Message

From: Vuong, Stephanie [Vuong.Stephanie@epa.gov]
Sent: 7/17/2017 1:13:19 PM
To: OITA-International Coordinators-ALL [OITAInternational_CoordinatorsALL@epa.gov]
Subject: Meeting Notes: 7/10/17 International Coordinators Bi-Monthly Call

International Coordinators,

Please see the below notes from last week's call. Josh & I will be working together to determine next steps for meeting frequency; thank you all for your suggestions / providing feedback.

Regards,
Stephanie

Meeting Notes – Mon, 7/10/17 (2pm EST) International Coordinators Call
R1 Doug Gutro, Paul Wintrob / R2 Melissa Dimas / R3 Jennie Saxe / R4 Al Korgi / R5 Mark Elster / R9 Emily Pimentel / R10 Cindy Schuster / OITA John Novikoff, Luis Troche / OAR Henry Ferland / OLEM Krystal Krejcik; Lia Yohannes

OITA Update (Josh Novikoff, OITA)

- Administrator looking at possible international trips
- Administrator's interest areas: Energy, clean coal, LNG, energy exports, green sports stadiums
- Jane Nishida was just in Japan for bilateral meetings with focus on mercury, environmental education, air quality; she also traveled to Taiwan to discuss environmental cooperation with Taiwan including environmental education training in schools (recent example in a Missoula, MT school)
- OITA will be offering VERA/VSIP within the office
- Randy Hill, DAA, is on an up-to-one-year detail to OECA-Office of Compliance
- Randy Robinson had been on detail from State Department and had been serving as China Program Manager for the past year. But this was his last week.
- **Updates since the meeting, Luis Troche has been hired as the permanent North America Senior Advisor. Brenda Doroski, who is the Asia Pacific and Europe Senior Advisor, will also be the China Program Manager for the time being.*

CEC Meeting Overview (Luis Troche, OITA)

- Currently 90 day moratorium on negotiations due to statutory consultations for potential NAFTA modernization
- 24th meeting of the Commission was held 6/27 – 6/28 in Canada by the 2016-17 Chair (Canada)
- EPA Administrator could not attend this session
- Jane Nishida, Alternate Representative to the US Council Member, represented the Administrator, and accepted the 2017-18 chairmanship on his behalf
- 2018 – Next council meeting will be held in Oklahoma City, hosted by EPA as Chair
- Focus on shared priorities – innovation, clean growth
- Projects capitalize on environment, health and Economic benefits. Some of the 10 projects for 2017-18, include:
- Reducing emissions from marine transport
- Measurement / mitigation of food waste, food security, & reducing landfill methane emissions
- Support of sustainable trade of CITES species (biodiversity)
- Reducing sources marine litter along border watersheds
- Other two initiatives
- Youth innovation challenge (completed at Council Session)
- N America community grants for engagement--will share this with coordinators for outreach
- Currently operating following usual budget parameters. FY18 Budget will depend on Congressional appropriations.

Lead Region Led Discussion (Stephanie Vuong, LRC)

- Is the current frequency of meetings (bi-monthly) appropriate or is there a desire to meet more frequently?
- Are we filling the agenda? / Are there topics that we are not addressing timely?
- Is there a desire to have more round robin / regional information sharing time?
- Is there any interest in more frequent / focused regional information sharing specific to border / bi-lateral topics? Is there interest in an alternating bi-monthly call for border discussions?
- Round robin responses:
- R1 – like the idea of separate border focused meetings, Canada in particular (frequency TBD?)
- R2 – agree w/ separate border meetings, Canada; prefer monthly meetings
- R3 – not many trans border issues (some w/ Great Lakes); a lot to report out on delegation visits; OK with monthly / bi-monthly; can reach out if need something in between meetings
- R4 – no border issues, but interested in CEC topics; like the alternating meeting options; monthly meeting is still appropriate
- R5 – bi-monthly OK; yes, border issues & lot of international visits; can reach out if need something in between meetings
- R9 – appreciate OITA updates from Josh; bi-monthly is OK; interested in border meeting, separately
- R10 – hard w/ bi-monthly if you miss a meeting; border meetings would be of interest; always having border issues
- OAR - appreciate OITA updates from Josh; nice to have border updates periodically; like bi-monthly & alternating w/ border meetings
- OLEM – monthly update is helpful, but nice to have border updates
- Maybe every 6 weeks?
- Weekly email updates from Josh & meeting notes are both helpful

Round Robin / Regional Updates

- R10 - Working on trans-boundry, Tribal watershed issues from Canadian mining; Japan teacher & students visiting the region this month
- R9 – will potentially hold an abbreviated national coordinators meeting; finished round of border program solicitations
- R5 – training on landfill waste; Aug – visitors from India leadership program, smart cities
- R4 – engineer traveling to El Salvador this month to help develop effluent guidelines (w/ R3); individual traveling to Ghana to provide training on drinking water analysis funded by USAID; hosted delegation from a lab at University of Panama focusing on wastewater analysis / capacity building
- R3 – Vietnamese delegation visited re: site cleanup; Chesapeake Bay director in Guadalajara; virtual assistance provided; El Salvador forensic sampling training & solid waste workshop in Jordan, upcoming in Morocco; turned down request for Australia PFOS/PFOA training
- R2 - Vietnamese delegation visited re: site cleanup; traveler to Chile to provide hazardous waste investigation course; travel to Panama for enforcement training & trash free waters; Costa Rica environmental affairs meeting re: public participation & EIS process
- R1 – engineering students from Madrid to tour 2 superfund sites
- OAR – tracking G7 G20 climate policy

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