



## **Consortium Operations Update**

The Consortium has continued to maintain efforts 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 calls.

While the TSC working group calls had good participation in March, with an average of 15-16 participants per working group, participation on the mid-April working group conference calls was literally overwhelming. For those calls, we averaged 25 participants per working group, with many having more than 30 participants. I say overwhelming since we only had 25 call-in lines reserved per call. Therefore, we unfortunately had several people try to participate in the working group calls that were not able to connect.

We also set up the use of MS Teams video conferencing for the GAB for their meeting on April 24. Their two-hour call included representatives of 11 state and federal agencies and covered topics such as update from Program Director Mike Hightower on TSC progress and discussion of a process for managing Consortium RFP process. The next GAB call may be in early June.

## **Future Consortium Interactions**

Based on the participation in the past two sets of TSC working group conference calls, the Consortium is looking at several options to improve the ability to interact electronically including:

- Adding additional phone lines for conference calls.
- Looking at more secure video conferencing capabilities.
- We have already been contacted by several groups noting that their organizations will not allow them to participate in Zoom and several other video conference platforms, including MS Teams because of security issues. So we are looking into security evaluation/certification as we look into future video conferencing options.
- Also, you should have received information via email about a video service we are considering, Class2Class, that is used by many universities for teaching international classes. It currently meets international personal information protection standards, but we are investigating if that fully addresses US personal and corporation information security challenges.

While current Consortium Operations have continued via conference calls for both 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. 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.

## **Upcoming TSC - Working Group Conference Calls May 18,19, 20, 2020**

We discussed during the April Working Group Conference calls the plan for additional conference calls in mid-May and mid-June. In discussions with Pei Xu, it looks like conference calls Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> work best for the Consortium leadership. We will provide an additional email with an Outlook invite to each of the working group members in a few days. That way you will have an invite to your Working Group and will know the schedule for each Working Group, in case you might want to participate in additional calls.

- Conference Call Number 1-800-346-2923, Participant Code 495866
- May 18<sup>th</sup>
  - 9-10 am MDT– Water Quality Working Group
  - 10-11 am MDT – Water Quantity Working Group
- May 19<sup>th</sup>
  - 9-10 am MDT – Risk and Toxicology Working Group
  - 10-11 am MDT – Treatment Working Group
- May 20<sup>th</sup>
  - 9-10 am MDT – Infrastructure Engineering Working Group
  - 10-11 am MDT – Applications Working Group

TSC working group meetings have also been tentatively scheduled for mid-June, likely June 15, 16, and 17.

## **Joint Meeting with the Ground Water Protection Council - July 2020 in Albuquerque**

A joint meeting of the Consortium and the GWPC – Produced Water Task Force continues to move forward with the development of a draft Program Agenda and Program. The meeting is currently scheduled for July 14-16 in Albuquerque, and the GWPC is currently negotiating with four major Albuquerque hotels to host the joint meeting. The draft program includes: a combined session with Consortium, EPA, and GWPC participants discussing coordination of national produced water research and reuse efforts; concurrent Consortium TSC and GWPC regulations and policy sessions; and a final closing joint session on national produced water research and demonstration collaboration and coordination. Logistics for this joint meeting will be modified, as needed, to comply with applicable NM public health orders to stem the spread of COVID-19.