

SRRTTF Technical Track Work Group

DRAFT Meeting Notes

October 16, 2013 | 10:00am – 12:00pm

Department of Ecology

4601 North Monroe Street | Spokane, WA 99205-1295

Attendees:

Adriane Borgias, Ecology

Galen Buterbaugh, Lake Spokane Association

Aubri Denevan, Ruckelshaus (*video conference*)

Arianne Fernandez, Ecology

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

Doug Krapas, Inland Empire

Bud Leber, Kaiser Aluminum

Dave Moss, Spokane County

Chris Page, Ruckelshaus (*video conference*)

Lynn Schmidt, City of Spokane

Lisa Dally Wilson, Dally Environmental (*on phone*)

Draft recommendations on resolving variances in agency procedures (lab reporting limits, # quality control samples, method for assessing blanks) toward SRRTTF QAPP?

Laboratory reporting limits vary across the documents reviewed. Discussed why this occurs and why it is important if reporting limit is outside of the original data quality objectives (as described in the quality assurance project plan, or QAPP). More information is needed about monitoring and modeling objectives to determine the significance and relevance of reporting limits for the Spokane River QAPP.

Discussion about the fact that different laboratories have different detection limits. Is it necessary to pay a premium to achieve lower limits of analysis? Some aspects of the analysis (such as type of column used) do make a difference and may add to the cost of the analysis.

Discussion about the cost of analysis and the requirement to use labs approved by Ecology. How do we evaluate labs? A desire was expressed to use labs approved by Ecology and to include new labs if it makes sense from a cost management standpoint.

ACTION ITEM: Arianne Fernandez agreed to talk to Karin Feddersen about this possibility.

We need further discussion about the QAPP for data gathering on with this project. Specifically, we should define and/or include definitions in our QAPP (method detection limit, quantitation limit, RL, etc.) We can do a tiered approach with respect to the analytical methodologies based on the type of information needed.

The number of quality control samples (e.g. duplicates, blanks) vary across the documents reviewed.

This can be addressed when the QAPP is developed. The different types of blanks should be defined and delineated (transfer/trip; rinsate/equipment). There was a question as to whether or not the results of the blanks analysis would be used to eliminate a congener. This is usually not done. If the blanks show contamination, then it is simply noted that “it is there” in the case narrative.

The method used to assess blank contamination varies across documents, including some documents that provided no assessment procedures.

- This should be addressed, perhaps by asking the data-gathering entities to include this in their QAPPs. Or do we develop our own QAPP on this; if so, what analyses/data does that apply to?
- The County has consultants to help review the analytical data quality.
- Discussion about the EPA recommendations from Method 1668C regarding how to handle blanks. California uses 1668 C, so how do they handle this?
- Q: how does this relate to the state of Washington intent to adopt 1668C as a compliance method? This is not being discussed right now. Ecology chooses to wait until EPA approves 1668 as a compliance method. But it can be used for sampling and monitoring purposes.

Review draft format for the December 4th technical workshop

Date: December 4-5

- Full day December 4: lay out the story with breakout sessions and report back.
- Half day; Task Force provides input and direction to LimnoTech December 5
- Evening dinner with experts

December 4th date: a room is available at WSU Spokane for 48 people with video conference capabilities, screen, and whiteboard (may not be big enough). Alternative room is Center Place for \$400.

Estimate of attendees: Last meeting was 85, but this is expected to be smaller and more focused.

- Regulators (ID, WA, EPA, Tribes, SCRAA = 10)
- Academia (stormwater, air, CEREO = 5)
- Consultants (LimnoTech, local consultants = 10)
- Task Force and alternates = 26
- Invited speakers = 4
- Other interested parties (WSU student challenge started?) = 5

Total: 60

Suggestions:

- Provide an overview to all speakers (especially the invited ones) about the specifics of the watershed (pg/liter concentrations, not a traditional TMDL, looking for short term BMPs and source reduction opportunities.
- Have LimnoTech give an overview of the data gaps.

Outside experts:

- The following were suggested: Fikslin, Rodenburg, someone from the SF bay project (Doug Krapas has the names), someone from Duwamish (Rachel McCrea). Some of them have been contacted about the possibility of participating but no invitations have been made.

ACTION ITEM: Lisa Dally Wilson will coordinate the outreach to experts.

Comments on the Workshop Purpose Statement

- In the “To” statement add, “the current state of PCB in the Spokane River and watershed”
- In the “In a way that” statement, first item add “dischargers” to the list of those involved
- In the “In a way that” statement, last item, add the concept of source reduction.
- In the “So that” statement add, “direction to LimnoTech and other entities as appropriate” and “development of the Task Force’s overall comprehensive monitoring plan, conceptual model, best management practices, and source reduction activities.”

Comments on the planning worksheets:

- “Work in Other Watersheds”
- Add the concept of source reductions to this session, possibly in the title?
- Doug Krapas has contacts for the SF bay watershed work
- Last line: “Where any BMPs developed for the types of sources identified and how successful where in achieving source reductions.”
- Add new session on “Quality Assurance Project Plan”
- Drop last line from “River Monitoring Plan” session, add more content to create this session

Possible topics for work session:

- What are the procedures used to evaluate the data?
- Standard Operating Procedures

Do we need another TTWG meeting before the workshop? If so, when?

ACTION ITEM: Adriane Borgias to reserve rooms at Ecology for October 30 and November 13. November 6 is already reserved for Funding Work Group. Time is 10-12. (COMPLETE)

Upcoming Meetings:

- Next Full Task Force meeting is October 23, 2013, 9:00am – 12:30pm at Liberty Lake
- The next Funding Work Group meeting is November 6, 2013 from 10am – 12pm
- The next Tech Track Work Group meeting is October 30, 2013 from 10am – 12pm