

ECOS and DoD Sustainability Work Group Meeting
Compatible Use and Sustainability Task Group
June 20-21, 2007
Atlanta, Georgia

Attending:

Marybeth Brenner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Co-Chair
Dr. Jim Hartman, U.S. Army Northern Region Environmental Office, Co-Chair
Chris Russo, North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Co-Chair
Dave Blaylock, Army
Bob Boonstoppel, U.S. Army Northern Region Environmental Office
Bob Estes, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
John Gordon, Air Force
Marlin Gottschalk, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
George Kelly, Environmental Banc and Exchange
Ed Piñero, Office of the Federal Environmental Executive
Kristin Rose, Department of Defense – Sustainable Ranges
Rob Reuter, Washington State Department of Ecology
Shelly Sherritt, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
George Vander Velde, Illinois Waste Management & Research Center

Meeting Summary:

Marybeth Brenner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection convened the meeting by welcoming the attending Task Group members and reviewing the agenda. Meeting attendees next proceeded with introductions. Following introductions, the Co-Chairs made an administrative announcement that Marybeth would officially hand over her duties as Co-Chair to Chris Russo, North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, at the conclusion of the meeting.

Fellow Task Group Co-Chair Dr. Jim Hartman, U.S. Army Northern Region Environmental Office, discussed the Task Group's efforts since the 2006 Forum for a Sustainable Future. Dr. Hartman and the other Co-Chairs contended that given the amount of energy, along with the ideas and suggestions made during the Forum, a resolution or statement of policy regarding sustainability would be paramount to the group achieving its goals. The resolution is to be brought up for consideration by ECOS as a whole at the 2007 Annual Meeting in September. Chris Russo echoed Dr. Hartman's comments regarding the importance of the resolution to guide the Task Group as it moves forward in developing specific plans and strategies regarding sustainability. A draft resolution entitled, "ECOS and DoD Sustainability Work Group Resolution on Sustainability," compiled by the Co-Chairs was distributed to the attendees for review and discussion.

Following significant discussion of the individual components of the draft resolution, the Task Group came to a general consensus regarding the identified concepts. The Task Group agreed that the resolution would support the efforts of the ECOS and DoD Sustainability Work Group as a whole and would provide the Task Group with an outline for developing a strategic plan. Dr. Hartman and Marybeth stated that, pursuant to the ECOS bylaws, the resolution would need to be submitted to ECOS a month in advance of the 2007 Annual Meeting for distribution and review. Kevin Callahan of Stateside Associates will serve as the point of contact for feedback from the Task Group regarding the proposed resolution.

In response to concerns expressed over how the recommendations from the Forum for a Sustainable Future would be utilized by the Task Group, Dr. Hartman outlined a suggestion for the incorporation of the recommendations into the Task Group's action plan. Dr. Hartman asked the attendees to review the 48 recommendations from the "Outcomes and Action Items from the Forum for a Sustainable Future" document and to determine three to five priorities that they believed should be addressed by the Task Group. Kevin Callahan of Stateside Associates will again serve as the point of contact for the Task Group's feedback regarding this item.

The Task Group joined a track session of the Region 4 EPA/DoD/States Environmental Conference entitled, "Overcoming Obstacles to Sustainability." The track session featured a presentation from Jan Larkin, Office of the Secretary of Defense, on how DoD has faced challenges associated with its mission and sustainability. Additionally, Dib Paul, GKN Driveline, discussed how the company has successfully incorporated sustainability principles and practices in its business operations. The session concluded with a panel discussion on how to make sustainability work. The panel featured Colonel Eric Pohland, U.S. Air Force, Bob Donahue, Pollution Prevention Assistance Division, and Ed Piñero, Office of the Federal Environmental Executive.

William Franklin gave the Work Group a presentation summarizing the efforts of the San Diego Regional Sustainability Partnership. The Partnership, consisting of businesses, organizations, governments, and academia, continues to develop a website that will contain, among other items, case studies of successful sustainability initiatives.