

Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force Meeting

May 22, 2012

9 am – 11 am

Department of Ecology, 4601 N. Monroe St., Spokane, WA

Adriane Borgias, Department of Ecology, Facilitator

SRRTTF Members

Dale Arnold, City of Spokane*
Bart Mihailovich, Riverkeeper*
Bud Leber, Kaiser*
Sandy Phillips, Spokane Regional Health Dist.*
Galen Buterbaugh, Lake Spokane Association*
Diana Washington, Department of Ecology
Doug Krapas, Inland Empire Paper*
Bruce Rawls, Spokane County*
Tom Agnew, Liberty Lake Sewer & Water Dist. *
Tammie Williams, WSDOT
Ken Windram, HARSB

Sandra Raskell, Coeur d'Alene Tribe
Mike Petersen, The Lands Council (on phone)*

Attendees

Rick Eichstaedt, Riverkeeper (on phone)
Sarah Hubbard Gray, HGC
Lynn Schmidt, City of Spokane
Dave Moss, Spokane County
Elizabeth Schoedel, City of Spokane
Carrie Holtan, City of Spokane
Dave Moore, Department of Ecology
Chris Averyt, Inland Empire Paper
Jani Gilbert, Department of Ecology

* = Voting Members, 9/10 present, Quorum Achieved

Business Entity Proposal: The Business Entity Concept was introduced by the Administrative Work Group for discussion. The concept represents a framework for developing the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws for the entity. There was a question about the role of the Tribe on the Board if they are not a voting member of the SRRTTF. This was discussed by the Admin Work Group. Tribes can and do participate on non profits. It was acknowledged that this is something worth thinking about as the group moves forward. There was a question about the decision making process, which would be considered as the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws are developed. The Business Entity doesn't duplicate the Task Force and is not policy but administration of the Task Force activities. There was a discussion that there is a delicate balance between identifying what the Task Force will do and finding funds vs. identifying what the Task Force can do with the funding that is available. Bruce Rawls stated that he has had some draft Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws prepared that can be used as a starting point for further work. The Task Force was polled and there were no further comments.

Bruce Rawls moved and Tom Agnew seconded that the Business Entity concept be approved as presented. Consensus achieved with no dissent.

Following the decision there was a discussion as to the role the Task Force has in approving the Business Entity. It was noted that the Business Entity would be its own organization and could technically incorporate on its own without Task Force approval. After subsequent discussions, it was noted that the Task Force approval is appropriate and is a continuation of the collaborative nature of how decisions are currently made. Many of the members are the same on the Task Force and the Business Entity so there will be good communications between the two entities. It was recognized that the Task Force could in theory come up with something for the Business Entity that it disagreed with and the Business Entity could have the final say on that. This

pointed out the importance of maintaining an interactive collaborative effort. Dysfunction can be mitigated by good communications.

Action Item: Bruce Rawls to forward the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws to the Administrative Work Group. The Administrative Work Group will review, clarify, edit, and prepare a recommended version of the documents for Task Force approval.

Ruckleshaus Center Scope of Work. The Revised Scope of Work was introduced by the Administrative Work Group for discussion. Discussion centered around clarity in the “Deliverables” section of the scope. The question was whether or not the wording in deliverables 1) and 4) was clear and would meet Task Force needs. Specifically, did there need to be more clarity in the number of meetings (Task Force, Work Group, and other) that is expected of the Center both in person and otherwise? This was the section of the Work Scope that had the most discussion by both the Work Group and in negotiations with the Ruckleshaus Center.

Doug Krapas moved and Dale Arnold seconded that the wording for Deliverable #1 be changed to: “At the discretion of the Task Force, facilitate 20 meetings, with up to 10 in person. Develop meeting notices, agendas, and associated handouts/materials.” There was then discussion on Deliverable #4 to see if similar changes need to be made. Other parts of the Scope of Work were reviewed to see if the concerns were already addressed as well as the process that was used to develop the language for Item #1.

Doug Krapas moved and Dale Arnold seconded that the motion be amended to be to accept the Scope of Work as written, without changes. Consensus achieved with one dissent.

Dale Arnold moved and Tom Agnew seconded that Ecology finalize the contract with the Ruckleshaus Center. Consensus achieved.

Spokane Tribe Participation

During the course of the meeting a letter was provided to Adriane Borgias, meeting facilitator. The letter, which announced that the Spokane Tribe would no longer participate in the Task Force was read to the attendees.

Action Item: Adriane Borgias to distribute the letter to the SRRTTF.

Workshop, June 5-6, 2012

Bud Leber shared that the Spokane River Toxics Workshop will be held June 5-6 at Gonzaga University. Nationally recognized experts will be giving presentations. The focus of the workshop is to begin the effort to identify and quantify toxics in the Spokane River. In addition, the workshop will provide information that can be used to begin development of a work plan to reduce toxics in the Spokane River. Attendees are encouraged to pass the information along to interested parties, including consultants who may be interested in attending.

Roundtable Items:

Bruce Rawls: Will forward the draft Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws to the Administrative Work Group for their action. Wanted to know about how many members have signed the MOA and how many funding agreements have been received. Also, Bruce suggested that we begin to think about what happens beyond the workshop and who may be needed as scientific consultants.

Diana Washington: Confirmed the value of the Toxics Task Force and recognized the efforts of the participants. Diana noted that participation in the Task Force is a permit requirement and Ecology is committed to working with the permittees as it relates to this issue. The SRRTTF Technical Track Work Group will address “what’s next” as it relates to the outcomes of the upcoming workshop.

Bud Leber inquired as to the status of the Kaiser funding agreement changes which were forwarded to Ecology and requested that the group receive a copy of the Spokane Tribe’s letter.

Tom Agnew encouraged participation of the Spokane Tribe and asked the Task Force to consider how involvement can be achieved. There was a question about the Columbia River Toxics Task Force meeting, which is happening at the same time and whether someone from the SRRTTF is attending. He felt that that Task Force presence would be important at that event. He noted that the Task Force still has reserved a position for the Tribe.

Mike Petersen noted that the Task Force needs to keep working hard on this issue. He thought that a letter or some sort of action with respect to EPA involvement is important.