

SRRTTF Technical Track Work Group (TTWG)

DRAFT Meeting Notes
September 3, 2014 | 10:00am – 12:00pm
Department of Ecology
4601 North Monroe Street | Spokane, WA 99205-1295

Attendees:

Adriane Borgias (Ecology)

Kara Whitman (Ruckelshaus Center)

Chris Page (Ruckelshaus Center, Video Conference)

Bud Leber (Kaiser Aluminum)

Galen Butterbaugh (Lake Spokane Association)

Dave McBride (WA Dept. of Health, on phone)

Lisa Dally Wilson (Dally Environmental, on phone)

Lynn Schmidt (Dept. of Ecology)

Paul Klatt (JUB engineers, on phone)

Dave Dilks (Limnotech, on phone)

John Beacham (City of Post Falls)

Sandy Phillips (Spokane Regional Health District)

Dave Moss (Spokane County)

Introductions and Agenda

Chris Page welcomed everyone and went over the agenda. The proposed legislation of \$50M for Columbia River restoration fund was added to the end of the agenda for the group to give input on a draft letter of support from the SRRTTF to consider in late September.

Communicating Measurable Progress—TTWG or Re-Form Communications Work Group

Adriane Borgias discussed the year-in-review method of communicating the SRRTTF accomplishments. The year-in-review for 2012 is complete and posted to srrttf.org. The year-in-review needs to be completed for the 2013 and 2014 years.

ACTION ITEM: Kara Whitman and Adriane Borgias will put together the 2013 and 2014 year-in-review and post to the Task Force website.

The group discussed who should handle Task Force communications, TTWG or a new Communications Work Group. The group agreed that they will recommend to the full Task Force that a Communications Work Group be formed at the September 24th, 2014 SRRTTF meeting.

Question: John Beacham asked if there had been a communication work group in the past.

Answer: There was a special short term assignment to get the SRRTTF fact sheet and PowerPoint presentation together. This group consisted of a few Task Force members and some tangential participation. The group lost traction after these materials were put together.

A communication plan, potentially developed with the assistance of Todd Norton and WSU's Center for Environmental Research, Education, and Outreach (CEREO), would guide a communication work group.

Note: Kara Whitman has been in communication with Todd Norton and CEREO Director Stephanie Hampton in regards to guidance on a communication strategy.

That strategy would allow the SRRTTF to:

- Facilitate a timely response to funding opportunities;
- Effectively communicate measurable progress to different stakeholder groups;
- Guide the development of appropriate outreach materials for different audiences; and
- Educate and engage the public about the science and complexities of PCBs toxics so they become active partners in toxics reduction.

Specific suggestions from TTWG for a Communication Work Group:

- The communication piece should be part of a separate work group with the appropriate set of skills with the task of communicating to the public, responding to articles and other communication needs.
- Need to communicate measurable progress
- Need to keep in mind that there are separate groups involved in the task force with different narratives guiding them and their public outreach and communication.
- Potential members of the communications work group: Jerry White (Riverkeeper), Doug Krapas (Inland Empire Paper), Tom Agnew (Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District), Brooke Beeler (Dept. of Ecology Public Information Officer or PIO), Toni Taylor (Spokane County PIO), and Martha Lou (Spokane County).
- A top priority for the Communication work group should be to put together a display for the Spokane River Forum.
- Lisa Dally Wilson would like Task Force input on how to react quickly to articles, funding and other outreach opportunities. This should be incorporated into a communication strategy.
- Adriane Borgias brought up the need to know what the communication needs are for all groups involved in the Task Force. What are the different messages that need to be developed? What are best management practices for PCBs for different audiences? How can the Task Force effectively communicate the need and value of funding the SRRTTF work (measurable progress)?
- Need to update the PowerPoint presentation to include sampling and other accomplishments. This presentation may need to be modularized for different groups/ audiences.
- Seek out other presentation opportunities such as conferences, organization meetings, workshops etc.

ACTION ITEM: Kara Whitman and Adriane Borgias will pull together a proposal for the formation of a Communications Work Group, to be completed by September 17th, 2014 and posted for decision at the September 24th full task force meeting. (COMPLETED)

Planning How and When to Present and Discuss Synoptic Sampling Results + Mass Balance:

Bud Leber proposed holding a two-day workshop in January of 2015. Given the amount of data that the SRRTTF is looking at, it does not make sense to force it into a single SRRTTF meeting. Follow up with AXYS confirm that the data and data validation will be available by the end of October and ready to present at the November 17th Task Force meeting (the mass balance calculations will not be complete by then). Bud also said that Shawn Hinz (Gravity Consulting) would have the first draft of their data collection report in the next few weeks and that perhaps this should go on the October 1st TTWG meeting agenda.

Adriane Borgias expressed the need to plan for the workshop early, particularly if they will be inviting University folks who may be taking vacation time late December/early January.

There was discussion on having Dr. Lisa Rodenburg (Rutgers University) on the agenda for the next Task Force meeting to discuss positive matrix factorization analysis. She could perhaps also be added to the January workshop to discuss fingerprinting review as a potential future scope of work for the Task Force.

ACTION ITEM: Dave Dilks will present the data at the task force meeting

Topics that could be covered at the workshop could but are not limited to the following:

- Blank Contamination questions
- Sample size during different flow rates (spring/fall). How big of a sample is needed to get above the noise? Input from AXYS, who is doing the analytical work, would be useful.
- Gravity High Volume Sampler. How did it go? How does this sampler work? Perhaps a show and tell at the workshop, a visual of what it takes to do this sampling and how it works.
- What did we find out river segment by segment?
- Talk through all of these things to determine “where to go from here”?
- Statistics and Confidence Testing (a general statistical discussion)
- Pretreatment Program
- Regulatory links
- Management of PCBs in each organization

Other potential topics for a January workshop will be invited from the full Task Force on Sept. 24th. Task Force members could rank the suggestions by order of their interest. Bud suggested that there be a brainstorming session for the Workshop.

ACTION ITEM: Dave Moss or Adriane Borgias will resend the correspondence with Dr. Rodenburg to Chris Page.

ACTION ITEM: Add the January Workshop to the next SRRTTF meeting agenda for Sept. 24th, to make a decision on a January Workshop and scope topics for the workshop.

ACTION ITEM: Limnotech give an overview of the data to date at the November Task Force meeting.

Update on Groundwater Analysis Project: Martha Maggi (with Ecology’s Environmental Assessment Program)

Martha Maggi would like to attend the next SRRTTF meeting. What questions should be asked?

ACTION ITEM: Adriane will follow up with Martha Maggi (Completed)

Columbia River Bill

The Funding Work Group will write a letter of support to legislature in support of the Columbia River Bill. Adriane Borgias would like some guidance from TTWG. Suggestions for concepts to articulate:

- We are a region that is ready to go.
- In-kind numbers and all of the different organizations and resources already being invested locally.
- Let them know what we are doing and that there are challenges with funding.
- Work on stormwater that is being done, might be good to talk about the status and how it is going.

ACTION ITEM: Adriane will follow up with Tom Eaton for language that would be appropriate. Set up a meeting with Tom and Mike to put the letter together. No deadline, but need to have it ready. Need to post by the 17th if a decision is to be made at the Sept. 24th Task Force meeting. (COMPLETED)

Proposed Topics for a Future Task Force Meeting:

Dave Moss discussed contaminated surface liquid and how to deal with it? City or County code prevents putting into the waste treatment system and this presents a conundrum. The city is using evaporation and retention to deal with this contaminated liquid and the county is using sand filtration. Dave explained that in biologically-based treatment, clean water has no “food.” Stormwater is “clean” so there is no food. The bacteria need “food “in order for them to metabolize contaminants.

Lynn Schmidt suggested that these activities that the City and County are doing should be included in the in-kind contributions.

What can the SRRTTF do to help? This needs to be part of the communication strategy, addressing these types of things. (Commonly-used products, carpet-cleaning, etc.)

Sandy Phillips added that the County is working with City to include brochures as an insert in mailings as an education tool.

Open Question: Dave Moss - Does each of the Task Force members really understand how the different groups are managed and or regulated?

Holly Davies is to give a talk at the September 24th Task Force meeting on the Draft PCB Chemical Action Plan (CAP).

Upcoming Meetings:

- Next Full Task Force meeting is September 24th, 2014, 9 am -12:30 pm Water Resource Center
- The next Tech Track Work Group meeting is October 1st, 2014, from 10 am -12 pm