

Coastal Health Strategy Team
Conference Call Notes from Tuesday, May 24, 2005
12:00 pm CT

1. Introductory comments from Don:
 - Thank you to all of the writers and contributors.
 - Chapter reorganization during and after Traverse City forced a rethinking of the goals and recommended actions going forward.
 - The Executive Committee will pull material from the 8 teams into an executive summary and will prioritize ~10 of the 40 submitted recommended actions.
2. Discussion of impressions while reading through the current draft. Does the message jump out?
 - Consensus that the draft contains the message, but it does not jump out – it is buried in the depth of topics addressed. How to highlight the key messages?
 - Highlight statistics on health risks and implications of coastal pollution. Emphasize dangers without sounding sensationalist. Show the immediacy and widespread impact upfront.
 - Frame the content to answer the critical question, “Why should I care about coastal health?”
 - The Problem Statement is the right place to add “wow” statements; make it eye-catching.
 - Resolution: Add bullets to the Problem Statement to provide specific health risk examples.
3. Discussion of what the draft should emphasize in terms of funding sources and lead agencies:
 - Acknowledge that the team focused on the major issues that require Federal funding.
 - The Executive Committee said not just to call for Federal funding, but to call on States, municipalities, governors, local programs, etc.
 - The discussion of lead agencies in each recommended action is an opportunity to pick out Federal, State, and local agencies; actions should emphasize municipal/local responsibility.
4. Discussion of how inclusive the draft should be and the extent to which it provides lists and statistics; related discussion of whether all points mentioned in lists are later addressed in recommendations.
 - The draft should not include mind-numbing “laundry lists.” The team should shorten/remove the lists and replace them with statistics.
 - In A.1, we introduce many direct sources but don’t address them later. This was a choice by the team to focus and tackle wastewater.
 - Septic systems were supposed to be covered by the Coastal Health team, but this was not among the highest-priority direct sources. Definitions of Direct and Indirect sources could be moved to an appendix then the lists could be deleted.
 - Resolution: Create a new appendix table with definitions of pollution sources. Definitions and examples will be moved from the Problem Statement, A.1, and A.2 to this appendix.
5. Discussion of remaining gaps:
 - Dale volunteered to draft a couple sentences for the Benefits gap under Direct Sources.
 - Discussion of Drinking Water gaps:
 - Don will revise the Drinking Water recommendations based on feedback/input from various team members (Holly, Shaili) and representatives from public drinking water programs. The recommended source water protection plan must address protection of open lake intakes.
 - Concern with the justification of drinking water as a coastal health issue – this should be explained in the document.

- The Drinking Water section should emphasize “health” over “coastal” – stress the safety issues associated with protection of drinking water; focus on pathogens and near shore water issues.
- Don will draft the Costs and Benefits write-up. Cost will focus on under-appropriation of SRF and the need to fully fund (prorating for Great Lakes States).

6. Word edits from Dale:

- A.1 p.4: thorough review “AND REPORTING”
- p.5: [add] “NEAR SHORE”
- p.6: Congress to amend “ACTS”

7. Continued discussion on incorporating the septic issue:

- Suggestion to deal with the septic issue in the sub-bullets on p.4 (A.1 under Recommended Action A).
- Septic is a thorny problem – costly to retrofit and upgrades are usually required only at the time of sale. Upgrade requirements can be coupled with routine inspection programs.
- Dale to draft bullets and email to Joyce.

8. Confirmation of the timeline for submitting the chapter and appendices:

- Writers to submit all edits by COB Thursday 5/26.
- Joyce to incorporate edits and submit the chapter and draft appendices to the Executive Committee on Friday 5/27.
- Weeks of May 30 and June 6:
 - Finalize appendices, focusing on the rewrite of Alternative Approaches.
 - Submit a list of research, monitoring, indicators, and communications needs to the I&I Team for inclusion in their chapter.