

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Border 2012 Environmental Health Work Group Annual Meeting



May 22nd 2007
San Antonio, TX

2007 Annual EHWG Meeting - Reunión Anual EHWG 2007
San Antonio, TX/ - San Antonio de Tejas
May 22, 2007- Martes 22 de Mayo

8:30: Welcome by Co-Chairs

8:35-8:45 **Background on EHWG: Current Principles and Approaches to Setting Priorities** (*Dr. Hal Zenick, EPA*)

8:45-10:00: **Follow-up Actions from 2006 EHWG Meeting**
 Water White Paper, (Carlos Rincon/ Matiana Ramírez Aguilar)
 Air White Paper, (Bob Curry/Sally Edwards)
 Pesticide White Paper, (Norman Calero/Maura Mack)
 PAHO Projects/ RFA, (Sally Edwards)

Break

10:15-11:00: **EHWG: A new working model,**(*Rocio Alatorre*)
 The new model case study *Lourdes Sandoval Nolasco/Maura Mack*

11:00-12:30: **Regional Environmental Task Force Updates (10 min. each)**

12:30-1:30: **Lunch**

1:30-2:00: **Updates(10 min. each)**
 Communication & Healthy Places (R. Sabogal)
 Environmental Education (Iris Jimenez)
 Indicators (Andrew Carnahan/Sandra Duque)

2:00 - 2:20: **Update on the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission (Dan Reyna)**

2:30 - 3:00: **Next Steps**

3:00 **Adjourn**

8:30: Bienvenida de los Co-Presidentes

8:35-8:45: **Antecedentes del grupo de trabajo EHWG:** Principios y Metodologías actuales para establecer prioridades (*Dr. Hal Zenick, EPA*)

8:45-10:00: **Seguimiento de actividades planeadas en la reunión anual 2006 del EHWG**
 Reporte del grupo de Agua, (Carlos Rincón/ Matiana Ramírez Aguilar)
 Reporte del grupo de Aire, (Bob Curry/Sally Edwards)
 Reporte del grupo de Plaguicidas, (Norman Calero/ Maura Mack)
 Proyectos de OPS/ RFA, (Sally Edwards)

Descanso

10:15-11:00: **EHWG: Un Nuevo Modelo de Trabajo,**(*M en C Rocio Alatorre, COFEPRIS, Mex*)
 El caso de California/Baja California como ejemplo del Nuevo modelo de trabajo, (Lourdes Sandoval Nolasco/Maura Mack)

11:00-12:30: **Actualización de los grupos de trabajo regionales (Regional Environmental Task Force) (10 min. Cada uno)**

12:30-1:30: **Almuerzo**

1:30-2:00: **Actualización 10 min. Cada uno)**
 Comunicación y Lugares Saludables (Raquel Sabogal)
 Educación Ambiental (Iris Jiménez)
 Indicadores (Andrew Carnahan/Sandra Duque)

2:00 - 2:20: **Actualización de actividades de la Comisión de Salud Fronteriza (Dan Reyna)**

2:30-3:00: **Actividades futuras**

3:00: **Cierre de la reunión**

EHWG Mission

- *To identify and address, in a binational framework, environmental factors that pose the highest risk to human health so that exposure to such factors may be reduced.*

Environmental Health Workgroup:

Our Focus Areas:

- Surveillance
- Research
- Training
- Communication



La Paz Agreement
1983



Integrated Border Environmental
Plan for US-Mexico Border Area
(IBEP) - 1992

Interagency Workgroup

EHWG

Border XXI

WATER

AIR

LAND

ENV Health



Border 2012



EHWG

- Joint Program with EPA and SEMARNAT, DHHS and SALUD to improve public health in the US-Mexico border in a ten-year goal strategy
- **Border 2012's "bottom up approach":**
local communities, State environment/health agencies, border wide workgroups, policy work groups

EHWG Traditional Working Model

- Focus on primarily supporting the other border-wide work groups
- Initially State health and environmental representatives, and now Regional task forces, present priorities
- Through multi-vote process, identify a subset that have binational, and border-wide, applications and implications
- 2005-2006 emphasis:
 - indicators (RFA through PAHO)
 - white papers on air, water and pesticides

2007 and Beyond- Focus Areas



- Environmental Monitoring
- Health Surveillance
- Capacity Building
- Communication
- Policy Development

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Air Projects

- The health effects of PM and co-pollutant exposure to children living in El Paso, (Neas et al.)
- Traffic-related exposure, airway function, inflammation, and respiratory symptoms in children (Holguin et al.)
- A binational pilot study examining the impact of traffic-related air pollution on asthmatic children (Sarnat et al.)

EHWG Border 2012 Goals

1. **AIR:** evaluate respiratory health indicators in children to assess air quality improvements in border communities.
Status: Underway
2. **WATER:** evaluate gastrointestinal illness indicators to assess water quality improvements in border communities.
Status: Underway
3. **PESTICIDES:**
 - complete an assessment and pilot program to determine the feasibility of a binational system for reporting acute pesticide poisonings
Status: To begin 2007
 - reduce pesticide exposure by educating farm workers on pesticide risks and safe handling, including ways to reduce home exposure
Status: Underway
4. **CAPACITY BUILDING:**
 - establish a "distance-learning", post-graduate degree program to support advanced training on environmental health
Status: ongoing
 - extend current efforts in binational environmental health training for 100 health care providers each for pesticides and water.
Status: Completed through Health Resources Service Administration agreement

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