



San Francisco Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group Meeting Minutes

<u>Meeting Date</u> April 7 th , 2021	<u>Meeting Times</u> Main Committee: 10am – 12pm
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Regional Board Announcements (Debbie Phan)

No announcements from Regional Board

Steering Committee Update

1. SGA update (Robert Wilson)

- a. Started on Spring Pesticides Campaign
 - i. Last Spring's "flea and tick pesticides" campaign was replaced with "toilets are not trashcans" due to COVID-related issues.
 - ii. Collateral was already developed and reviewed by pesticides committee. No money was spent on creating collateral this year as it was reused.
 - iii. Bell-curve campaign started last week: apex is Earth week (April 18th will show the most ads then reduce after).
 - iv. We only pay for the ads that are presented.
 - v. New to campaign: Google Response ads (uses AI to optimize campaign results)
 1. AI detects which ads are doing better, then show those more frequently. Limits SGA level of input so we can allocate more of the costs on ads.
 2. Ad resized to 1x1 or 4x1 ratio
 3. Google ad campaign: targets 9 bay area counties
 4. Final report: end of May, early June
 5. New point of contact with SGA: Nanami Yoshimura
 - a. nyoshimura@sgamarketing.com
 - vi. SGA is updating Baywise website with a public friendly messaging on freezer packs based on information provided by Stephanie Hughes' letter of recommendations on what agencies should do with freezer packs. There will be no ad campaign for this message. Agencies can direct outreach to Baywise or pull information from there.

2. Pesticides Subcommittee (Autumn Cleave)

- a. Kelly Moran is dismantling TDC Environmental and moving on to work with SFEI
 - i. BAPPG sent out a request for qualifications to find her replacement, due end of April. (30-day window)
 - ii. Tammy Qualls, subcontractor from TDC Environmental, will send in her qualifications along with Stephanie Hughes

- iii. We will still work with Kelly as a subcontractor, or we will subcontract directly with SFEI
 - iv. Kelly will present at the June meeting for a year-end review
- b. Stephanie Hughes- business as usual

BACWA Board (Lorien Fono)

1. SFEI PFAS special study, phase 1
 - a. SFEI received results from the PFAS special study last Thursday; comments will be reviewed at next week's Emerging Contaminants Workgroup meeting and then messaging will be ready to share
 - b. Phase 1 screening used to get more info on sources of PFAS loadings into the Bay
2. Alternative monitoring requirements that funds CECs thru SFEI
 - a. Water Board will reduce monitoring of non-detect pollutants and use the savings to fund special studies. How costs are allocated for this still needs to be worked out.
3. Toxicity Provisions (Region 2) – adopted in December
 - a. Approved by USEPA late summer
 - b. If an agency has a permit adopted *after* this time, they need to comply with the State's new toxicity provisions
 - i. Blanket amendment to codify everyone's permits
 - ii. Example: If an agency doesn't have permit coming up for 4 years, the agency can stop looking for acute toxicity now

OWOW (Jennifer Kaiser)

1. BASMAA board continues to meet through June on an ad hoc basis to share information.
2. BASMAA almost complete with its dissolution as a 501c3, and continuing to work towards finding a home for the OWOW program.
3. Public Info Subcommittee Meeting: April 27th
4. New OWOW website
5. OWOW factsheets distributed to all agencies that put in a request. There is no storehouse for the factsheets. The artwork is stored with "Greener Printer"— no plans for a reprint, but may be done if a large group wants them in the future

CWEA (Susan Hiestand)

1. P3S Conference

2. Owen system is up and running— online learning portal where staff can receive unit credits. Some classes are free for members.
3. Annual conference in June. Sign up by 24th for discount.
 - a. Tool belt trainings are free for members.

Budget (Joe Neugebauer)

1. 72% of budget spent by March (this fiscal year)
 - a. Total BAPPG budget: 130k

General Discussion

1. OWOW Trainings at Home Depot and local nurseries (Doug Dattawalker)
 - a. IPM contractor recommendation for City agencies with Home Depot and/or nurseries that use OWOW program.
 - i. Suzanne Bontempo provides in-store workshops that supports OWOW program which can be added to stormwater permit reporting
 - ii. Suzanne is an OWOW representative that also does virtual garden webinars for the general public
 - iii. Contact info:
 - Plant Harmony
 - www.plantharmony.org
 - Our Water Our World Program Manager
 - IPM Educator & Advocate
 - Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper
 - ReScape Qualified Professional
 - 415-317-475 uzannebontempo@gmail.com
2. I-shelf packs, 2019 report (Ciara Pringle)
 - a. Email Ciara for a copy of her report: Ciara.pringle@sfgov.org

PFAS Decontamination Presentation

(Jen Jackson, Toxics Reduction and Healthy Ecosystem Program Manager)

San Francisco Department of Environment update on AFFF: "Tackling "Forever Chemicals" (PFAS)

1. PFAS has persistence and mobility in the environment. There are 14 different water groups with PFAS contamination.
 - a. Known impacts: carcinogens, thyroid and endocrine disruptors, reproductive effects
 - b. The limits for drinking water continue to go down
2. Water Board has sampling at treatment plants, airports
3. Interim strategy put out by the EPA. There will be discharge limits in our near future
4. San Francisco is looking to eliminate the purchases of multiple PFAS-containing products and limit PFAS-containing food ware

5. SB1044 banned manufacturers from selling foam with PFAS by January 1, 2022
6. San Francisco still uses firefighting foam with PFAS (AFFF- class B foam with PFAS. Creates a blanket over the fire). Some departments don't use foam.
 - a. SFFD Fireboats use PFAS firefighting foam and have a lot to dispose and need to research how to decontaminate tanks inside the boat
 - b. SFO is under different types of laws (SB 1044 does not include airports)
7. San Francisco Decontamination Pilot— mainly focusing on fireboats at Pier 26
 - a. Challenges:
 - i. Switching foams cause chemical reactions and clogs equipment
 - ii. Triple rinsing of tanks cause contamination with a high porportion of residual PFAS
 - iii. San Francisco is trying to figure out how to dispose of the foam drained in buckets, how to rinse the boats, and how to manage both waste streams
 - b. Working with a company called TRS on their system
 - i. Why
 1. Bad to discharge PFAS-contaminated wastewater and HHW facility may not completely degrade PFAS
 2. Don't want a continuous stream of PFAS discharging from fireboats because it will be in the environment, and the firefighters are exposed to the foam with every use.
 - ii. TRS has a process that was piloted in Germany where a coagulant (PerfluorAd) is added into the waste stream, and then all materials moved to a bigger tank and it is flocculated out
 1. Lower amount of discharge
 2. Once tank is cleaned out, it was tested to see how much PFAS was left and there was a huge reduction.
 - iii. Cost: very expensive due to materials and sampling, \$35-\$40k
 1. In the past, to clean one tank: \$40k
 - c. **David Fleming (TRS) brief update**
 - i. A polish is added at end of the treatment process so nothing is left in the water when discharged to POTWs. However, POTWs will need to agree with this approach before it is done.
 1. Germany process: perfluoride > polish = non detect

2. Phase 1 wastewater sampling (Lorien Fono):
compound detection limit range of 88 parts per trillion to >1ppt.
- ii. Cost: ~\$50k but offered San Francisco one free cleanout on their fireboat because this has never been done

8. Questions

- a. Do fire agencies know if their foam contains PFAS? Is this easy info to find?
 - i. NY Pollution Institute has a list of known firefighting foams that contain PFAS and those that are PFAS-free
 - ii. Older storage of foams (4-6 years old) possible and likely to contain it if class B foam. Class A foams don't put fires out in the same way, but have lesser chance of having it (UNLESS the company also makes class b foam, then their materials are contaminated)
 - iii. Clean Production Action (nonprofit) created standards and certifications for different products – food ware, textiles and firefighting foam
 1. Ranks products after reviewing all the chemicals and hazards: bronze, silver and gold
 2. Vet for human and environmental toxicity
 3. Foam is a surfactant. If discharge into a creek, lots of biological activity (fish kills). In terms of toxicity, hard to find a foam that does the job and doesn't cause harm to environment
 - a. Bronze - Prop 65 chemicals materials will not pass (10 products currently certified at this level)

9. What are first recommendations for agencies?

- a. Contact your fire departments and inform them of SB1044. Find out what foam is being used. Work directly with them (especially if the PFAS screening applies) to eliminate AFFF (PFAS-containing) foam by Jan 1, 2022 and make sure they don't use AFFF (PFAS containing foam)
- b. Start process of helping them find safer alternatives
 - i. 10 companies with safer alternatives (bronze-ranked at Clean Production Action)
- c. Ask fire department what the process looks like to switch out foam
- d. Do they do triple rinse? What does that process look like?
- e. This will be a difficult process with fire department, they may want to send to HHW which is not ideal either.
 - i. Discuss what can agency afford in terms of reducing the load of PFAS in wastewater?
- f. **Jen Jackson will put together a Google Form for agencies to collect fire department information and if they are using PFAS foam. Due next BAPPG meeting (June 2021).**

10. Debbie Phan (Water Board)- not much to study now, which is why they're doing a study with RMP. Firefighting foam is more of a concern with stormwater
 - a. Jen Jackson: not on CASCA radar
 - b. Lorien Fono: SFEI is doing a parallel study on stormwater (Diana is the lead on this project)

Wrap Up (Autumn Cleave)

1. Next meeting: early June
 - i. Presentations:
 1. Pesticides subcommittee update, Stephanie and Kelly
 2. Robert and Patrick Polis experience with PFAS sampling and source investigation. Robert will talk about process of figuring out how to not contaminate samples.
 3. Possible update from Department of Environment on PFAS project