



Consortium Operations Update

The Consortium has continued to maintain progress by the Technical Steering Committee (TSC) and their six working groups, and the Government Advisory Board (GAB) throughout the Corona Virus quarantine in NM and surrounding states via conference and video conference calls.

Due to TSC working group conference call participation volumes, we increased the number of call-in lines to 50. We had good participation on the May 18,19, and 20 calls, averaging about 35-40 participants for each of the six working group calls.

While current Consortium Operations have continued via conference and video conference calls for the TSC Working Groups and the GAB, all scheduled person-to-person meetings have been on hold. That could change as New Mexico gradually begins to ease restrictions under the public health orders. Another public health update is scheduled for June 1.

Consortium management is closely watching the evolving public health order restrictions to determine when in-person meetings will be an option and under what conditions or limitations. We understand there could be some reductions in restrictions, but are currently unsure how that will impact the chances for an in-person meeting in mid-July. The Consortium management is committed to evaluating all the guidance from public health officials and the June 1 updates from the Governor's Office and DOH to make a final decision about the July meeting that best protects the health and safety of all consortium members.

Current hotel conference restrictions, with limitations on food service, social distancing requirements, and the need to wear masks in public, are problematic for effective, large-scale, in-person, group discussions. Therefore, our planning efforts for future meetings include options for a remote meeting in July to update all members on working group progress by the TSC and the GAB. We will be meeting with NMED representatives on June 2 to make a final decision, and we will provide an update and announcement as quickly as possible.

Upcoming TSC and GAB Working Group Video Conference Calls

In order to more readily facilitate working group discussions among the large number of participants, NMSU has looked at several video conferencing platforms, as well as the issues and concerns of many companies with the security use of some platforms. After significant discussion and research, NMSU has decided to utilize the MS Teams video conferencing capabilities they currently have under license.

An MS Teams video conference was utilized for the April 24 GAB meeting, which went very well. Therefore, the June TSC working group and GAB conference calls will be held by video conference.

June TSC Working Group Video Conference Calls

If your company does not allow video conferencing with MS Teams, then please join by the Consortium Conference Call number below.

- Use MS Teams web link to be provided on a separate email, or dial into the Consortium Conference Call Number , 1-800-346-2923, Participant Code 495866
- June 15th
 - 9-11 am MDT– Water Quality and Water Quantity Working Groups
- June 16th
 - 9-11 am MDT – Risk and Toxicology and Treatment Working Groups
- June 17th
 - 9-11am MDT – Infrastructure Engineering and Applications Working Groups

June GAB Video Conference Call

The June GAB video conference has been scheduled for Friday, June 12. GAB members will be getting final notification of the time slot in the next week or so.

Move by the Ground Water Protection Council to a Webinar Series on Produced Water Collaboration

In recent deliberations with the GWPC – Produced Water Task Force, it became clear that of the 15 or so state environmental agencies that GWPC wanted to bring to the Consortium’s July meeting, most will not be allowed to travel outside their states due to new state budget and travel constraints. Therefore, the Consortium is coordinating with the GWPC to support one or two half-day webinars by GWPC on cooperating and collaborating on a national produced water reuse program implementation plan. Currently, the plan is to hold these webinars in July and August leading up to the GWPC’s annual meeting in September in Salt Lake City. The webinars would be held in close proximity to our meetings, so as to complement but not interfere with our meeting dates. In that way all Consortium members would be able to participate in the GWPC webinars and discussions.

Currently, GWPC is planning their initial webinar for Monday, July 13th, or Wednesday, July 15th. GWPC is planning the webinar around our meeting, and the final date will be based on our decision on holding an in-person or virtual July meeting. We will continue to keep the Consortium membership informed of the final webinar dates and times.