

Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

Facilitated by Chris Page & Aubri Denevan

June 18, 2014 | 8:00am – 1:00pm

Spokane County Water Resource Center

1004 N. Freya Street | Spokane, WA 99202

Attendees

Voting Members and Alternates

Tom Agnew*, BiJay Adams – Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District

Galen Buterbaugh* – Lake Spokane Association

Doug Krapas* – Inland Empire

Bud Leber* – Kaiser Aluminum

Dave McBride* – WA Dept. of Health

David Moss*, Rob Lindsay, Toni Taylor – Spokane County

Bart Mihailovich* – RiverKeeper

Mike Petersen* – Lands Council

Mike LaScuola*, Sandy Phillips – Spokane Regional Health District

Dale Arnold*, Lynn Schmidt – City of Spokane

**Denotes Voting Member*

Advisors

Adriane Borgias, Arianne Fernandez – WA Dept. of Ecology

Tom Eaton (*on phone*) – US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Dan Redline – Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ)

Public

John Beacham – Post Falls

Lisa Dally Wilson – Dally Environmental

Don Keil, Kris Holm (*on phone*) – City of Coeur d'Alene

Ken Windram – Hayden Area Regional Water Sewer Board

Dave Dilks (*on phone*) – LimnoTech

Introductions: Get Started & Review Agenda

Facilitator Chris Page (Ruckelshaus Center) welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the interview process. No changes were made to the agenda.

Technical Track Work Group (TTWG) Report & Technical Topics

LimnoTech Preliminary Scope for Phase 2 – Bud Leber reviewed the draft overview of Phase 2 of the technical consultant's work, the preliminary estimate made at the beginning of last year. The cost was slightly higher than originally scoped because they are sending two people to Spokane to work with the

sampling contractor instead of one. Phase 2 is expected to be complete in early 2015. The Task Force's Administrative and Contracting Entity (ACE) will get moving on this contract at its next meeting.

Update on Second Lab – The Task Force authorized the TTWG to compile the second lab submittals. Bud Leber walked the group through a comparison of the submittal cost estimates and techniques.

Before the discussion began, Adriane Borgias disclosed that husband works for SVL Labs, one of the proposing labs, so she declined to be part of the decision making conversation due to the potential conflict of interest issue.

DECISION: ACE will work with Gravity, the sampling contractor, to decide on which lab to use.

DECISION: ACE authorized to enter into contract with the lab selected in concert with Gravity.

Sampling Contractor Presentations

Quorum Reached – 10 out of 10 Task Force voting organizations represented. Presentations were delivered as follows:

8:30 Prospective Sampling Contractor Presentation/Q & A: GeoEngineers
20 min. presentation; 25 min. Q&A; 15 min. break

9:30 Prospective Sampling Contractor Presentation/Q & A: HDR
20 min. presentation; 25 min. Q&A; 15 min. break

10:30 Prospective Sampling Contractor Presentation/Q & A: Gravity
20 min. presentation; 25 min. Q&A; 15 min. break

11:30 Ranking of Consultants, Selection of Contractor

ACTION ITEM: Ask LimnoTech about setting up any sampling access agreements

DECISION: Group consensus, order of selection is Gravity (1), GeoEngineers (2), and HDR (3)

DECISION: Task Force requests Gravity's references to be checked (Lisa Dally Wilson, LimnoTech) and asks ACE to request a guarantee of availability from Gravity; presuming these get completed successfully, ACE authorized to discuss and agree on scope of work and contract with Gravity.

DECISION: SRRTF authorizes ACE to enter into contract with GeoEngineers using the same process, if unable to negotiate contract with Gravity.

Updates & Announcements

Confidence Limit Testing Data/Continuous Low-Level Aquatic Monitor (CLAM) Work Group – Preliminary data indicates that the grab sampling method will not yield PCB concentrations discernable from the "noise" of the blank samples. Specifically, Blank #1 had an interference from PCB congener 7 (which happens 3% of time) and Blank #7 also had significant interferences. AXYS is going to fingerprint the

PCBs and compare with the laboratory method. Blank #3 awaiting results. They will also fingerprint to see if the problem is bottle contamination.

Adriane Borgias stated that more discussion is needed on this topic, since it is not clear what the basis is for the statements, “Analyzing the 4 Liter sample will not help.” “Uncertainty on the CLAM sampling method is not resolvable,” and “assuming point source discharges are the same, we should see higher PCB concentrations during low flow.” David Dilks stated he would look at the available data and provide more justification for his “educated guess” and professional opinion on this topic.

In the CLAM vs. grab samples discussion, there is a difference of opinion about whether grab samples or CLAM samples are the most appropriate. The confidence limit testing shows that grab samples may not yield PCB concentrations in amounts above the ability of the analytical system to detect/quantify (the PCB concentrations can’t be distinguished from lab contamination and measurement noise). This means that grab samples will not meet the stated objectives in the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). However, CLAM sampling has problems with the flow rate and bias. CLAM sampling can meet some objectives from the QAPP but only qualitatively, which is of concern.

Gravity has a proprietary method for sampling ultra-low concentrations of PCBs. A suggestion was brought up to ask Gravity to do a couple samples with their high-volume method in addition to the 2.36-L grab sample method.

ACTION ITEM: LimnoTech to issue revised Confidence Interval testing memo for approval by Task Force at July meeting.

ACTION ITEM: ACE to meet with Gravity to get more information about the company’s proprietary sampling methodology. (Note: this may entail modification of the QAPP.)

ACTION ITEM: Continue this discussion at the TTWG meeting in July.

Measurable Progress/Quantifying PCBs removed to date – This agenda item was postponed until next month. The Ecology team is writing responses to the comments submitted.

Funding Work Group (FWG) – Adriane asked if the Task Force would authorize FWG to submit a comment letter from the SRRTTF on the draft fish and wildlife plan by NW Power Planning Council (NWPPC), which drives funding decisions (info at www.nwcouncil.org/news/blog/draft-fishand-wildlife-program-released-for-public-comment).

DECISION: SRRTTF approved submittal of the letter to the NWPPC.

Doug Krapas is gearing up for an \$800,000 funding request to support the SRRTTF efforts in the FY 15/16 Governor’s budget. He would like this request to be submitted by the Task Force. This is the same effort as before – educating legislators, agencies, etc. He would like direction from the Task Force on how to approve this request. If folks are in favor of the concept, the FWG can develop it. Another option is to select a balanced list of organizations that will be willing to sign on to a letter as individuals representing their organization, instead of the Task Force as a whole.

ACTION ITEM: Doug Krapas to prepare a letter to post for SRRTTF approval by conference call or at next meeting.

Ecology is also in its budgeting process as well. They have submitted a 2 year (\$120,000 total) FY 16 – FY 17 administration request for facilitation. No support letter is needed from the Task Force, unless the group wants to submit one.

Outreach Calendar – The NW Power and Conservation Council will meet in October in Spokane.

Meeting Venues – The Task Force was in favor of keeping the meeting venues as scheduled. The TTWG meets July 2nd.

Public Comment

No comments.

The next SRRTTF Task Force meeting is July 23, 2014 at Spokane County Water Resource Center
The next Tech Track Work Group meeting is July 2, 2014 from 10am – 12pm at the Department of Ecology
