might result in wetland issues. Are we thinking about short term impacts of long-term projects? Will communities like Wausau be able to get funding for clean water from PFAS?* Some of these such as BABA are EPA responsibilities. This is still unfolding, and DNR is trying to figure out how this is impacting recipients. It is something that is being figured out. DNR is working with communities with PFAS contamination on funding (WIIN, BIL and others). Wausau is in that mix as well as 11 others. Hoping to launch by end of year. Right now, DNR drinking water program offers voluntary sampling to municipalities for PFAS, if they volunteer.
      - \*Add topic of multi-generational stewardship to workplan

### Strategic Work Planning

- **RR Program strategic plan (see slides)**
  - Guiding principles permeate throughout 5 goals, objectives, and work/team planning
  - This group is a very specific objective of Goal D and guiding principles.
  - Culture of continuous improvement through continued conversation with customers and external partners. This program only works if engaged in talking and listening to people.
- **Work Planning Session (see draft work plan)**
  - Consider program priorities from RR strategic plan as well as priorities topics/issues from the EAG.

### Assignments

- Complete calendar with meeting availability (all)
- use calendar feedback to set future dates and communicate to RR EAG (Jodie/Jody)
- aggregate strategic work planning into expected outcomes, deliverables & milestones, and assignments. Send draft to EAG members for review and feedback (Jodie)
- following review and finalization of work plan, create subgroups and find chairs (all)

### Adjourn