

Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force Technical Track Work Group Meeting

July 19, 2012

9-11 am

Draft Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Kelsey Gray, Ruckleshaus Center
Greg Weeks, Lake Spokane Association
Galen Buterbaugh, Lake Spokane Association
Arienne Fernandez, Department of Ecology
Doug Krappas, Inland Empire Paper Company
Dave Moss, Spokane County
Don Martin, EPA

On Phone:

Bryce Roberts, Avista
Kevin Booth, Avista
Sarah Hubbard Gray, SHG Consulting
Brandee Era-Miller, Department of Ecology
Dave McBride, Washington Department of Health
Mike Petersen, Lands Council

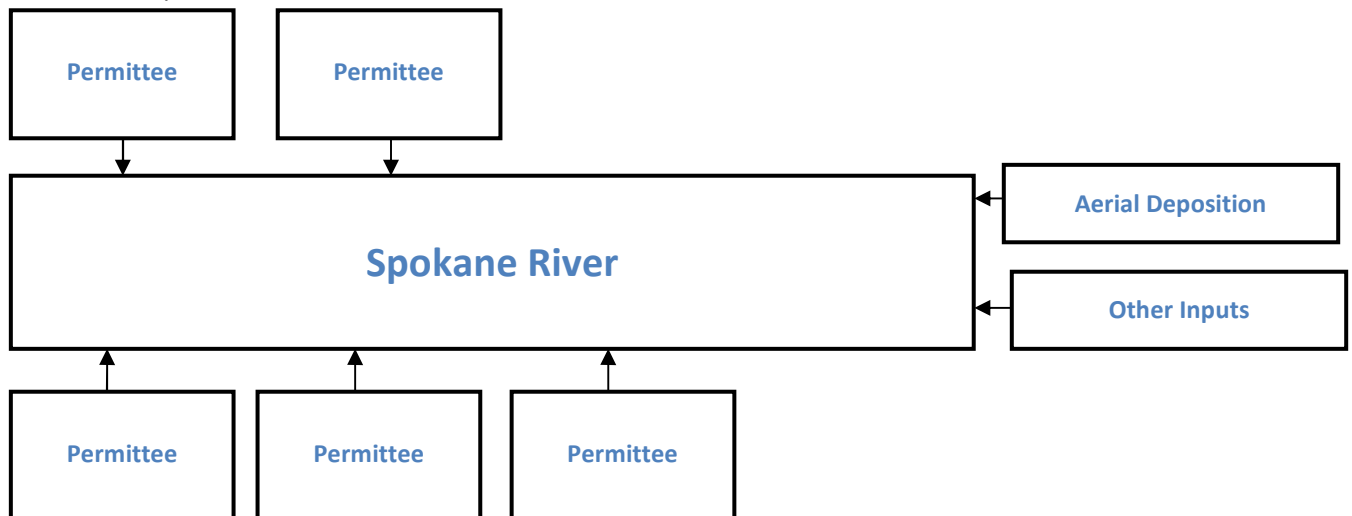
Workshop Report

Budget status: See Attachment Workshop Budget Report. The Workshop budget is in the black. The WG recommended that the balance remain at the Center for Justice account until there is a decision on future work. There is a potential that these funds will be rolled into future SRRTTF activities.

Work Plan

Short Term and Long Term Objectives: There was a discussion about the short and long term objectives for the work plan (see handout). These are broad objectives that were pulled from the workshop. The discussion included how the individual discharger “work plans” and fit into the larger SRRTTF work plan. The dischargers have their own inventories and source reduction activities/reporting requirements.

Visual concept:



Each box represents an input into the Spokane River. The size and location of the input varies by source. The Work Plan would identify what we don't know with respect to toxics inputs to the river (specifically PCB).

There was a discussion about boundaries (jurisdictions, geographies, hydrogeologic). This needs to mesh with sampling and analysis. Also, sampling analysis can have more than one purpose: for example a snapshot in time and data collected over time. These have different data qualities.

There was a comment about considering biota as a source of recycled PCB.

The WG would like to present the Work Plan Objectives as background documents for the next SRRTTF.

Action Item: TTWG to review and send comments to Bud Leber on the Work Plan Objectives by Friday July 27th.

Technical Consultant

“Straw Man” description of the ideal consultant: This document will be rolled into the RFP for the Technical Consultant.

The WG would like to present the Technical Advisor Concept as background documents for the next SRRTTF.

Action Item: TTWG to review and send comments to Bud Leber on the Technical Advisor Concept by Friday July 27th.

TTWG Presentation for the SRRTTF: Bud Leber requested feedback on the first 24 slides of the draft presentation.

The WG would like to present a review of the Spokane River Toxics Workshop to the SRRTTF.

Action Item: TTWG to review and send comments to Bud Leber on the first 24 slides of the presentation by Friday July 27th.

A concern was expressed that the SRRTTF move faster on the work plan and selection of a technical consultant. The reason is that permittees have specific dates that need to be met with respect to toxics reductions planning, activities, and reporting.

Long-Term Toxics Monitoring Program, Mainstem Spokane River

Brandee Era-Miller from the Department of Ecology presented the framework for Ecology’s long term monitoring. The framework is in the early stages of development and could change as the activities of the SRRTTF proceed. Factors affecting the implementation of the framework include input from the SRRTTF, work plan objectives, funding, and matrices to be analyzed. The focus of the plan is on the main stem of the Spokane River. Guidance is requested to know if more monitoring needs to be done with respect to sources and sinks as well as the long term objectives. The desire is to finalize the plan as recommendations by August, with the understanding that it is a living document and can be revised as needed. There are two parts to the document: 1) Sampling for FY2013, which is funded and will begin this fall; 2) recommendations for the long term monitoring.

The sampling for FY2013 is fish tissue, and preliminary sampling of sediments and whole water samples. The purpose of the preliminary sampling is to see how the methods work, what the detection limits are, etc.

For the long term sampling recommendations, the basic concepts are to look for trends over time in matrices that are best suited to show this. Fish are a good matrix for this since they integrate the toxics that are in the environment (plants, sediments, etc.) through bioaccumulation.

Action Item: TTWG to provide comments on the Recommendations for the Design of a Long-term Toxics Monitoring Program in the Mainstem of the Spokane River to Brandee Era-Miller by August 10, 2012.

Contact: bera461@ecy.wa.gov; 360 407 6771

Dave Moss, Spokane County noted that he has comments to submit.

Brandee Era-Miller is developing a QAPP for the FY2013 sampling. There was a discussion about the desire to tailor this monitoring to the needs of the SRRTTF. The TTWG can act in an advisory capacity and provide valuable input. The data collection needs to be consistent with building the model. There was a discussion about the process for QAPP approval. The following process was described:

- 1) Draft QAPP to be developed by Ecology-EAP
- 2) TTWG to review the draft and provide comments
- 3) Final QAPP to be prepared by EAP/signed by EAP and ERO.

Action Item: Brandee Era-Miller and Adriane Borgias to identify the schedule needed to accomplish this in time for the September sampling, with a goal of final QAPP by the end of August.

There was a discussion about permittees making measurable progress by April 15th and what Ecology interprets this to mean. Does Ecology review QAPPs between permittees to ensure that collected data is consistent?

Action Item: Bud Leber requested that we have a conference call so that we can frame the question for the Task Force regarding future work.