Message

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Sent: 3/27/2023 11:01:23 AM
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Subject: High Level Summary of March 23, 2023 ORD Town Hall
Attachments: equitable resilience ORD town hall.pptx; OSAPE ORD Kudos PPT.pptx

Dear Team ORD,

Thank you for joining us at last week's Town Hall. If you missed the Town Hall or want to view it again, please click here. Please see below for a brief summary of what was discussed.

ORD support for East Palestine, OH Response Effort
ORD efforts to support EPA's emergency response in East Palestine, OH continue. Most recently we have been supporting an effort to evaluate field instrumentation that could be used at the site to enhance operations. We are conducting an evaluation of various health effect levels to support operations at the site as well as providing risk communication associated with site data. Odor has been a complaint in the area and ORD scientists have conducted a literature review to look at the concentration at which n-butyl acrylate in the air can be smelled. Based on this data, the chemicals of concern can be smelled prior to expected health concerns. And, we are supporting efforts to understand background levels of certain chemicals in surface soils in support of an agricultural study. Thank you to the ORD folks who are working so hard to help the people in East Palestine. For more on EPA efforts, please visit here.

Kudos Recognition (presentation attached)
This month we gave Kudos to the team in OSAPE who pioneered the RFA for Cumulative Impacts at the Intersection of Climate Change, Environmental Justice, and Vulnerable Populations/Lifestages to better understand and address the cumulative impacts that many overburdened communities face. The Community-Based Research for Solutions RFA resulted in $21 million in research grants to better understand and address the cumulative impacts that many overburdened communities face. This was a unique and challenging project due to the highly integrated and trans-disciplinary nature of this topic. The grant team had to develop an unusually large network of subject matter experts from across the Agency to design an RFA that would solicit research that could advance the science

for EJ, climate, *and* cumulative impacts. Thank you to everyone who played a role in this RFA development! Special thanks to:

- Project Officer: Intaek Hahn
- Eligibility Officer: Ron Josephson
- Peer Review Team: Chris Rea and Meta Bonner
- Communications Team: Maggie Sauerhage, Paige Brown and Cassidy Pham

If you wish to nominate a colleague or a group of colleagues for a kudos recognition, please submit a nomination form. It's easy and a great thing to do!

Building Resilience Equitably (presentation attached)
Emily Eisenhauer gave a terrific presentation talking about the importance of ORD efforts to build resilience equitably. Emily is a social scientist in CPHEA's new Integrated Climate Sciences Division. Her research background is in applied social science and community- based research collaborations on social and environmental justice, and her current research focuses are on community resilience and community capacity, emphasizing translational and community engaged methods. She is also the Agency Chapter Lead for the 5th National Climate Assessment chapter on Social Systems and Justice. Please see attached presentation for more details on this work. Bravo, Emily!

DEIA /IDEAS Update
Rhonda Rogers, OSAPE acting Chief of Staff, let us know that ORD's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Change initiative – has new name… the **IDEAS** Initiative – **Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility in Science Initiative**. This new name represents our forward-looking and aspirational effort to engage everyone in making ORD the most inclusive and best place to work in the Agency! The IDEAS Team has begun work on a strategic plan, which will be modeled after a planning tool called SOAR – Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, and Results Analysis. It will combine data about our organization's current position with people's ideas and dreams for the future to build an energizing vision to share and work together to achieve. In addition, while the IDEAs team is working on the strategic plan, they will also participate in an Agency-wide First Line Supervisor Advisory Group (FLAG) DEIA Committee pilot for supervisors & leaders to incorporate habits to increase awareness and engage in a more equitable and inclusive way. ORD will implement the pilot through our Network Leadership Teams (or NLTs), which are made up of

center directors, division directors, branch chiefs, associate directors, chiefs of staff, POS directors, and IOAA leadership across ORD.

Status of FY 2023 Operating Plan

The FY 2023 Operating Plan has been loaded into Compass and is available to spend. As of today, a majority of the center/offices have their allocations down to the Division level. ORM will be working with the centers and offices to develop division-level target files in IRMS. The remaining should have this process completed by early next week. If Division level staff have not received their FY23 resources, they should check with their center/division management on the timing of their allocations. For *FY23 travel*, we are at 20.9% obligated ORD-wide. The center/office travel obligation rates range from 8.2% in OSAPE to 36.8% in CCTE. ORD has established some reserve travel resources (6.4% of ORD's travel allocation), along with some additional non-travel resources that could be reprogrammed to travel, if needed. ORM is monitoring travel balances closely and will work with C/Os if the need for additional travel should arise.

Highlights of the FY 2024 President's Budget Request

EPA's overall FY24 budget request is $12.1 billion and 17,077 FTE. This is an increase of $1.9 billion and nearly 2,000 FTE over the FY 2023 Enacted Budget. ORD's FY 24 budget request is $617 million and 1,659 FTE. This is an increase of $42.7M and 132 FTE. Most increases to ORD's budget are not new initiatives in FY 2024 but are for increases that were originally requested in the FY 2023 President's Budget but were not funded in the FY 2023 Omnibus.

If funded, the FY 24 budget request would represent substantial increases to most of ORD's base programs. Program highlights:

- ACE: $138 million and 299 FTE
  - This is an increase of $37 million and 35 FTE and includes $35 million and 34 FTE to combat Climate Change
- CSS: $112 million and 307 FTE
  - This is an increase of $11 million and 31 FTE and includes $3 million for collaborative research with OCSPP that is focused on modernizing the process and incorporating scientific advances in new chemical evaluations under TSCA
- SSWR: $124 million and 378 FTE
  - This is an increase of $7 million and 20 FTE
- SHC: $165 million and 444 FTE
  - This is an increase of $9 million and 23 FTE

- HERA: $50 million and 178 FTE
  - This is an increase of $5 million and 22 FTE
- HSRP: $24 million and 51 FTE
  - This is an increase of $2 million and 2 FTE and includes $1.0 million to expand EPA's capabilities to conduct research at its BSL-3 facility in Fort Meade, MD

Overall resource totals also include the proposed elimination of $31 million of Congressionally directed programs under the National Priorities program project and funding for a proposed 5.2% COLA. The FY 2024 President's Budget request also eliminates Regional Lab Superfund dollars in the Superfund Remedial, Superfund Emergency Response and Removal, and Superfund Enforcement program projects. The agency anticipates funding these programs using Superfund Tax resources which are not requested through the regular appropriation process. This change does not impact the allocation of Superfund Transfer resources would fund research activities within ORD's research laboratories.

Ideas Implemented Tournaments

Last week ORD kicked off our 2nd annual March Madness ideas implemented tournament and folks have stepped up to the challenge! Overlapping with the popular NCAA basketball tournament, our tournament matches up offices and centers in fun and friendly bracket-style competition through April 3rd. One office or center will ultimately be crowned winner of "The Big Dance" at the conclusion of March Madness. Additionally, there will be a co-winner for the office or center with the most overall submissions so keep those ideas dribbling in even if your team is knocked out of a bracket. And if that isn't enough to get you to submit ideas, inspired by ORD's tremendous March Madness efforts, the Agency kicked off an Agency-wide tournament of ideas which runs through Friday, April 14th! In the Agency contest, regions and programs will face off against one another from week to week.

Although there are now two different tournaments, nothing different needs to be done in order to participate in both. Simply submit ideas implemented per usual via ORD's Idea Input form on ORD@Work. The ORM Continuous Improvement Team will take it from there! For contest details and bracket updates, check out the ORD@Work Continuous Improvement March Madness page. Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support! Let's go, ORD!

And for a smile, check out the short ORD promotion video !

Thanks for reading and "see" you next month.

Liz

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