

SRRTTF Technical Track Work Group Meeting Summary

Meeting Date: February 1, 2012 1PM to 3PM.

Ecology Eastern Regional Office

Conference Bridge Call information: (360)407-3780 Pin 509989#

In attendance: Galen Buterbaugh, Bruce Rawls, Doug Krapas, Bud Leber, Lynn Schmidt, Arianne Fernandez, Jon Welge, Sarah Hubbard-Gray (on the phone)

Meeting Summary:

The meeting started at 1:10pm. The group did introductions and then launched into a discussion of the direction for the Task Force. The idea of a Technical Workshop was discussed. There was an exchange of ideas around the type of workshop needed. Bruce indicated that we need to look at what will move the technical track down the road in 2012. He indicated that during the DO TMDL there were approximately 3 technical workshops that were very beneficial to helping identify the state of knowledge and direction. These technical workshops were 1-2 days of information exchange. He would like to see something similar done for PCBs, and that all stakeholders to the SRRTTP be invited. He suggested that the PCB Ecology Report be presented. This would provide information on what data has been collected, how it was collected, and how the data was then processed to develop the information contained in the Assessment Report. He also suggested that the workshop include a brainstorming session to identify data gaps and where and how new data should be collected. He indicated that the Fire Training Center managed by the City of Spokane may prove to be a good location for such a workshop. He also indicated that it would take about 6-8 weeks to plan and organize the workshop. Bruce indicated he may be willing to provide resource to help with the planning and facilitation of the workshop. His hope is that information from the workshop will help with development of a RFP for a technical consultant.

Arianne indicated that she wants the workshop to provide a fairly sophisticated technical component. She indicated that before we can decide what the data gaps are we need to understand the technical drivers (i.e. What do we know about our own data and its comparability and uses beyond the limitation of a report? what do particular congeners identified in data set indicate with respect to source tracing? Where to look for air deposition and when should that occur and why? What are the limitations and benefits of different sampling methods and analyses? What models are out there and how do they deal with fate a transport in relation to carbon adsorption? Do we consider enantiomer fraction analysis and where? Do we start to utilize more PCA and PMF analysis for source tracing? How metabolism in bacteria and fish along with bioaccumulation affect our understanding of sources and decreasing trends?) Diana followed upon this with the idea that we look at a two prong approach. First we have a general session introducing the Task Force members to PCB (i.e. a PCB101 type session similar to the one provided at the PCB workshop facilitated by the Spokane River Forum.). Followed by a more technically sophisticated second day where we get into the technical nuts and bolts of what has been done other places and what we have done followed by ideas of what needs to be done next. The idea

being that those who may have a more limited background with respect to PCBs need to understand enough so they understand why the more technical work will be required.

Doug indicated that we should identify the purpose of holding a technical workshop (i.e. what do we know and what do we need to know?). Sarah recommended that this should be more of a workshop than a symposium. Bruce indicated that we should invite speakers not call for abstracts as this will give us more control over what is presented and we can define our information need and then fill the need. Arianne indicated we need to focus on experts and areas with similar fate and transport issues (have an aquifer or river system; similar geology and carbon) and not just any system because PCBs behave very differently depending on the system. Sarah recommended that we should identify what questions need to be answered and that the second day could provide an opportunity to ask questions of the experts. Some names were provided for possible speakers within Ecology, local entities, and outside entities.

Bruce indicated that the Assessment Report identified 42% of the source of PCB but we need to define the source of the remaining 58%. Data collection might include WWTP effluent, stormwater, groundwater, aerial deposition, sediments in the river, and potentially fish data. Diana indicated that we need to do more sampling but that we need to be sure that the technology identified and used gives us what is needed to move forward. Jon indicated that we need to connect the historic with the future so that interpretation of the data and a cohesive picture can be developed from the work. The existing data needs review to make sure that it is appropriate and useable for the future analysis.

Jim asked that we clarify the goal of the technical track. Bruce indicated that the goal will be to determine what we know about PCBs and then identify what we don't know. . After identifying data gaps, additional data collection would occur. Then the existing and new data would be analyzed to better characterize the amount and sources of PCBs in the river. Then BMPs and remediation plans could be identified, which would be incorporated into a comprehensive plan.

The group got to a point of agreement that work group will be focused on developing a RFP for a technical consultant. The consultant will be tasked with writing the work plan for the Task Force. The work plan will address data gaps to information collection. The information will be used to better characterize the problem and identify BMPs and or cleanup sites, and determine when cleanup of an area is enough and when a different method needs to be employed (i.e. TSCA and product stewardship) to reach our goal.. To get the information required for development of the RFP, the technical work group will be recommending to the Task Force that they host a PCB Regional Technical Workshop. The work group proposes that the workshop be held May 1-2, 2012.

Draft Agenda for a 2 Day Workshop:

Day 1 Afternoon: Plain speak about what we know for the Spokane River? (Ecology) Plain speak introduction to Data Collection, Laboratory methods, analysis used to develop the Assessment Report, and issues.

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Day 2 Morning: 2-3 Consultants and EPA to talk about what is being done on relevant projects in other areas. Presentations on the state of the science regarding PCBs in groundwater specific to the type of groundwater surface water interaction for our watershed.

Day 2 Afternoon: Technical presentations regarding data sampling, analytical methods, uses of information and reliability of findings. 2hr question and answer visioning process.

Technical Consultant Selection

The group discussed the expected process for the selection of the technical consultant. The Task Force will need to put a funding mechanism in place before a technical consultant can be hired. Once this is in place, the technical workgroup will work together with the Task Force Facilitator to prepare an RFP. Once the RFP is out, the technical track work group will review submissions, rank them, and present recommendations to the Task Force. As was discussed in the Task Force meeting regarding selection of a Facilitator, the selection of the technical consultant will follow a similar process.

Development of Task Force Work Plan timeline:

- The work group has identified the following milestones:
- May 1-2, 2012 Technical Workshop
- End of June, RFP out for Technical Consultant
- Mid August Technical Consultant Hired
- General Work Plan finished by November
- Detailed scope of work for 2013 developed by January 2013

Who will provide Work Group update to the Task Force at the next meeting?

Bud will provide the Work Group update at the next Task Force meeting February 28, 2012, 9:00 AM to Noon.

Schedule Next Work Group Meeting: Diana will put a Doodle Poll out for a meeting in two weeks or so. For the next meetings discussion, members were tasked with gathering names of individuals that should present at the workshop.