

LINK

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT LAKES REGIONAL
POLLUTION PREVENTION ROUNDTABLE



summer 2006 volume 12 number 3

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Change of Leadership

Carol Knepp is the new Executive Director of the Great Lakes Regional Pollution Prevention Roundtable (GLRPPR). Knepp succeeds Deb Jacobson.



For the past two years, Knepp has contributed to GLRPPR by authoring the P2 In Schools-Integrated Pest Management and the P2 In Arts Education topic hubs. She has also coordinated the Greening Schools

program at Illinois Waste Management and Research Center (WMRC). Greening Schools is a joint project between the Illinois EPA and WMRC. The program has helped schools provide a safe and healthy environment that can save money, improve learning conditions, and increase efficiency. Greening Schools has offered free technical assistance; workshops for teachers, administrators, and facility managers; and online P2 resources for all Illinois schools.

Knepp previously was Executive Director of Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve in Austin, Texas. WBWP is a private, not for profit organization dedicated to land preservation and education; and a designated U.S. Fish and Wildlife Endangered Species habitat. Knepp was responsible for all aspects of the preserve and worked in partnership with government agencies and other organizations to achieve shared goals.

She also previously worked as Education Director at Thorne Ecological Institute in Boulder, CO. Her responsibilities involved working with U.S. EPA to facilitate regional and national conferences and workshops on Water/Wetlands for the Rocky Mountains and Prairie Pothole regions. Knepp facilitated the development and formation of CHEERS, the Chatfield Environmental Education Resource System consortium, a partnership of agencies that included U.S. Forest Service, Colorado State Parks, Denver Botanic Gardens, Douglas and Jefferson County, South Suburban Recreation Center, and Martin Marietta. Knepp has a B.S. in Forestry/Watershed Management from the University of Arizona and an Elementary Education Degree from Metropolitan State College in Denver.

Jacobson has accepted the position as manager of the Chicago area office of WMRC. Since WMRC is the coordinating agency for GLRPPR, Jacobson will still be available to assist GLRPPR with her knowledge and experience. In addition, she will continue working with the other P2Rx centers for a while as she gives Knepp "on the job training" about the P2Rx network.



“Deb Jacobson has established a precedence of quality and personal relationships that provides a challenge to maintain,” said Knepp. “I look forward to working with her during the transition and to working with the dedicated group of pollution prevention professionals from the Great Lakes Region over the next few years as we address regional and national priority issues. Please be patient with me as I seek your support and begin the process of becoming acquainted with each of you and with GLRPPR.”

Jacobson says that since taking over the Roundtable leadership role in 2000 GLRPPR have seen a tremendous growth in membership and even greater expansion of resources available to our members.

“I attribute much of this to the incredible staff that contribute their creative approach and dedication for improving our environment,” said Jacobson.

“One my primary goals when I took over the Roundtable was to expand our relationships with other organizations to leverage and share resources. I feel this goal has been accomplished in countless ways, in particular the strength of relationships among our members and our participation in the P2Rx. A second goal was to build stronger relationships with our Great Lakes states and provinces, that at the time, did not actively participate in GLRPPR, and to include a representative from Pennsylvania on our Steering Committee,” she says. “I am happy to say that we have accomplished this goal as well. In fact, not only do we now have a representative from Pennsylvania on our Steering Committee, but in 2003 we hosted the GLRPPR Summer Conference in Erie, PA!”

Thanks Deb for the great job you have done over the years! And welcome Carol, we look forward to working with you!

Featured Articles

Nanotechnology and the Environment

The definition of nanotechnology is: Any fabrication technology in which objects are designed and built by the specification and placement of individual atoms or molecules, or where at least one dimension is on a scale of nanometers (one billionth of a meter).

Physicist Richard Feynman brought the concepts of nanotechnology to the forefront in 1959 at an American Physical Society meeting, describing a process by which atoms and molecules might be manipulated. Nanotechnology has been a hot topic ever since the term was coined by K. Eric Drexler, in 1986, in his book “Engines of Creation: The Coming Era of Nanotechnology”, where he predicted that

nanotechnology could give rise to replicating assemblers.

Nanotechnology has affected many areas of our daily lives. Areas of study include medicine, chemistry, and the environment, among others.

Laura Barnes, the librarian for the Illinois Waste Management and Research Center (WMRC) has compiled a [list of resources](#) which focuses on nanotechnology and the environment.

Coming Soon...Fall 2006 Edition

The fall 2006 edition of the LINK newsletter will focus on wind energy. The LINK fall 2006 article solicitation will be sent to GLRPPR members via e-mail on or about September 1; articles will be due September 30. Send article ideas or questions to Wayne Duke at wduke@wmrc.uiuc.edu.

Items of Interest

Indiana Partners for Pollution Prevention to Host 9th Annual Conference & Trade Show



The Indiana Partners for Pollution Prevention will hold its 9th Annual Pollution Prevention Conference and Trade Show on Wednesday, September 20, 2006 at the Fountains Banquet and Conference Center in Carmel, Indiana.

The Partners for Pollution Prevention is an association of industry, government, academic, and environmental organizations whose mission is to advance pollution prevention in Indiana. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) created the Partners to assist industries in sharing pollution prevention experiences and to advise IDEM on pollution prevention policies and programs.

The theme for this year’s conference is Building Partnerships for Today and Tomorrow. Bharat Mathur, the acting Regional Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Region 5, will address “Pollution Prevention in Today’s Regulatory World.” Jeffrey Burke, the Executive Director of the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable, will present “The Transition from Traditional Pollution Prevention to Sustainability.” A special afternoon track will highlight Indiana’s new Environmental Stewardship Program (ESP). ESP is a voluntary program designed to achieve environmental quality objectives through voluntary partnerships with Indiana sources.

Other session topics include:

- Biotown, ISDA Biofuels Program
- Grants and loans available for energy improvements
- Practical energy efficiency you can implement at your facility
- Energy audits
- Pollution prevention success stories

The conference will also present the recipients of the 2006 Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence. These awards are open to all Indiana facilities, state and local units of government, individuals, and technical assistance organizations that operate or support environmental protection efforts of outstanding quality. Award categories include:

- Energy/Renewable Resources
- Greening the Government
- Land Use
- Outreach or Education
- Pollution Prevention
- Recycling/Reuse
- Five Years' Continuous Improvement

For registration and additional conference information log onto www.in.gov/idem/prevention/partners/conference/ or contact Cara Cyrus at 812-273-6000 or cara.cyrus@madchem.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

The 2006 Fall GLRPPR Meeting will be held in Chicago, Illinois at the Metcalfe Federal Building on November 15 & 16. For meeting updates, visit <http://www.glrppr.org/meetings/Fall2006/>.

IDEM Recognizes Three Municipalities as Indiana CLEAN Communities

Three Indiana communities are being designated Indiana CLEAN Communities by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). IDEM Commissioner Tom Easterly will present this award, which demonstrates the municipalities' effective environmental stewardship.

The Comprehensive Local Environmental Action Network (CLEAN) Challenge program challenges Hoosier cities, towns, and counties to make Indiana a cleaner, healthier place to live. This is done by participating in a program that offers public recognition and financial incentives in exchange for implementing environmentally beneficial actions and improving the quality of life. The Challenge is designed to be flexible—local governments implement an environmental management system, called a Quality of Life Plan, and choose the activities that fit their

community goals.

Along with the Indiana CLEAN Community designation comes other valuable member benefits such as a CLEAN Community road sign and plaque, improved chances for receiving state-funded grants and loans, and priority technical support from IDEM. Additionally, implementing a Quality of Life Plan affords communities an improved ability to meet compliance requirements, increase efficiency, reduce operational costs, improve environmental competency, and foster positive relationships with regulators.

The town of Ogden Dunes, and the cities of Lawrence and Muncie, have partnered with IDEM during the past one and one-half years to pilot the CLEAN Challenge program. During this time, these communities received training on environmental management systems and helped formulate the CLEAN Community Challenge program guidelines.

Each community has a CLEAN Stakeholder Committee, comprised of volunteers, key personnel, and town officials, and is responsible for identifying the potential impacts their municipal operations pose to the environment. Stakeholders must develop and record goals and procedures for reducing environmental impacts in a Quality of Life Plan. Stakeholders will monitor and measure progress toward these goals for the next three years, and will annually report their efforts to IDEM. In return, the community remains eligible for financial member benefits and priority technical assistance. The Stakeholder Committee identified potential environmental impacts resulting from the town's services, developed procedures for best managing municipal activities posing a significant impact to the environment, and established goals for minimizing environmental impacts.

The following five goals were established to minimize Ogden Dune's environmental impacts and enhance the quality of life for residents:

- To implement an Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policy to decrease impacts on natural resources and to reduce solid waste generated.
- To increase the volume of items recycled within municipal offices and decrease the volume of solid waste generated, while offering recycling opportunities to the community.
- To improve environmental compliance and prevent groundwater and soil contamination when recycling oil used by the street, fire, and police departments.
- To restore Pollywog Pond Panne to its natural state before December 31, 2009.
- To develop and manage a leaf composting site in a productive and compliant manner.

Participating in the CLEAN Community Challenge program adds prestige to a community, improves its ability to meet IDEM compliance requirements, and presents a tremendous opportunity to raise awareness within the community. “One of the biggest benefits we have seen has been the heightened environmental awareness among the various entities in our community,” said Susan MiHalo, Stakeholder Committee Leader.

You can view Ogden Dunes’ Quality of Life Plan, along with the Cities of Lawrence and Muncie, at www.cleancommunities.IN.gov.

Compressed Air Workshops and Assessments

Working under a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) through the Minnesota Department of Commerce, State Energy Office, the Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP) helped coordinate two Fundamentals of Compressed Air Systems workshops and plan six compressed air plant assessments.

MnTAP identified the metalcasting, mining, and pulp and paper sectors as high-energy using industries in Minnesota. In discussions with facility staff from these industries, compressed air was identified as a common, high-priority energy use for many of the plants. As a result, compressed air became a focus for MnTAP’s workshops and assessments. Frank Moskowitz, a consultant with Draw Professional Services and a certified U.S. DOE trainer specializing in compressed air, was hired to present the workshops and conduct the assessments.

To best serve the mining and pulp and paper sectors, MnTAP held the first workshop in northern Minnesota with 29 participants from nine companies. In the two days after the training, Moskowitz conducted daylong compressed air assessments at two pulp and paper mills. Xcel Energy coordinated the second workshop for facilities in its service region—the Twin Cities area, with 23 participants. MnTAP provided a discounted registration fee to metalcasters to encourage their attendance; 11 attended. In the two days after the training, Moskowitz conducted daylong assessments at two metalcasters. These assessments were open to the metalcasters who also attended the workshops; two chose to observe the assessments. Two assessments at mines will be conducted later this summer.

Following each plant assessment, Moskowitz summarized recommendations in a report for each facility to reduce energy use related to compressed air. All four facilities had the following recommendations in common:

- Add compressed air storage for equipment that has peak demands that drop overall system pressure.
- Add sequencing so all compressors on the system communicate and work together.
- Remove all inappropriate uses of compressed air, substituting methods that use less energy.

Several MnTAP technical staff participated in the plant assessments in order to further develop the program’s expertise in energy. MnTAP plans to offer more-simplified compressed air assessments as part of its services. See <http://mntap.umn.edu/energy/compair.htm> for more information on minimizing energy used by compressed air systems.

Using Technology to Support Technology Diffusion

MnTAP developed an online voting system to gather feedback from industry leaders for its technology diffusion projects and to accommodate client time constraints. MnTAP is working in conjunction with the Illinois Waste Management and Research Center (WMRC), and the University of Louisville—Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center, to apply the technology diffusion model to promote adoption of pollution prevention technologies by industry, with funding from U.S. EPA.

One of the early steps in the model is to use stakeholder meetings to identify pollution prevention technology needs in targeted business sectors. At the meeting, industry leaders identify technologies that are deemed commercially available but not widely used in the industry. Typically, a voting process then prioritizes the technologies during the focus group to guide the technical assistance program’s technology diffusion work. MnTAP developed an online voting system for use after the focus group to accommodate participant time constraints.

MnTAP’s metal finishing focus group was conducted as part of the monthly association meeting of the Minnesota Association of Metal Finishers. At MnTAP’s focus group for custom powder coaters, the participants were only available for a limited time before they needed to return to their shops.

For both of these focus groups, an email was sent to attendees thanking them for participating and asking them to use the online system to vote for solutions. Each participant had 100 points to allocate between the solutions previously identified. Online voting eliminated under and over voting, as the structure only permitted voting using all 100 points. Voting information went directly into an electronic spreadsheet, eliminating the time needed for tallying votes and possible error. When MnTAP staff felt that technologies needed additional information, a link was provided to additional information.

View these tools at the following links:

- Metal finishers - http://mnexchange.org/_TDvoting/voting1.asp
- Custom powder coaters - http://mnexchange.org/_TDpowdercoat/voting1.asp

MnTAP communications staff developed the online voting concept and the Webmaster designed the Web interface and database structure. MnTAP is also working on technology diffusion projects with the fiberglass and metalcasting industries.

Ohio EPA Offers a New Web-based Tool

Permit Wizard is Ohio EPA's new interactive tool designed to help small and mid-sized businesses more easily identify applicable permit, licensing and registration requirements.

The Permit Wizard is an easy-to-use tool that guides the user through a series of questions and, from their responses, develops customized feedback on the proper permits required for operation. The user can select from several environmental areas, such as waste, air, wastewater, storm water, and wetlands. It does not take much time to complete a session with Permit Wizard and at the end of the session, the user is provided with a summary of requirements, along with links to resources such as guidance documents, fact sheets, and forms. New business owners may find the tool helpful as a starting point to identify what they must do to comply with requirements. Existing businesses also may find the Permit Wizard a helpful tool to self-check compliance. The Permit Wizard is designed to be used anonymously, so the user is not required to submit any personal or company information.

Although the Permit Wizard provides a good starting point to help get permitting requirements in order, it does not provide an official or binding determination on permitting and is not a substitute for carefully reviewing all applicable rules and laws. The Permit Wizard also is not the tool for highly complex permitting situations, such as determining whether you need a Title V air permit.

Clicking on the icon on Ohio EPA's main Web page, www.epa.state.oh.us, can access Permit Wizard, or you can enter the Wizard directly at <http://epawebapps.epa.state.oh.us/PermitWizardWebApp/jsp/index.jsp>.

Ohio EPA's Answer Place

In December 2005, Ohio EPA launched a frequently asked questions Web tool known as the Answer Place. The Answer Place provides quick, easy access to information and allows you to pose questions directly to Agency staff. Developing this site is one of the ways Ohio EPA is working toward achieving Director Joe Koncelik's goal of improving the Agency's compliance assistance efforts.

You can access the Answer Place by clicking on the icon on Ohio EPA's main Web page www.epa.state.oh.us. Once you arrive at the site, you will notice that there are many questions and answers already in the system, searchable by keyword. If you cannot find the information you are

looking for, you can use the "Ask a Question" feature to pose a question. When you submit your question, it is forwarded to the appropriate Ohio EPA staff member for a response. Another of the Answer Place's features is the ability to create a personal login. This allows customers to track questions they've viewed or submitted and to get automatic e-mail updates if a particular question/issue of interest is updated.

Ohio EPA will continue to update the Answer Place with information prompted by questions received from our customers. If you have questions about environmental requirements, we encourage you to stop by the Answer Place.

Fine Print

LINK is a free quarterly publication of the Great Lakes Regional Pollution Prevention Roundtable. For subscription information, please contact the editor or see our Web site at www.glrppr.org.

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