

Florida Red Tide Mitigation and Technology Development Initiative
Technical Advisory Council Public Meeting
Tuesday, January 23rd 2024, 9:30 am – 11:30 am EST

In-person Attendance: Dr. Michael P. Crosby, Dr. James Powell, Dr. Katherine Hubbard, Dr. Sherry Larkin, Kevin Claridge, Meghan Abbott, Amber Bankes, Liz Longstreet, Jordan Martin, *no public attendees joined via zoom. David Whiting was unable to attend this meeting.*

Meeting Minutes:

Welcome, Webinar Meeting Logistics, & Agenda Overview

- Welcome remarks by Dr. Crosby, highlighting this being our 5th year in the initiative, the importance of TAC member input, how great it has been to have such substantive workshops, the current focus this year (and in the next few years to come) on deployment – and the current challenges we’re learning from, with government agencies and policy navigating.
- Kevin Claridge – roll call and reviewed the agenda for this meeting.

Red Tide Initiative Overview (Kevin Claridge)

- Reminder of statute, contract, reporting requirements and legislative intent. Focus this time on regulatory oversight and field implementation “hyperfocus”
- Update on the Red Tide Facility and the new additions of our limnocorrals and turbidity boom.
- Reminder of our Tiered Research Process – noted how helpful it has been (and important) that the red tide initiative has allowed us to span all 4 tiers.
- Update of current progress. New Governors report was just submitted. Updated info on the number of potential mitigation compounds that we have now examined for tiered testing. We have now done 5 RFPs, have had 7 TAC meetings and have reviewed over 100 proposals. We currently have over 35 projects underway or at completion. Our big focus at the moment is the ~a dozen promising tools and technologies (out of many) that we are reviewing for field implementation.
- In the past, we have gone over all projects in the previous year, for this meeting we will focus on the current projects funded in “year 5”, which includes BlueGreen Water Technologies, Greenworld Environmental Alliance, Heartland Energy Group, internal Mote Marine projects, Prescott Clean Water Technologies, Tulane University, UltraTech International, USF, and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (partnered with the University of Rhode Island). Noted that Heartland Energy Group has already gone through the process for exemption with EPA, DACS and DEP. Greenworld is a promising one that has been used on oil remediation, has recently been adjusting the recipe due to EPA feedback. In past years, Prescott Water had used different options in their

treatment process but is currently focusing on more cavitation, which is less of an impact on the environment and easier on the regulatory side. The UltraTech product is “more ripe” and in the earlier phases working with Mote. The University of South Florida’s solar powered and remotely controlled commercial device has minimal regulatory concerns. The Woods Hole group project is working on checking off their regulatory boxes. This is the clay project (modified clay, clay with algicide). As you can see, there has been a lot of focus on the regulatory processes and our network of partners continue to grow.

- “Thank You” to all current partners, which grows each time we share it with the TAC. Listed all research partners since the beginning of the initiative.

Looking Ahead

- Focus on “Year 6” field deployment and funding those projects
- Fall 2024 TAC Meeting
- Building off of our RTI Workshops. The focus of the 2024 workshop will be field implementation and regulatory processes. What do we want to set as criteria for getting in the water?
- Big item this year is field data, monitoring and product improvement.
- Where the world is at with HAB mitigation? We are currently working on being able to educate the public on this topic and are planning to present at the FWC US HAB Taskforce next week.
- Pending Legislation – Dr. Crosby has now gotten many questions from elected officials. He meets regularly with state officials. They question what challenges we may be facing and if we are going to be able to deliver? We have been able to report that we have a dozen or more technologies currently that we expect to reach deployment with our mantra of “do no greater harm”. A big piece of getting to deployment is permitting. What’s pending currently is the extension of the initiative for another 2 years to continue on the path of permitting and deployment – and allow an opportunity to field test if/when there are elevated *Karenia* concentrations. There has been unanimous approval on the state side but still more committees to come.
- We continue to work with NOAA and the University of Maryland IMET on the US HAB Control Technologies Incubator. Dr. Crosby feels as though the State of Florida is really leading the nation in HAB technologies. We are currently in “year 2” and will be attending the global HAB workshop in Seattle this year, to continue to build collaborations.
- There is a new funding opportunity from DEP for innovative technologies which a few of our RTMTDI projects will cross over with. Specifically, Mote’s collaboration with Heartland Energy Group and Mote’s collaboration with BlueGreen Water Technologies.

Public Comments: None

Final Council Member Questions/Remarks:

- Dr. Larkin questioning our plans to move from mesocosm and into the water, how do we plan to communicate and inform the public?
 - Kevin will start working on a plan. Suggested maybe a one-pager “info sheet” for each product, to distribute.
- Meghan and Dr. Hubbard are questioning the cell count threshold and how to tie it to public health.
 - Kevin and Dr. Crosby both responded.

Adjourned – 11:00 a.m.

A copy of the PowerPoint Presentation can be provided by contacting Kevin Claridge at kclaridge@mote.org or via our Mote webpage <https://mote.org/research/centers-of-excellence/red-tide-initiative/technology-advisory-council/>