

Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force Technical Track Work Group Meeting

February 1, 2017 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Department of Ecology | N. 4601 Monroe Street. | Spokane, WA 99205

Meeting Materials: <http://srrttf.org/?p=7569>

Meeting Attendees:

BiJay Adams –Liberty Lake Sewer & Water District
John Beacham –City of Post Falls
Adriane Borgias –WA Department of Ecology
Ben Brattebo –Spokane County
Dave Dilks (phone) –LimnoTech
Jeff Donovan –City of Spokane
Ryan Ekre –Inland Empire Paper
Ted Hamlin –WA Department of Ecology
Kris Holm (phone) –City of Coeur d’Alene

Greg Lahti –WA Department of Transportation
Bud Leber –Kaiser Aluminum
Dave Moss –Spokane County
Cadie Olsen –City of Spokane
Monica Ott –City of Post Falls
Chris Page (video) –Ruckelshaus Center
Bryce Robbert –Avista
Jeremy Schmidt –WA Department of Ecology
Sandy Trecanni –WA Department of Ecology
Kara Whitman –Ruckelshaus Center

Introductions and Agenda Review

After introductions, Chris Page went over the agenda. No changes were made.

Environmental Assessment Projects (EAP) Update

Adriane Borgias explained that there is no funding available this year for new projects. Task Force data is currently being put into Ecology’s Environmental Information Management System (EIM). EAP has also added in a quarter FTE in their budget for general technical assistance to the Task Force.

Existing/Ongoing EAP Project Updates:

Brandee Era-Miller provided, via email in January (and sent out to Task Force list serve):

- **Long-Term Monitoring of PCBs in Lake Spokane Using Age-Dated Lake Sediment Cores.** Update: Samples collected, awaiting laboratory results. Draft report for Task Force review due 10/31/17.
- **LSR Hatchery Case Study (sampling/analysis of hatchery fish—includes Trout Lodge (Avista) fish.** Update: Samples collected and processed. Awaiting receipt of data from Pacific Rim Lab. Draft report for SRRTTF review due 5/30/17.
- **High Volume Sampling/Long Term Monitoring Station at Spokane Tribal Reservation Boundary.** Update: working on the report and should have a draft report for SRRTTF review by spring 2017. New QA coordinator at Ecology Manchester Lab, Ginna Grepog-Grove, is currently re-reviewing/validating all AXYS laboratory data for the project.
- **Atmospheric Deposition.** Update: Sampling underway, data collection and plume dispersion modeling of the WTE Facility slated for completion by June 2017. Draft report for SRRTTF review due 11/30/17.
- **Assessment of Methods for Sampling Low-Level Toxics in Surface Waters.** Update: Sampling underway. CLAM results collected June 2016 at the Spokane Tribal Reservation Boundary show excellent precision for PCB results and little to no PCB contamination from CLAM. Stainless steel housing was used instead of PCB-contaminated LDPE housing. Another sampling at the Spokane Tribal Reservation Boundary is planned for February 2017.

LimnoTech-Update on Monthly Sampling: The rest of the data from the sampling will be back in a couple of weeks. The initial data processing step has happened; however, it is not completed. Once data comes in to LimnoTech, there will be some analysis to do, and then it should be a quick turn-

around time for the draft report. The data should be ready by the next Tech Track Work Group Meeting (TTWG), or by the next Full Task Force meeting in February. The Gravity report is complete and will be an appendix to the LimnoTech Report. They completed 6 rounds of sampling in the river, 5 data sets are already in. Just waiting on the last sampling done in early December.

Work Plan Development:

Data Mining:

Bud gave an overview of the process that the data mining action SWAT team is proposing. They propose that the first step is to get all the data into a format that can be compared and analyzed in order to begin looking more closely at the identified unknown sources, be able to utilize all the legacy data collected, and look at congeners to compare and characterize with cleanup site information. They propose that the Task Force let the data drive the work path forward. There was a question as to whether this work should have a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). Some task members did not think this was necessary given that the Task Force data was all collected with an approved QAPP. Bud and Adriane both provided different versions of a logic flow diagram that shows the work path for actions related to data mining and investigation into the 4 gaining reaches that were identified during earlier work by the Task Force. Note: This did cause some confusion in the meeting as to what diagram was being discussed. Adriane Borgias emphasized that the Task Force needs to know what is the “study plan”, what is the question being asked, then they can look to what data is needed (basically a QAPP). Each gaining reach (4 of concern) could have its own work plan that would be further investigated using already existing data.

Other meeting participants wanted to make sure that work plans focus only on what is specified in the Comprehensive Plan and that work does not get derailed to focusing on items that are noted only in the “Future Studies/Actions” portion of the Comprehensive Plan; while others feel that at the very least other linked opportunities (i.e. connected to the data mining exercise, such as fish tissue information and PMF analysis) should be noted and tracked as they may come into play down the road. It is clear that many Task Force members would like the group to focus on actions specifically outlined in the Comp Plan.

Q&A/COMMENTS

- 5.14: Steps to tackle, Map the steps and questions, then lead to work plans and scope.
- Toxics Cleanup Program (TCP) sites, don't know the cleanup level. Need to determine whether they have the potential to be significant contributors. Look at homologs to determine level of significance – plan for additional follow up. Actions would be – mine existing data, consult TCP, then figure out actions.
- Which party would do the homolog analysis? Not at this step yet.
- Don't just focus on gaining reaches. Still look at whole river. Also, need to focus on the reaches that have been identified. There is some disagreement on this.
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ACTION ITEM: The SWAT Team to consider meeting with the TCP program including Bill fees, Sandy Trecanni, and Jeremy Schmidt to narrow the focus for data mining.

ACTION ITEM: Bud Leber to take the data mining flow chart and expand so that it directly links to what is in the comp plan, prepare for the February TF meeting. (COMPLETE)

ACTION ITEM: Tracking timeline: put in the Items that exactly match the comp plan – put this in the excel spreadsheet.

PROCESS OBSERVATION: Cadie Olsen suggested that the Task Force is struggling with framing the issue with respect to what level of detail is needed for accomplishing Comp Plan Action 5.14. The group is confused on the scope and scale of the issue. Cadie suggests that the Facilitator(s) work offline work on this issue, and provide clear expected outcomes for the TTWG meetings; specifying that they are not deviating from the Comprehensive Plan, but looking at the next level of detail.

Building Demolition and Renovation:

Work on this action has been primarily been done at the Education and Outreach (E&O) work group meeting level on adapting the outreach materials. It has been suggested that this piece could be informed by technical work specific to the Spokane System. Ecology is writing a QAPP for a study to help inform this work.

Adriane Borgias explained that Ecology is looking at a screening study to determine if current demolition practices are protective. Adriane walked the group through a flow chart that she developed to look at this control action.

1. What is the situation in Spokane? → Screening study
2. Are current practices protective? → If yes, then no action is needed, if no...then...
3. Look at “are PCBs in building materials a source? → What is the pathway to the river?

The SWAT team consists of Cadie Olsen, Toni Taylor, Mike LaScoula, Monica Ott, and Adriane Borgias. The group could expand to include some hazardous waste folks as needed. The group has been reviewing the San Francisco Estuary (SFE) materials. Based on the work of SFE, studies in Spokane should yield similar results, PCBs will be found in buildings build in the 1950s. Intensive studies are not necessary given the research has been done in other places.

Ecology: urban waters budget. Ted will be retiring this year. Putting together a QAPP to do a screening study, 16 properties that DOT has identified for demolition. Pre and Post demolition samples. Get real data, Ted will also do some stormwater sampling by the sites as well. QAPP will be out soon. All are in CSO 34 and Cochrane Basin. Near where freeway is going in. (already basins of concern).

Clarification: This action was never meant to put out Best Management Practices, but to adopt guidance materials that could inform and education on demolition and renovation practices in communities. This group could also suggest actions that communities could take to integrate these suggestions into building/renovation processes.

ACTION ITEM: Cadie Olsen to set the next meeting of this subcommittee and prepare some discussion of next steps to discuss at the next full Task Force meeting. They will work from the Building and Renovation Control flow chart that Adriane put together.

Green Chemistry:

The Green Chemistry SWAT team has met once and have another meeting scheduled. The group consists of Adriane Borgias, Saskia VanBergen, Doug Greenlund, Mike Petersen, and Kara Whitman. Saskia works for Ecology and is working on Green Chemistry initiatives at the university, middle school and high school levels and with Northwest Green Chemistry trying to Increase opportunities from Green

Chemistry. The group is still discussing whether to focus on specific identified topics, or look to a process for working through things happening at Ecology? Is it the role of the Task Force to be involved in each Green Chemistry initiative? The group is putting together a work plan. The Comp Plan calls for the Task Force to take advantage of research completed and provide feedback, support this work, and educate public.

Color box Rules:

Control Action 5.10.2: Greg Lahti updated the group on where things stand on addressing issues with the color box limits and road paint, and the next steps. Greg is part of a group that is part of the Department of Enterprise Services (DES) and Ecology. DES writes the purchasing contracts. This group is currently having monthly phone calls on how to approach this issue. They are reaching out to paint manufactures and trying to develop a process to figure out how to administer the state purchasing law, starting with road paint. Greg has given the information for specialists of pigments/color box rules. DES is driving this process. Greg will find more about the schedule moving forward and report back to the Task Force. The paint contract is still 2 years out, that is probably when there will be some implementation on PCB purchasing for road paint. The Department of Transportation is going to do a limit/analysis with the next paint contract. They are currently working with paint contractors to let them know this is coming and trying to get them on board prior to the new paint contract. Mark Vincent gave a presentation to the Task Force that showed that the predominant pigment had 5-8 ppm or ppb, other paints could work, but were not the same quality or did not fit in the color box, but there was an order of magnitude reduction in PCBs with these other paints.

The City of Spokane is in the process of revisiting the purchasing policy because they are having a profound difficulty implementing the policy. Spokane will share their challenges with all, but they are trying to resolve some difficulties. The vast inconsistency in testing results versus what they end up purchasing is a primary issue of concern.

ACTION ITEM: Greg Lahti will find more about the timeline for DES and report back to the Task Force.

ACTION ITEM: Greg Lahti to look at spreadsheet of the potential impact to the river given concentration of PCBs in paint and the gallons applied to roads.

Waste Disposal:

The Waste Directory is very close to being completed and ready for distribution. The primary action in the Comp Plan is to make this available. The E&O Work group will discuss how this fits into the education and outreach portions of the Comp Plan. There may be a nexus with the Solid Waste Rule and the work that the Waste Disposal SWAT team is doing.

ACTION ITEM: Ruckelshaus Center revise the excel spreadsheet. Make a section called "future studies", perhaps make a separate tab for this section of the Com Plan. Also, make sure that the spreadsheet is consistent with the numbering and designation of A, B, C actions as designated in the Comp Plan.

The next Full Task Force meeting is February 22, 2017 at Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm.
The next Tech Track Work Group Meeting is March 1, 2017 at Department of Ecology from