R3 Inland Area Committee Meeting Notes

Thursday, May 7, 2026
Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge
Bateman Education Center
0900-1200

- **Inland Area Committee**
  - **River Modeling Presentation** (James Goodrich USEPA)
    - USEPA Riverine Spill Model has developed quite a bit. Lots of involvement with ORSANCO.
    - Current project is keeping model updated to continue talking to other databases. Where is this most useful for OSCs?
    - Pilot project to adopt another watershed? How quickly? How expensive?
    - Focus has been on DWI in the past.
    - Ohio River: every hour there is a barge going past an intake.
    - Goals for RSMS: volume, location, concentration
      - Risk Analysis: any facility within half mile of waterway must conduct a risk analysis. More resilience planning model.
    - Parameters are derived from literature or past results.
    - Example: UAN Barge Incident – Initial Report
      - Is this spill going to get to us? Is the concentration going to be concerning to us?
      - Storm event moved up projected arrival to Louisville.
      - Model helped to determine when to close DWI
      - Demonstrates how long it will take to get to point of interest and when it will pass.
      - Facilities need the advanced warning, filling up reservoirs, staffing, treatments (knowing what type of carbon is important)
    - How can the model be integrated? What graphics do you need? Talk of integrating with EPA GIS viewers.
    - Application to East Palestine (ORSANCO)
      - Identification of butyl acrylate in Ohio River kickoff of additional sampling. Data sharing was clunky due to lack of access to EPA system.
      - Quick sampling data TAT. Run model with this data for reporting location and movement of plume for facilities and elected officials.
      - Challenges with model: it does not manage modeling hundreds of miles at a time very well. Kind of must do segments at a time and might slightly change distances. Not super confident in far downstream reporting

- Early sampling longitudinal. Eventually set up fixed stations downstream.
- By the time the plume got to Cincinnati and beyond, plume was not as seen as much but still had to collect samples due to influx of public concern, wanted data to prove it was no longer detected. On the last day of sampling, call from instant location there was another release, but was not too bad.
- Ohio has diverse uses and that's why ORSANCO has so much capacity in this area.
- Limitations in model
    - Oil – floater is more difficult. Model mixes it. Wind is not a feature of the model. When modeling the oil spill, it monitors the dissolved portions.
    - Would like to add more detailed information about individual contamination to reflect better concentration.
- Model is not only for spills anymore. Can review vulnerabilities for additional treatment considerations. Can be used for planning.
- Research Plans
    - Have enough funding to update model for 2-3 years.
    - What can we do with this model? Apply to other watersheds and streams to update plans/GIS viewers. Currently out of their scope but with additional funding and interest could be possible.
    - Have had conversations with Delaware River Basin but due to administration conflicts it did not come to fruition but there was interest.
- Get stream stats to connect with RSMS.
- HecRaz is not everywhere so the model cannot be applied there, but if it does it would expand the model.
- Coefficients can be tweaked but have not quite gotten there yet.
- Jim says he can give access to look at urea something.
- Frank asks about application to Potomac River or another watershed right now. Is there anything this model could help answer at this point?
    - Need velocities for cross sections of river to feed into model engine.
    - TAT for data would be a key determination.
- MD - Who does the information from the model get shared with? Does someone have to request for the model to be run?
    - ORSANCO runs the model upon request (government entity or utility)

        - Concern about model information due to potential causing panic if incorrect information was used.
    - Discussion of running worst-case and realistic models and what is being shared where. Need to be intentional with the model outputs.
    - Jim gives a quick run through of inputs into model to show a mock model. Shows what is happening at different segments of the Ohio River.
        - The model can show street views at various locations along the Ohio River.
    - How do you derive concentration? The model asks for input of pounds.
- **CSX Train Derailment Presentation** (Joe Taylor, Beth, JoAnn)
    - (Joe) Incident occurred on east/west county line.
    - Doubled up coal train - more tonnage, mid-train distributed power. Newer concept. About mid-train is where this event occurred.
    - Reports to NRC, reporting what they know. Use "potential for" for unknown information. Better to over-report and then call back NRC to update.
    - Closest public road crossing ~1 mile
    - Train was on "trip optimizer." Crew only in front of locomotive. Train stops for emergencies, but the crew does not know what has occurred at first because they cannot see.
    - It was surrounded 360 degrees in wetlands. It was not easy to access the derailment.
    - Priorities were safety, containment, and restoration (in that order)
    - Learning moments: Walkways were destroyed. Photos depicting an area where someone should not be standing.
    - Kevin H – asks about containment priority. OSC priority is containment. Joe describes that they move fast but order of priorities does not change. They do not even think about restoration before the containment.
    - First responders, VDEM and others had drones used quickly for better picture of event. Bookending – note first and last car to address what is going on in between. Drones were used by VDEM at first to get an initial documentation of footprint.
    - Primary incident challenges – equipment getting stuck in swamp areas. Got other equipment stuck while trying to remove others.
    - Had to minimize footprint.
    - Cars were cut up and set aside in pieces. Had to install swamp and bridge mats for access road.
    - Bridges named east to west. 4 bridges impacted.
    - Car lay down, folds into an accordion by design to help cars survive.
    - Unaffected cars were able to be moved out of the way quickly.
    - Incident Objectives: ICS 202, 204

        - While cutting and hauling, material was stockpiled as they went due to limited capabilities/size of access road.
        - Personnel constantly observing boom and containment and making changes as needed. Unified approach with VADEQ
        - Bridge construction was very coordinated. Opps 24/7.
        - Stockpiled coal and moved out of wetland as quickly as possible. Moved everything out of wetland as quickly as possible. Created a crossing. Did not want to waste time transporting materials back and forth. Receptor was the priority. Focused on removal from staging area after the fact.
        - Passenger freight popular route through this area.
        - Demobilize: move down to daylight shift from 24/7.
        - Moved east to west for repairs.
        - Containment – silt fencing, booms, turbidity curtains. Some is still out there. Recovery – vacuum truck, excavation.
        - No residential area or highway could run operations 24/7.
        - Question about setting up Unified Command? It is heavy operations so no need to set up acquisitions, etc. Considering location, logistic needs are not as complex. Beth adds environmental unified command was split and kind of set tup separately. Limited bandwidth from VADEQ, focused on the environmental aspect.
            - Subject matter experts brought in? Yes.
        - Summary- only 1 minor injury (catfish barb, contractor), clear communication, collaboration, understanding what resources are available. 29 days for incident day count. (end Joe)
    - Providence Forge Train Derailment (Beth) extension of Joe
        - Release of petroleum and coal in Chickahominy River
        - Diverse and unique habitat
        - Economic impacts
        - Environmental Unified Command
            - VDEQ served as liaison to natural/cultural, public utility operators, etc.
        - Envi decision making.
            - Focus on documenting environmental damage.
            - Worked through requests and changes.
        - Plans
            - Protective measures and maintenance – boom
            - Sampling and analysis – verify containment for petroleum release. Reached out to stakeholders about what information they were interested in/concerned about. How can we integrate this?
            - Waste removal and management – how material was going to be removed, staged, etc. concerned about over excavating in wetlands area due Undocumented discoveries and top layer of wetland soil is important native plant nutrients?

        - Corrective action
        - Circulated around for feedback
- Tribal interests (Chickahominy Tribe rep comes up)
- Chick. Rep – federalized tribe in 2018.
    - Learning curve. When to consult? What to consult on? All ongoing consultations.
    - 18-20 villages along 30 miles of Chick. River. Very historical connection and identity.
        - Spiritual connection
        - Governing structure – 8 wise men. Only tribe within linguistic groups that was governed this way.
    - Landownership – western concept. "Stewards of the land"
        - Concerned about the derailment due to connections to the land.
        - Impact on cultural artifacts. What if they find something? Remains? Must think about this when planning in the future. Must avoid any harm when trying to protect these areas.
    - Lots of culturally important plants in these wetlands.
    - Impacts downstream? Conversations with USGS about impact of PFAS on these culturally important plants. Uptake of PFAS into these plants.
    - Lots of questions yet to be answered. Want to keep cultural ties strong to land and river. Allies and partners are important. They have resources they do not have internally for these concerns.
    - Has tribe been compensated for any damage? (Frank) CSX says there are processes in place. Elisha adds challenges for USCG for knowledge of who to contact in events where incidents occur.
        - Want to continue to facilitate these conversations and coordination between tribes and federal/state agencies. Conversations help strengthen relationships.
    - Who reached out to the tribe? (Frank) Kevin was on phone duty. Vaguely knew the tribal involvement. Called contacts to try and find out which tribes were in the area. Informal conversations.
        - Discussion of mapping general areas to know which tribes to contact when. Need to work on determinations of when to call tribes. (end rep)
- Private property owners and other stakeholders
- Cooperative response: VDEQ and CSX partnership. Continuous communication. Impacts limited to ~5 acres. No downstream impacts.
    - Coal kind of created a dam for containment for petroleum.
    - CSX installed aerator in dammed area to keep DO up.

- Myles – 3 OSCs (Maggie, Dane, Laura)
- USFWS Perspective (JoAnn)
    - Express appreciation for invitation.
    - Spill response role.
        - Technical assistance – species types, best management practices
        - Natural resource trustee (migratory birds, fish, some federally listed threat/endangered species) – lots of overlap with state
        - ICS participation – wildlife and environmental, can have law enforcement involved.
    - Concerns – wetland impacts, fish kill, northern long-eared bat, etc.
    - USFWS/DOI Activities
        - Coordinator with DEQ, EPA and tribal partners
        - Reviewed plans and provided comments.
    - Key comments
        - Add soil transect south of tracks, increase planting density of some species, longer monitoring period on plant survival (80% survival continuously for 3 years)
        - In best interest of RP to make sure restoration process is working
    - Challenges in Wildlife Response
        - Follow up after initial notification – sometimes initial consultation is where communication ends. Do not hear back about implementation or change in tactics. Difficulties closing the loop.
            - Beth asks what FSW would like, request or self-deploy? For JoAnn to deploy she needs a PERFA (look up). Or she can reach out to field offices to get eyes on the sites. She is limited unless she has funding.
            - Could benefit from more structure and routine.
        - Underutilization and limited deployment of FWS personnel
            - Think we could take some pressure off the OSCs related to wildlife.
        - Wildlife assessments
            - "is there is a spill there are wildlife impacts."
- **Subarea Report Outs and Upcoming Events**
    - Inland area planning
        - Pushing GRPs and drafts are out.
    - Kevin H
        - Coordinating GRPs
        - Working active site. With every DOT hazard, lab packing occurs.
    - Chris G
        - Getting more involved
    - Joey G
        - FIFA focus, hazmat working group, America 250, MLB All-Star

        - Street mechanics
- Kevin C
    - Lots of spills, mercury petroleum, crude
    - Lot of outreaches this year, Kevin Heym and Kevin Clark trying to keep training alive after Chris retiring
    - NFL draft
- Ashley
    - 2 bigger incidents, Hg and York
    - Value of area planning efforts
        - GRP efforts of rivers and exercises
- Carl (Region 2)
    - Planning areas separated by states
    - NY – 9 regional offices
    - NJ – north/south
    - Reviewing GRPs
- NJ
    - Working on facilitation with DEP/police for future events

Meeting Attendance Roster	
Attendee Name	Attendee Organization
Adkins, Dana	Chickahominy Tribe
Anderson, Bennett	DNREC
Banda, JoAnn	DOI - FWS
Bartos, Myles	US EPA
Bastias, Sabina	US EPA
Belcher, Joshua	USCG D8
Brown, Holly	VDEQ
Byrns, Michael	CDC ATSDR
Chase, Justin	USCG D5
Ciani, Lydia	START – Tetra Tech
Clark, Kevin	US EPA
Cook, Elisha	USCG D5
Csulak, Frank	DOC - NOAA
DiDonato, Ann	US EPA
Dinkins, Sam	ORSANCO
Donahue, Geoffrey	MDE
Eagler, Christopher	NRC
Feist, Brian	PEMA
Fontenot, Steven	VDEQ
Gawarzewski, Joey	US EPA
Gaynor, Kevin	US EPA
Guzzetti, Christopher	US EPA
Goodrich, James	US EPA
Heym, Kevin	US EPA

Hoppe, Michael	US EPA
Humes, Eric	DC DOEE
Jolley, Justin	USCG D8
Lohman, Elizabeth	VDEQ
Martin, Josie	US EPA
Mingledolph, Juvart	DC DOEE
Moore, Brian	PA DEP
Muse, Katlyn	Tri-State Bird Rescue
Nelson, John	DOI
Nilsen, Ashley	US EPA
Nunez, Candice	DOD USACE
Pellegrino, Carl	US EPA
Pillow, Lauren	VDEQ
Scheaffer, Sarah	DOI- FWS
Smith, Jessie	START – Tetra Tech
Strickland, Brooke	VDEQ
Taylor, Joseph	CSX Transportation, Inc.
Thorkilson, Kelly	USCG D5
Tinkham, Seth	DOI
Towle, Micheal	US EPA
Townsend, Tracey	OSHA
Ventura, Dominic	US EPA
Weiser, Christopher	DHS
Wickersham, Jon	Inland Response
Wright, Brad	WVDEP
Ziolkowski, Lila	ORSANCO