

ITRC January 21, 2021 Board Call

11:30am-1:00pm

Attendance: Naji Akladiss, Douglas Bacon, Nathan Barlet, Paul Beam, **Randy Chapman**, Rebecca Higgins, Thomas Holdsworth, **Keisha Long**, Lisa Matthews, Deborah Morefield, Jeremy Musson, **Sara Pearson**, Hugh Rieck, **Richard Spiese**, David Tsao, Michelle Brown, Kim Brown, Robert Pope

Guests: Nicole Henderson, Annica Burmester

ITRC: Patty Reyes, Carolyn Sistare

1. Approval of November Minutes

Minutes for the Nov 19, 2020 call were approved as amended. **Keisha Long** motioned to approve the minutes and **Rebecca Higgins** seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Environmental Justice Primer/Checklist

Keisha Long presented the EJ draft to the board. With Board approval, the EJ document will be an ITRC supported framework that offers technical guidance. The board discussed ensuring that the document remains focused on the technical side of EJ and not the policy side. **Patty** reiterated that the EJ document was not about policy and that she would like comments from the board on the document. These comments will be addressed at the February board meeting. She would like a final document by the April 14th board meeting. **Rebecca** discussed the tone of the document and stated that the “encourage/support/invite” tone used in the document is best and should be continued.

Patty asked Doug to send the state EJ tables to the POC network, so the tables are correct in March after the Board comments in February.

3. Dr. Brewer, State of Hawaii DOH letter

Richard presented the Dr. Brewer letter, which was sent last week, to the board. The two main points of the letter he sent to ITRC involved him feeling that his comments on team documents were not accounted for and his belief that the teams should consist only of experts. Thus, he stated his intent to withdraw Hawaii from ITRC. Dr. Brewer had similar concerns that the Board addressed previously and again in the letter ITRC sent him. It was reiterated that this is a single state concern, and that Dr. Brewer has been problematic in the past.

Richard brought up the idea of pulling together data on how many teams have received extensions or additional resources from ITRC. This idea came in response to Dr. Brewer's opinion that teams were rushed and ITRC focused too much on timelines. The board reiterated that teams have a pre-defined scope and that when team leaders ask for more time or resources, many receive them. Other board members felt this data analysis wasn't necessary and that this issue was a squeaky wheel.

Patty stated that Don Welsh has attempted to contact Hawaii multiple times, without response. There is currently no state POC for Hawaii and ITRC will accept any Hawaii State staff as team members. **Jeremy** has already sent out requests to his Hawaii contacts to identify others that might want to get involved. Patty asked for board members and teams to reach out to any possible Hawaii contacts, especially if they are a part of EPA region 9.

4. State Survey of Priority Topics for 2022

Patty introduced the priority topics for 2022 survey that is going to all members and will ask for their top 5 priorities. Then ITRC will use these top 5 to advise/highlight new team proposal topics for 2022. The survey will not overlap with the state POC 3P survey nor with ERIS. **Doug** stated that he or Matt will present the 3P survey when the data is complete.

5. Spring Meeting Plans

The Spring meeting will be over Zoom during the 2nd and 3rd weeks of April. There will be a plenary session April 13th 1-3pm for all ITRC members with keynote

speakers. At 3pm on the 13th there will be two breakout sessions (1) IAP led by David and Jeremy, (2) Stakeholders led by Melinda. The board will meet on the 14th and 15th from 1-5pm. Doug will lead a new POC orientation and ½ day working session with Matt, but the dates are not yet confirmed. All of the teams have been encouraged to have team meetings in the two weeks surrounding these dates.

Naji is leading a small committee to modify the criteria for the life-time achievement award. Rebecca and David will help him.

Richard reminded the board to let people know about the co-chair election.

Patty requested recommendations for keynote speakers on Environmental Justice, and Rebecca suggested Susan Richardson of University of South Carolina.

6. Other Business

Richard used this time to thank Paul/DOE and Hugh/DOD for their work on committing funding this year.

David discussed that IAP dues is \$100,000 lower compared to last year, but that large historic companies hadn't registered yet and that should shrink the gap. There are 25 brand new companies that have joined this year; mainly for microplastics and data management. Patty brought up the expectation that industry membership could decline greatly when PFAS is finished and Rebecca brought up the idea of a PFAS targeted team for remediation that would keep participating industries involved.

Randy gave a Teams update. All the team member orientations are done and the first calls for Microplastics and Hydrocarbon have been completed. There are lots of new to ITRC members on Microplastics and that may be a challenge for team leaders. Data Management has their first call January 27th and all the teams are putting together their team surveys now. The kickoff meeting will be February 2nd, 3rd, and 4th for a couple hours each afternoon for targeted training and discussion for the teams.

Microplastics and Data Management teams could use more active state members. **Doug** mentioned that with states' reductions in resources they are more inclined to be interested parties instead of members. He recommended that team leaders contact state interested parties first, but he is happy to do outreach with POCs to

find active members if that doesn't work. Patty will also contact Melinda to discuss options for identifying additional Public and Tribal members for the new teams. Currently, some of the teams do not have a single active team member.

Doug Bacon motioned to adjourn the call, **Rebecca Higgins** seconded the motion and the call ended at 1:00pm.