

NJDEP
Science Advisory Board Meeting
June 5, 2012
NJDEP, Trenton, NJ
Minutes

The Science Advisory Board (SAB) Chairperson, Dr. Judith Weis called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m.

Members in attendance were:

Judith Weis, Chairperson
John Dyksen
Raymond Ferrara
John Gannon
Peter Lederman
Paul Lioy
Robert Lippencott
Tavit Najarian
Nancy Rothman

Office of Science Staff:

Gary A. Buchanan, OS Liaison
Robert Mueller, OS Liaison
Judy Louis, OS Liaison
Joe Bilinski, OS Liaison
Gloria Post, OS Liaison
Linda Bonanno, OS Liaison
Robert Hazen, OS Liaison

The Science Advisory Board welcomed new member Dr. Tavit Najarian, who was attending his first meeting.

Dr. Gary Buchanan gave an update on the status of previous SAB reports with regard to the Commissioner's review and anticipated posting dates.

The SAB approved the February 23, 2012 minutes.

Standing Committee Reports:

Public Health:

Dr. Gloria Post, OS Liaison to the Public Health Standing Committee reported that work had begun on the Perimeter Air Monitoring Issue. A working group has been formed and a

meeting was held. In addition, the Public Health Committee agreed to work on the Air Toxics issue initially assigned to the Climate and Atmospheric Sciences Standing Committee. They plan to form a workgroup that will include some members of the Climate committee.

A discussion followed about the Perimeter Air Monitoring issue. Dr. Lioy suggested that the workgroup consider visiting the Garfield Avenue Site in Jersey City.

Ecological Processes:

Dr. Robert Hazen, OS Liaison to the Ecological Processes Standing Committee, gave a brief update. Dr. Michael Weinstein has agreed to act as interim Chair of the Standing Committee. A meeting is scheduled within the next week and it is hoped that the Committee can complete work on the Ecological Mitigation Criteria issue. The SAB Chairperson and Gary Buchanan have approached the previous Chairperson in an attempt to have him provide information on the issue for the report.

Climate and Atmospheric Sciences:

Dr. Linda Bonanno, OS Liaison to the Climate and Atmospheric Sciences Standing Committee reported that work is progressing on the issue of which aspects of climate change are inevitable or highly likely. The workgroup has met several times and have an outline of the report complete. They expect to have a draft report in about a month.

Water Quality and Quantity:

Dr. Judy Louis, OS Liaison to the Water Quality and Quantity Standing Committee reported that work is continuing on the issue of how to interpret continuous dissolved oxygen measurements in coastal and other waterways. The workgroup has their third meeting scheduled next week.

Science Advisory Board:

John Dyksen and Dr. John Gannon, SAB members working on the Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CEC) workgroup made a presentation of a proposed framework and strategy for the NJDEP to address potential contaminants of emerging concern. The objective of the CEC framework is to define a strategy to assess the hazard and exposure potential of chemicals found in the NJ environment and/or biota and prioritize chemicals for regulatory review/action based on risk assessment. Two separate tools, the METIS tool developed by DuPont that assesses the hazard potential of a chemical and the PRoTEGE tool developed by EOHSI that assesses exposure properties were described in this presentation.

At the end of this presentation, the SAB discussed how essential and valuable this approach to CECs were and asked the work group to ‘package’ the information with some limited additional text (e.g., executive summary) and submit to the SAB for review and approval (i.e., via email).

Dr. Peter Lederman motioned that:

“The Science Advisory Board recommends to the Commissioner that work be carried out to merge the Metis and Protégé data systems to create an effective tool for the NJDEP to analyze potential CECs to at the least the Tier 2 level as described in the framework.”

The motion was seconded by Dr. Raymond Ferrara. The motion passed unanimously with Dr. Lioy abstaining.

Dr. Lippencott asked about the next issue for the SAB, and Gary Buchanan talked briefly about the Cumulative Risk (Impacts) issue. Dr. Buchanan will check on the status of the project and inform the Board concerning the expected schedule for review and submission of recommendations.

A general discussion ensued about various SAB issues. The subject of nanomaterials and how they might be covered by the CEC framework was discussed. Dr. Lioy was asked if he would prepare a talk on nanomaterials for the SAB at the next meeting. The issue of Fracking was also discussed. While not a practice in New Jersey, potential migration of contaminants from nearby activity in NY and PA might become a concern. Dr. Lederman agreed to make a short presentation to the SAB at the next meeting.

It is anticipated that the next SAB meeting will be scheduled sometime after Labor Day.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:20 p.m.