

Japan Tsunami Debris Coordination Committee

DRAFT Minutes: Monday, March 19, 2012

9:00 a.m. to 10:00

ATTENDEES:

Agency	March 14th Meeting
Department of Fisheries and Oceans	Robin Brown
Department of Fisheries and Oceans	Sylvie Berube
Environment Canada Communications	Richard Smith
Environment Canada	Carl Brown
Emergency Management BC	Cam Filmer
Emergency Management BC	Teron Moore
Ministry of Environment Communications Office - GCPE	Karen Johnson
Ministry of Environment	Jim Standen
Ministry of Environment	Jim Hofweber
Ministry of Environment	Ben Vander Steen
Public Safety Canada	Surinder Grewal

Introductions/Roll Call

See chart of participants above.

Terms of Reference

- ToR is not ready yet.

Proposed organizational structure

- Org chart is not ready yet. This meeting should inform who will be on which working group. ENV has a working draft.

Review of actions/proposed actions

1. **Science Subcommittee** – Will maintain links with NOAA, University of Hawaii and other scientists.
 - a. Confirm membership – Department of Fisheries and Oceans (Robin Brown)
 - b. Science/tracking update
 - i. Baseline monitoring potential through BC Parks/Parks Canada.

ACTION: Robin Brown to solicit Parks Canada rep for shoreline monitoring survey.

ACTION: Surinder to sweep federal assets including a check into Health Canada re: radiation monitoring and testing and Transport Canada participation re: best tool for remote sensing technology.

ACTION: Jim S is in discussion with BC Parks re: Shoreline monitoring survey and will get back to group with confirmed rep. Jim will also to find a provincial participant in this group.

- c. Next Steps – Discussion around first nations, local governments and volunteer groups needed to assist in this group.
2. **Planning Subcommittee** – Will advise group on the development of a plan/protocol to manage tsunami marine debris.
 - a. Confirm membership –Ministry of Environment (TBD), Environment Canada (TBD), Public Safety Canada (Kathryn Forge), Emergency Management BC (Teron Moore), RCMP (TBD).

ACTION: Surinder, Sylvie and Robin to investigate further representation at federal level (AAND-C, INAC, UBCM). Others will be identified shortly.

- b. Stakeholder interest – Need to identify what the response plan looks like including: How to engage volunteer sector/local governments and First Nations. This group needs to begin work very soon.
- c. Next Steps – Discussion around potential for use of small harbours for storage of large pieces of debris and for Coast Guard role in remote areas/communities. Cam Filmer mentioned the budget issues with activities such as collecting and storing debris.

ACTION: Jim S and Teron will draft a reference document for this working group and Jim will set up group meeting.

3. Communications Subcommittee

- a. WEB page/outreach –
 - Website is online at the Ministry of Environment webpage <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/publicnotifications/tsunami-debris.htm>
 - NOAA's Disaster Debris site will assist with tracking sightings from public.
 - BC Maritime Museum has a proposal to assist with online tracking of items of value from the debris that washes up on BC shores.
 - Discussion around need to involve first nations and local governments.
 - Discussion around the need for management protocols for debris in consultation with Japanese Gov't. There is a meeting this afternoon with the JPN Govt.

ACTION: Sylvie to reach out to Mariner/harbor community (including Coast Guard) for WG participation and to Jim Hofweber.

ACTION: Karen will explore public outreach opportunities, how it could be done and by whom? Karen and Richard will confirm science subject matter experts for inquiries that go beyond FAQs.

- b. Shared Messaging – organizing messaging across jurisdictions is a key challenge, having one point of contact with a known network of SMEs for specific inquiries outside of the common FAQs. Work is ongoing with Alaska and the Pacific Coast Collaborative (PCC) to enhance consistency of messaging. Public Safety Canada communications team is linked into this group through Richard Smith.
- c. Common Briefing Materials – Are being worked on.
- d. Media Interest - ENV minister has been taking an active role in the media so far on this issue.
- e. Next Steps:

4. Intergovernmental Relations Sub-Committee – US/CAN and JPN/CAN

- a. Confirm membership – DFAIT and IGRS (TBD) with John Pyper, AAND-C (?) and/or FNESS (?) to link in with this group. Potential to link with Regional Emergency Management Advisory Council (REMAC) for further links.

ACTION: Surinder will link with fed partners (DFAIT) and will follow up with group.

ACTION: Jim to confirm provincial IGRS rep to group.

- b. US/West Coast Collaborative – Through the PCC relationships have been established.
- c. Japanese Consulate – Meeting with Consular General this afternoon to discuss what to do with debris of value to Japan.

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Japan Tsunami Debris Coordinating Committee

Agenda: March 14, 2012, 10:00 – 11:00

To join the conference call, please dial: s.15, s.17

Participant ID: s.15, s.17

1) Introductions/Roll Call- 5 minutes

- Introduction of new Federal Co-Chair
- Federal Agency Reps
- Provincial Agency Rep

2) Terms of Reference – update on status – for information – 2 minutes

3) Proposed organizational structure – for approval – 3 minutes

4) Review of actions/proposed actions – for approval – 50 minutes

1. Science Subcommittee

- a. Confirm membership
- b. Science/tracking update
- c. Linkages to NOAA
- d. Next Steps

2. Planning Subcommittee

- a. Confirm membership
- b. Stakeholder interest
- c. Next Steps

3. Communications Subcommittee

- a. WEB page/outreach
- b. Shared Messaging
- c. Common Briefing Materials
- d. Media Interest
- e. Next Steps

4. Intergovernmental Relations Sub-Committee

- a. Confirm membership
- b. US/West Coast Collaborative
- c. Japanese Consulate
- d. Alaska
- e. Next Steps

Japan Tsunami Debris Coordinating Committee

Draft Agenda: January 27th, 2012, 11:00 – 12:00

To join the conference call, please dial: s.15, s.17

Participant ID: s.15, s.17

1) Introductions

2) Terms of Reference

- a) Role of committee representatives
- b) Purpose (define roles, relationships and authorities under existing legislation)
- c) Governance structure
- d) Membership/gaps
- e) Decision making model
- f) External linkages (First Nations, local government, federal departments, non-governmental organizations, scientists, others)

3) Early actions

- a) Document related initiatives (e.g., Coast Collaborative on Marine Debris)
- b) Science - What science do we need (and what is available) to define the issue and plan appropriately (what to expect, how much, when) and identify links to BC and external specialists
- c) Response capacity - Where does it exist and how do we access it?
- d) Identification of existing disposal capacity
- e) Communications - Messaging, external communication and tools
- f) Briefing materials/methods

4) Next steps/other

Japan Tsunami Debris Coordination Committee

Minutes: Friday, Jan 27, 2012

11:00 a.m. to 12:00

ATTENDEES:

Agency	Jan 27th Meeting
BC Coroners Service	Claire Thompson
BC Ferries	Gregg Clackson
Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation	John Pyper
Ministry of Agriculture	N/A
Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development	Heather Brazier
Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development - GCPE	Gillian Rhodes
Ministry of Environment	Jim Standen (Co-Chair) Mary Fairholm
Ministry of Environment Communications Office - GCPE	Karen Johnson
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations	Kevin Telfer Craig Sutherland (tentative)
Ministry of Health Communications Office	Laura Neufeld
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, EMBC	Cam Filmer (Co-Chair) Teron Moore (Secretary)
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, EMBC - GCPE	Julianne McCaffrey
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Communications Office - GCPE	Liz Bicknell
Provincial RCMP	Dennis Crowe
Ministry of Labour, Citizens' Services and Open Government	Trevor Hughes
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure	Dirk Nyland
Ministry of Finance	Phil Grewar and Jim Hopkins
Ministry of Social Development	N/A

1. Introductions:

- Jim Standen, MoE ADM, hosted the conference call.
- Federal co-chair to be announced in the next week or so and Jim would like to ensure we don't get too far out in front of our Federal partners in committee discussions. One of the key items to consider is whether we identify or announce this co-chair?
- MoE, MCD, MoH and EMBC GCPE were on the line, as well as reps from MoTi, BC RCMP, Risk Mgmt Branch, MARR, BC Ferries, Agriculture and ministry of Finance.

2. Terms of Reference:

- No terms of reference have been written as yet, again, wanting to be inclusive of our Federal partner's input.

a. Role of Committee representatives:

- The group was reminded that the mandate of this committee is to coordinate, this is not a task force or working group where policies are crafted or resources would flow.

b. Purpose (Define roles, relationships and authorities under existing legislation):

- This committee is meant to bring together Fed/Prov stakeholders and have inter-ministry and multi-level government discussions around roles/responsibilities/jurisdictions/mandates. This group is about identifying who has accountability and authority, NOT about boots on the ground or marshalling cleaning up.

c. Governance structure:

- We want to keep this committee small so it remains nimble and flexible. Subcommittees will be developed to handle certain areas that need specialized focus. Jim Standen will act as Provincial Co-Chair and Teron Moore will act as Secretary.

d. Membership/Gaps

- Provincial and federal government agents are the current focus, consideration will be given on how to engage the local authorities.
- Additional discussions will be necessary between a few key ministers on the policies and resources required to deal with this, but until we have framed and clearly defined the problem, these discussions are premature. The committee will help in defining the issues that may present themselves.
- There is an identified need to connect with experts and academics, this will be a greater priority once the Federal government is at the table and we can discuss what in-house researchers and scientists they have to offer.

e. Decision-making model

f. External linkages (First nations, local government, federal departments, non-governmental organizations, scientists, others)

- The Japanese Consulate in Vancouver was engaged by EMBC about a month ago on protocols for dealing with items of Japanese origin, a reply was received only yesterday and more will be explored about how to catalogue items (i.e., database/photos on the Sharepoint) when debris arrives. We expect more Japanese guidance in this area in the coming weeks.
- City of Vancouver (Kevin Wallinger) and City of Victoria (Rob Johns) have been in contact with co-chairs of this group.
- City of Tofino is connected through the RCMP.
- There are around thirty First Nations in BC that want to be involved.

3. Early Actions

a. Document related initiatives

- Coast collaborative on Marine Debris
- Hawaii Marine Debris Action Plan (See background attachments)
- US EPA Marine Debris Program (See background attachments)

b. Science

- University of BC and Pacific Geoscience Centre/Institute of Ocean Science in Sidney are linked to this group through the co-chairs.
- Teron @EMBC has been in contact with NOAA modelers, US Environmental Protection Agency staff at the Marine Debris Program and with emergency management counterparts in Washington and Oregon State.
- It is unknown how much and exactly where the debris may end up. Likely it will be scattered along the coast with isolated areas of convergence where debris accumulates due to current patterns.
- US EPA sent up flight to find debris on Jan 24 with very few observed sightings of isolated debris (See background attachments). Hawaii has not seen an influx of debris at this point.
- It is clear that links to scientific community need to remain open so that accurate information can flow effectively.

c. Response capacity

- Who has capacity? EMBC is not boots on the ground. Local Authorities are likely source along with volunteer groups including environmental, schools, community, etc.
- This reflects a typical oil/environmental spill.
- Resource capacity issues will occur if amount of debris exceeds current capacity.
- TRAN has capacity to transport material, but need to identify where to put it.

d. Identification of existing disposal capacity

- Need to identify what will be coming and what to do with it.
- Hawaii will likely have some lessons for us to learn from.

e. Communications

- We want to have one GCPE communications lead that collaborates across ministries and shares briefing materials at the DM level. One area to be explored is a share-point site similar to what was used during the Queen of the North issue – it would allow easy access to materials across multi-levels of government and external stakeholders.
- [Action Item: Jim to develop two BN to distribute to all ministries on this issue, one for CGPE communication \(through Heather\) and one for general. Will work from Gillian's BN and pass to co-chairs for approval.](#)
- Karen will manage 'evergreen' key messaging speaking points for consistent messages.
- Future note will be shared with Local Authorities, but for now only Provincial. EMBC have strong link to LAs and can serve as messenger.

f. Briefing materials

- [Action item: COMPLETE - A background package and support materials offering the science behind the issue will be provisioned by Teron @EMBC and sent out to the group.](#)

4. Next steps/other

- Need to agree on what is acceptable level for 'normal' level of debris cleanup. Do we have a baseline?
- Meetings are expected to be monthly until need demands more vigorous interaction (i.e., When debris begins washing ashore).
- Future meetings are expected to be held at the EMBC buildings out at Keating Cross Road.

Japan Tsunami Debris Coordination Committee

DRAFT Minutes: Wednesday, March 14, 2012

10:00 a.m. to 11:00

ATTENDEES:

Agency	March 14th Meeting
BC Coroners Service	REGRETS: Stephen Fonseca
BC Ferries	Jennifer Kroll
Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation	John Pyper
Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development	Heather Brazier
Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development - GCPE	Gillian Rhodes
Ministry of Environment	Jim Standen (Co-Chair)
Ministry of Environment Communications Office - GCPE	Karen Johnson
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations	Kevin Telfer
Ministry of Health Communications Office	Laura Neufeld
Ministry of Justice, EMBC	Cam Filmer (Co-Chair) Teron Moore (Secretary)
Provincial RCMP	Dennis Crowe
Ministry of Labour, Citizens' Services and Open Government	Trevor Hughes
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure	Dirk Nyland
Ministry of Finance	Phil Grewar Cam Nichol

Introductions/Roll Call

See chart of participants above. Also, Paul Kluckner – Federal Co-chair [Environment Canada,(EC)], Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and Public Safety Canada(PS) will be involved in this group.

Terms of Reference

ToR is not ready yet.

Proposed organizational structure

Org chart is not ready yet. This meeting should inform who will be on which working group. ENV has a working draft.

Review of actions/proposed actions

1. Science Subcommittee – Will maintain links with NOAA, University of Hawaii and other scientists.
 - a. Confirm membership – John Holmes (DFO lead?) through PS. Dirk Nyland volunteered to assist.
 - b. Science/tracking update
 - i. 1.54 million tonnes of debris initiated off coast of Japan (not 25 million tonnes), it is unknown how much of that is still afloat.
 - ii. Due to currents/tides the Strait of Georgia will not get any marine debris from Japan.
 - c. Linkages to NOAA – EC does not do ocean modeling so we will rely on NOAA for this expertise.
 - d. Next Steps – Volunteers are needed to assist in this group.
2. Planning Subcommittee – Will advise group on the development of a plan to respond to tsunami marine debris integrating International, Federal, Provincial and local levels.
 - a. Confirm membership – Ministry of Environment (Graham Knox), Environment Canada (TBD), Public Safety Canada (TBD), Emergency Management BC (Teron Moore) RCMP (Dennis Crowe). Others will be identified shortly.
 - b. Stakeholder interest – Need to identify what the response plan looks like including: How to engage volunteer sector, how to use NOAA's Shoreline Survey (through BC Parks?) and what to do with the debris.
 - c. Next Steps – This group has a very important role to play and needs to get started now.

ACTION ITEM: Jim Standen to send email initiating this group to proceed.

3. Communications Subcommittee –Provincial Lead (Karen Johnson) Federal lead (Richard Smith), Ben Vandersteen (ENV) will brief executives.
 - a. WEB page/outreach –
 - i. Website is online at the Ministry of Environment webpage (group to review and add any missing items).
 - ii. Want a schematic of the organizational structure of this group.
 - iii. NOAA’s Disaster Debris site will assist with tracking sightings from public.
 - iv. Roger Wheelock of the BC Maritime Museum has a proposal to assist with online tracking of items of value from the debris that washes up on BC shores.
 - b. Shared Messaging – organizing messaging across jurisdictions is a key challenge. Work is ongoing with Alaska and the Pacific Coast Collaborative (PCC) to enhance consistency of messaging.
 - c. Common Briefing Materials – Are being worked on.
 - d. Media Interest - ENV minister has been taking an active role in the media so far on this issue.
 - e. Next Steps
4. Intergovernmental Relations Sub-Committee – US/CAN and JPN/CAN
 - a. Confirm membership – DFAIT (Federal lead) and IGRS (Provincial lead), John Pyper, AAND-C and/or FNESS to link in with this group.
 - b. US/West Coast Collaborative – Through the PCC relationships have been established.
 - c. Japanese Consulate – March 15th meeting with Consular General to discuss what to do with debris of value to Japan. They were in Tofino last week discussing the issue with locals.

Next Steps

- In the future we will want a logistics working group to coordinate the response activities.
- Radiation monitoring will be needed (along with protocols and teams to conduct tests) to ease public fears even though the science does not indicate radiation being an issue with the debris.
- There was a HLTH radiation call on March 13th.
- A HLTH representative would be a benefit to the group.

ACTION ITEM: Laura Neufeld will pass along a HLTH representative name to Jim Standen.

- According to WA and OR states, public meetings have been very successful.