

Libby Asbestos Superfund Oversight Committee Meeting

June 22, 2021 2:00 - 3:15 PM

Location of Meeting:

Virtual attendance with in-person gatherings in Libby, MT and Helena, MT

*Remote access was also available.

1. Call to Order

The Libby Asbestos Superfund Oversight Committee conference call was called to order at 2:00 PM on June 22, 2021.

This was the 16th meeting in accordance with the Montana Code Annotated 75-10-1601. Public notice of this meeting was provided via newspaper ads, press release, social media, and the DEQ website.

2. Roll Call

Representative Gunderson conducted a roll call of attendees and confirmed that a quorum of Oversight Committee members was present. The following persons were present or attended by phone:

Oversight Committee Members:		
Director of DEQ or designated representative	Christopher Dorrington	Present by Phone
Lincoln County Commissioner designated by the Commission	Commissioner Jerry Bennett	Present in Libby
Member of the House of Representatives whose district includes at least a portion of Lincoln County appointed by the speaker of the House	Representative Steve Gunderson	Present in Libby
Citizen of Lincoln County nominated by the Lincoln County Commission and selected by the governor	George Jamison *Confirmed July 2019 by Governor	Absent
Member of the Senate whose district includes at least a portion of Lincoln County appointed by the Senate president	Senator Mike Cuffe	Absent

Other Interested Attendees	<u>Affiliation</u>	
Jenny Chambers	DEQ	Present by Phone
Jason Rappe	DEQ	Present by Phone
Carolina Balliew	DEQ	Present by Phone
Matt Dorrington	DEQ	Present by Phone
Jessica Wilkerson	DEQ	Present by Phone
Joann Wiggins	DEQ	Present by Phone
Ray Stout	KVR	Present by Phone
Virginia Kocieda	ARP	Present in Libby

3. Agenda Item	Discussion
Presiding Officer Election • Committee Member Update	Representative Gunderson: Presiding officer election. We are losing Commissioner Mark Peck and he is being replaced by Commissioner Jerry Bennett. I would hold out for nominations for the presiding officer. Hearing none, I guess I would nominate myself as being the oldest member. All in favor say "aye". We have proxies from Senator Cuffe and George Jamison. Commissioner Bennett: Just a little discussion, when I talked to George, he said that depending on how things went and the replacement for Mark, he wasn't quite sure whether the Chairman should be interim right at the moment, and when we get everybody present, because I may just fill this slot for a short period of time till we get another commissioner, then we will decide if I'm going to stay on the committee. Representative Gunderson: You are more that welcome to, being the oldest commissioner. We will put this on hold until the next meeting when we have everybody present.

4. Agenda Item	Discussion	
Review and approve minutes. • March 12, 2021	Representative Gunderson: Let's review and approve minutes from March 12, 2021 meeting. Does anybody have any input on minutes? Hearing none, we need someone to move to accept the minutes.	
	Commissioner Bennett: One thing we should address, I did talk to Director Dorrington yesterday, and Chris, I do have a letter from Mark resigning his position. I didn't get all the way through the by-laws, but I assume from what you said yesterday that the committee could just appoint me; is that what your understanding is?	
	There was a temporary audio disconnect-DEQ missed conversation after roll call. Representative Gunderson: Ok, lets back up. We are going to pass on Presiding Officer Election, just due to not having enough people here physically, and we were down to reviewing and approving the minutes from March 12, 2021.	
	Director Dorrington: Can you tell me, since we do have a quorum, we can use officer votes, right?	
	Representative Gunderson : Personally, I'd rather just have everybody present; missing two out of the group, so it would be better to wait.	
	Director Dorrington: Ok, I think we need a formal process to move and second someone presiding over the agenda today in the absence of the Chair.	
	Commissioner Bennett: I would make a motion that Steve would chair the meeting today. I don't know if I can officially do that Chris, until I'm officially appointed.	
	Director Dorrington: I move that Representative Gunderson chair today's meeting, and then subsequent course of business will follow.	
	Representative Gunderson: I concur with that, and I can probably second that. Commissioner Bennett: Director, Mark did get a letter to me, so we have his resignation effective the fourth of June. Just in talking briefly with you yesterday, you thought that I could just be appointed through the committee. Is that correct?	
	Jenny Chambers: Commissioner Bennett, just for clarification, the statute indicates that Lincoln County Commission has to also vote and confirm that you are going to be their representative, which I think that did happen. So, for our files, it would be good to have a copy of those minutes to show that the commission is now appointing you on LASOC, then it would be official. Jerry Bennett: Ok, I can get those minutes to you.	
	Representative Gunderson : Just for clarification, I've actually went through the statute, and I concur. It is up to Lincoln County to appoint the representative amongst the commissioners from Lincoln County.	
	Jenny Chamber: Yes, thank you. Virginia Kocieda: Just for clarification does Director Dorrington have a copy of Marks letter? I can get that to you and the minutes.	
	Director Dorrington: I would make a motion pending the details of the letters being transmitted, trust that Commissioner Bennett is on the same page, vote him in as a member representing Lincoln County or accept his nomination, then business from here would then in fact be acting as a voting member.	
	Representative Gunderson: I would concur if the documents exist, then I don't see any reason for him not to be. If we do not have those documents, do we have a quorum?	

4. Agenda Item	Discussion
	Director Dorrington: That is the subject to me moving that we accept his nomination, he
	becomes a voting member today, then we would have a quorum.
	Representative Gunderson: I would move that we accept Commissioner Bennett to replace
	Commissioner Peck on LASOC.
	Director Dorrington: Is that a substitute motion?
	Representative Gunderson: It would be a substitute motion.
	Director Dorrington: I will second that.
	Representative Dorrington: We will enjoy having Commissioner Bennett officially adopted by
	LASOC today at this meeting. We do have a quorum then, with three of us present. Let's move on with review and approve the minutes from March 12. Are there any questions or changes that
	need to be made to those minutes?
	Director Dorrington: I have no questions and move to accept as written.
	Commissioner Bennett: I would second that.
	Representative Gunderson: I would say that we have reviewed and approved the minutes from
	March 12.

5. Agenda Item	Discussion	Document Link
Budget Report Jenny Chambers	Jenny Chambers: Oversight committee, thanks again for allowing time on the agenda to give a budget overview summary. In the meeting material packet, you received a lot of budget detail, expenditure reports, copy of task orders, and other related items. In addition, you got response to comments from DEQ from the LASOC meeting dated March 12. A lot of information was provided from follow-up from the last meeting and hopefully it provides a level of detail that is sufficient for you. For the summary today, since we only have a little bit of time on the agenda to discuss, I was going to focus on the statutory funds in 75-10-605 MCA that are the State Special Revenue Fund. These are the annual funds for the Libby Cleanup Operations account. Then also, that account is sunsetted. It will also be the long-term Libby Cleanup Fund. So, please see the handout that Virginia has on the screen. The summary dated July 1, 2019, through March, through May 31st. Item number two is the allocated budget of the 480 of the Libby Asbestos Cleanup Operations and Maintenance Account. The first column is all of the budgeted amount items for those dollars. Then what you see in the next column is the end of May expenditures of a little over \$21,000. So, what you have asked for is what is that allocation annually? Where is the current budget earmarked for based upon those categories? And then, what have been the expenditures to date? So, that is in item number two on that handout. The second one is just the Libby Asbestos Cleanup Trust, so keep in mind that any funds not spent from the Libby Asbestos Cleanup and Operations Account, at the end of the fiscal year that money gets transferred to the Libby Asbestos Cleanup Trust for long term operations and maintenance. And the current balance with interest and some revenue from investment is a little over 1.4million dollars. In addition, this report provides information on the other accounts the state has available to us for long term. That includes Libby Bankruptcy, which is item number one,	https://deq.mt.gov/files/Land/FedSuperFund/Documents/Libby/June%202021/Libby%20Budget%20Overview_June%202021.pdf?ver=2021-06-17-072918-517 https://deq.mt.gov/files/Land/FedSuperFund/Documents/Libby/June%202021/Libby%20Budget%20Overview_June%202021_pdf?ver=2021-06-17-072921-220 https://deq.mt.gov/files/Land/FedSuperFund/Documents/Libby/June%202021/Budget%20Comments/Libby/June%202021/Budget%20Comments-%20LASOC_05102021.pdf?ver=2021-06-17-072923-173 https://deq.mt.gov/files/Land/FedSuperFund/Documents/Libby/June%202021/Budget%20Comments-%20LASOC_05102021.pdf?ver=2021-06-17-072923-173

the expenditures don't change, haven't quickly changed, and we don't really have trends because its still a new fund and the overall scheme of things. The bylaws allow for oversight committee to form smaller subcommittees and we just thought that might be one suggestion you wanted additional detail or having a closer look at the information that has been provided. We are all happy to answer any questions you might have now based on this, and other information shared. Representative Gunderson: Is there a ballpark timeframe for EPA to close out contracts and has anything changed there from March? Jenny Chambers: A great question, and no, nothing has changed since March, and I can honestly tell you that sometimes it takes several years for them to reconcile their records in order to get a good estimate. So, while we will check periodically, and by periodically, I mean about every six months until we get more information, and we will update this report as we get that information. But keep in mind that it may be a couple of years from now.

Representative Gunderson: If you could keep a finger to the pulse of the issue, it would be nice.

Commissioner Bennett: I talked with George earlier today, he couldn't be here, but he wanted to say thank you for the additional report and answering the questions. And knowing George as I do, I know there will be further questions down the road, but I think the oversight, or the subcommittee might be an answer to that depending on how deep dive we really want to look at. It's a good though and I just want to pass on his appreciation for the work you did there.

Representative Gunderson: Jenny, I would concur.

Jenny Chambers: Thank you, I appreciate that. One comment that regardless if you as the oversight committee want to see or not, if there's any member of the group that wants to dive in deeper, you know, folks here would be available to have a conference call with George or whoever just to go to that level of detail as needed, so we are always available to try to answer any questions.

Representative Gunderson: We will definitely revisit that down the road. Is there any additional information on the budget report? Seeing none, let's move on to future budget reporting and oversight. Director Dorrington: We don't have anymore information, I suggest we go to the next item, which Jenny alluded to already. Other than if Commissioner Bennett, if you have information from George for the next item.

Commissioner Bennett: No, just what he commented and maybe along with that, he was wondering if DEQ would be receptive to questions or concerns through the committee chair that could be passed along, and it sounds like he could just call you as well, so that we are not taking up meeting time, but those questions could be posed before the next meeting so we could have an answer by meeting time. Director Dorrington: Yep, that would be great, we would be just fine with that.

Commissioner Bennett: Ok, I'll let him know that.

Representative Gunderson: The next item is the Environmental Quality Committee Report from DEQ and LASOC and its in Jenny's hands.

https://deq.mt.gov/files/Land/FedSuperFund/Documents/Libby/June%202021/WESTON%20_T003_10122020.jwsigned.pdf?ver=2021-06-17-072931-610

https://deq.mt.gov/files/Land/FedSuperFund/Documents/Libby/June%202021/MT%20DEQ%20V-96841701-6.pdf?ver=2021-06-17-072929-597

6. Agenda Item	Discussion	Document Link
Future Budget	George Jamison-Absent	https://deq.mt.gov
Reporting and		/files/Land/FedSup
Oversight		<u>erFund/Documents</u>
George Jamison		/Libby/June%2020
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7. Agenda Item	Discussion	Document Link
Environmental Quality Committee Report: DEQ LASOC Jenny Chambers	Jenny Chambers: Thank you Representative Gunderson. I want to thank the Asbestos Resource Program Lincoln County and Virginia, for getting the committee a draft of the report. As a reminder, Montana Code Annotated 75-10-1601 requires an annual report from LASOC to the Interim Environmental Quality Council before July 1 of each year. The report format that Virginia drafted is very similar to previous reports, so it is ready now for your review and any edits or comments associated with that report. Just to let you know, there was one item on page three that we have some minor, DEQ tracked changes just to clarify some of the dollar budget amount information, more specifically, the bullet associated with the bankruptcy settlement, just some deletions in that to help clarify that bullet. But other than that, DEQ staff level didn't have any concerns or questions with this report, we generally leave that up to the committee for any future edits or comments the Director may have in finalization of this report. So my thought is, in the past, we have reviewed it as a group, and then you guys have chose to approve finalization of the report to get submitted to EQC next week before the July 1 deadline date and then subsequently, there will be a time where this report will have to get provided to the EQC in the testimony verbal at the next meeting that is scheduled, which will either be in August or September. Last year, Mr. Peck was going to come down and present the report on behalf of	https://deq.mt.gov /files/Land/FedSup erFund/Documents /Libby/June%2020 21/EQC_LASOC_A nnual%20Report_J une%202021draft.p df?ver=2021-06-22- 132330-937

Libby Asbestos Superfund Oversight Committee. He had a conflict and so I stepped in and did it on behalf of the committee. It also asks you to consider who would want to present this report to EQC at the time that is scheduled in August or September. **Representative Gunderson:** So, there will be revisions to that report? Jenny Chambers: Representative Gunderson, yes, we got this as well yesterday and there will be minor revisions to that report on page three. Representative Gunderson: Any idea when that will be coming out Jenny? **Jenny Chambers:** Yeah, we just wanted to see if there were any other comments from you as a committee, and then we can certainly get Virginia our red line version of that report. It's ready to go this afternoon. Representative Gunderson: Ok, we will have Virginia send you any information and choreography with you on getting that out. And on that note, if being that I am a member of EQC, if you would like me to present that report to the panel, I'd enjoy doing that if nobody else wants to do it. **Director Dorrington:** Representative Gunderson it is my recommendation then, that we do an email vote accepting the final version. From here, we did use the vote feature on Outlook, accept that, and then in the subsequent email, agree who will present should be pretty straightforward. Representative Gunderson: I concur, that sounds good to me. Without objection, I would say go for it. Director Dorrington: Great Representative Gunderson: It looks like we are completed with that item, let's move on to the O&M Update from Jason Rappe and Virginia

Kocieda.

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8. Agenda Item	
8. Agenda Item	Discussion Jason Rappe: A refusal property is a property that refused access to the EPA during remediation and those properties are ineligible for EPA O&M funds to be used on that property. Chris Dorrington: Then why are we funding them? Jason Rappe: Based on we decided that DEO decided on a situational basis that we would look at the circumstances around the refusal, properties can change hands, unexpectedly due to a family member passes away and a bunch of other. I think we put together a list of six different kinds of scenarios that we consider funding these properties under. Some of those falls under that list. The specific NOEC that we are paying for we found that an IC kind of fell through. During the purchase of that property, the property owner was never informed from the realtor or from the title search that their property had contamination on it. So, based on that, we decided we would move forward with that. And then we follow back up with all of the realtors within Libby and Troy. We sent them out an updated list of all of the refusal properties and we did the same thing with all the title companies in the town, so hopefully we don't run into that situation again. Chris Dorrington: Thank you. Jason Rappe: ARP is also staying in contact with Bonneville Power as they are doing their work on the transmission lines running through OU3 and 4. ARP is providing contractor awareness trainings. ARP will continue to do inspections as needed on properties, providing status to homeowners and providing outreach to the public. And currently, DEO is also working on combining all of the O&M plans to create one sitewide document. We are trying to put this together so it's consistent across the site. You know, some of these O&M plans are where we are a little light on information, so we are open to bring that up to kind of what OU4 and 7 O&M plan looks like. Initially, our conversations were with ARP and the Port Authority, but once we get a draft copy, we will start sending that out to the county as well. So that
	about the superfund site or specific properties. The majority of the information requests came from residential properties. Most of the communications came via e-mail and the most requested item was status letters and comfort letters from EPA. ARP is signed up as a utility with the Montana 811 Utility Locate One Call System and this enables ARP to get a copy of each utility locate request from within the superfund site boundary. With each ticket, ARP does
	Kiwanis Family Fun Day which was co-sponsored by the Center for Asbestos Related Disease Clinic annual rally, we had a booth where we asked children and parents to identify vermiculite in jars compared to other different substances like gravel and dirt. We also participated by giving out information at the 24th Annual Health Fair, organized by the Cabinet Peaks Medical Center. We gave a presentation to the CARD clinic explaining what ARP does and also some details about the superfund process and our collaborations work with DEQ. And finally, we also participated in a Libby's Lessons, for our lecture with the Montana Public Health Training Center, with the University of Montana. That was a collaboration with the CARD clinic as well. We have also collaborated finally with Lincoln County Solid Waste and helping them draft their O&M manual to run the Class IV Cell. The Class IV Cell is a section of the landfill that contains any disposed vermiculite containing material, insulation and soil that is contaminated. ARP also wrote a support letter for Lincoln County to purchase a skid steer that could be used within the Class IV Cell. Since March, approximately 107 cubic yards of contaminated material, including soil, has been disposed of at the Class 4 Cell. That's the end of my summary. I can take any questions.

8. Agenda Item	Discussion
8. Agenda Item	Director Dorrington: Can you describe the skid steer purchase Virginia? Virginia Kocieda: Lincoln County Department of Health, which runs the Solid Waste program, developed their Capital Improvement Project, so there are funds set aside for larger purchases that would be used within their program. So, working with the Department of Health and Solid Waste, we discussed asking for more equipment to be used within the cell. Because of COVID, there has been a significant increase of waste going to the landfill in general which is making the staff very busy and in order to coordinate disposals at the class IV Cell, sometimes we have to make sure that there is available equipment for the disposal. On hearing that, I wrote a letter of support for the Health Department's Capital Improvement Plan because we would be benefiting the community, if we could have a dedicated equipment to the cell to make sure that disposal is easier and more access for the staff to use equipment when dealing with disposals. I am not sure if that answers your question. Director Dorrington: Ok, that's great, thank you. Commissioner Bennett: Listening to Jason and Virginia, I wonder how things are going and what you are looking at for moving forward with cleanups and reimbursing expenditures between meetings. What have the hiccups been and what are we looking at? Are the expenditures reimbursed before meetings or do they have to come before a meeting to be reimbursed? Jason Rappe: Unit hink this property owner is looking to see whether or not its reimbursable before moving forward with their project. My initial thought is trying to put together a write up to send to the LASOC committee outside of a meeting, and hopefully there is a way that committee members can approve or deny that set request and we can move forward from there based on whether the committee feels that we should move forward with that project, would then go to DEQ for final approval. I think there is an avenue where we can do it outside of the meeting, it's just this will
	Jason Rappe: It does, I think we can pull something like that together. Representative Gunderson: Great, is there any more comment or anything on the O&M update? Seeing none, let's move on to public comment.

9. Agenda Item	Discussion
Public Comment	Representative Gunderson: Do we have any public comment with anyone online? Seeing none, we go to Discussion and Next Steps. There were no public comments.

11. Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items
Discussion and Next Steps a. Date & location of next meeting b. Summary of action items. 3:15 Meeting Adjourned	Representative Gunderson: We need to talk about date and location of our next meeting. Virginia Kocieda: Usually there is a meeting between August or September, and I have had conversations with Jenny about whether we are going to do it in person and if in Libby or Helena. I don't know if anyone else has anything to add to that. Director Dorrington: I would like an in-person meeting and I don't mind where it is. I kind of like it to be in Libby. Representative Gunderson: I would agree with you Director. I think Libby would be advantageous place. Hopefully we would have representation from all the panel here so we can take care of the election of presiding officers and see where we are at on some of these action items that we have been talking about. Virginia Kocieda: I've misspoken. It's September or October. Sorry about that. Director Dorrington: Suggested dates August II or August I8. I think we should have one before the EQC meeting that we present that. Representative Gunderson: Our EQC meeting is in September, and I think we need to meet prior to that. The IIIth or I8th, I have to figure out where I'm at, but I'm sure either one of those will work. Commissioner Bennett: I know historically my anniversary is September II and I made several EQC meetings and left my wife here in Libby, so you know, I'm open either way, she's used to it. Director Dorrington: Representative Gunderson, would you entertain since you are acting this round, I could be acting next, and then we would also then elect officers at that meeting. Representative Gunderson: That sounds great to me Director. Do we want to do a doodle poll and play with a few more dates around the IIIth or the I8th because If we go September IIIth and I8th will both be on Wednesdays. Director, one of the problems that we see is Wednesdays are commissioner meeting days, so we might move that one day ahead or one day back, making Wednesdays, kind of off limits. Commissioner Bennett: Let's just Doodle Poll it then. Representative Gunderson: I guess, in	