

# Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force

## DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

Facilitated by Kelsey Gray  
November 28, 2012 | 9:00am – 12:30pm  
Spokane Water Resources Center  
1004 N. Freya Street | Spokane, WA 99202

### Attendees

#### *Voting Members and Alternates*

Galen Buterbaugh\*; Lake Spokane Association  
Bruce Rawls\*, David Moss; Spokane County  
Bud Leber\*; Kaiser Aluminum  
Sandy Phillips\*; Spokane Regional Health District  
Bart Mihailovich\*, Rick Eichstaedt; Spokane Riverkeeper  
Lynn Schmidt\*, Mike Cannon, Jeff Donovan; City of Spokane  
Doug Krapas\*; Inland Empire Paper Company  
Lee Mellish\*, Tom Agnew; Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District  
*\*Denotes Voting Member*

#### *Advisors*

Adriane Borgias, Arianne Fernandez, Dave Knight, Diana Washington; WA Dept. of Ecology  
Rebecca Stevens; Coeur d'Alene Tribe  
Don Martin (on phone); EPA

#### *Public*

Sarah Hubbard-Gray; HGC/SRSP  
Kris Holm (on phone); City of Coeur d'Alene  
Tanya Riordan; Office of Senator Cantwell  
Lisa Dally Wilson; Dally Environmental  
Brandee Era-Miller; WA Dept. of Ecology  
Mike Neher; City of Post Falls

### Introductions: Get Started

Kelsey Gray started the meeting by asking for any changes or edits to the meeting summary from the October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. There were no edits or changes requested at the meeting.

### Fish Sampling

Brandee Era-Miller started off by mentioning that the draft QAPP for monitoring is wrapping up and should be published on the Ecology website by the end of December. Brandee then distributed two spreadsheets to the Task Force: 1) Spokane River 2012: Summary of Sample Analysis Plan; 2) Lab Analysis Planning Sheet for Fish Samples 2012. Last week, ecology talk to the Spokane Tribe and went

over the analysis with them. The Spokane Tribe is supplying additional funding for this sampling to open up three additional reaches.

- Brandee Era Miller to provide the answers to the following questions:
  - 1) Q) Are there more than 5 individual fish in some of the composite samples? For example: Little Falls Pool had 27 northern pike minnow collected, but only 3 composite samples are indicated for analysis. A) No, most composite samples will have 5 fish and only a few samples will have less than 5 fish. In the example above, only 15 individual northern pike minnow will be processed for analysis – making up 3 composite samples of 5 fish each. Column I of the ‘Lab Analysis Planning Sheet for Fish Samples 2012’ spreadsheet (this is the big complex spreadsheet) shows the # of fish per composite sample. Please refer only to rows 4 – 39 for the Spokane River samples.
  - 2) Q) What is the reporting limit for analytical method EPA 8082 (PCB Aroclors) for the fish tissue samples? A) Ecology will be using a reporting limit of 5.0 ug/Kg part per billion, wet weight. This should be more than sufficient for the concentrations of PCB Aroclors typically found in the Spokane River.
  - 3) Q) Is Stateline currently 303-d listed? A) Yes, it is. Fillet tissue from Rainbow trout and largescale suckers collected in 1999 from the Spokane River at Stateline are the basis for a PCB listing (listing ID 14397). Ecology has not been able to acquire any species other than largescale suckers in the Stateline area since 1999. Ecology surveys in 2005 and 2009, only found largescale suckers at Stateline. Besides largescale suckers, Ecology only encountered 2 bass (which we did not keep) this past September 2012 when collecting fish for this project.
- ACTION ITEM: Task Force to provide comments to Brandee Era-Miller on the Fish Sampling Analysis plan by Wednesday, December 5, 2012. (COMPLETE)
- ACTION ITEM: Brandee Era-Miller to revise the name of “Long Lake” in the Fish Sampling Analysis plan to “Lake Spokane,” which is the officially recognized name.

### **Columbia River Toxics Task Force**

Bud, Bart, and Adriane attended the November 1 Executive Committee meeting of the Columbia River Toxics Task Force. It was a big group of people in attendance. Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and tribes were present. The agenda was laid out by going through the five areas focus area that this group could put together. They are: Sustainable Purchasing, Green Chemistry, Emerging Contaminants, Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships, and Stormwater Stewardship. Everyone expressed their highlights of the year. Ted Sturdevant, Director of the Washington Department of Ecology, mentioned this group. The tribes represented at this meeting had caucused before the meeting and asked that the human health/consumption issue be included. It was news to folks at the table what was happening in Spokane. Funding is also a challenge for them. There’s a meeting Dec. 12 in Hood River (working group meeting) Adriane and Bart will be attending that.

Adriane appreciated that they took the work plan elements submitted by the SRRT Task Force, and incorporated some of them into their five initiatives. The real benefit of working with the Columbia River Toxics Task Force is sharing information. Adriane will be going to the work group meeting in December and will give a presentation there. Afterwards, she will post the presentation to the SRRTTF website.

Kelsey asked if they discussed funding options. There was a bill that went through Congress that almost made it last year. They will push this through again next year.

- ACTION ITEM: Put link on website to the Columbia River Toxics Task Force information. (COMPLETE: [http://srtrtf.org/?page\\_id=1114](http://srtrtf.org/?page_id=1114))
- ACTION ITEM: Send out priority areas for the Columbia River Toxics Task Force. (COMPLETE: The EPA web link should capture this in time, but it hasn't been updated yet.)
- ACTION ITEM: Adriane Borgias/Bart Mihailovich to share with the CR Task Force feedback about the difficulty of managing the educational component of toxics activities and also the complexity of what we are dealing with respect to toxic chemicals (individually) and also products. (COMPLETE)

## General Updates

*Articles of Incorporation* – Bruce Rawls reported that the Articles of Incorporation were mailed on Monday with his signature as the incorporator.

*Fact Sheet* - Adriane did get some feedback on the fact sheet. Ted Knight requested that the wording relative to “tribes” be made singular as tribe or remove it entirely. Adriane suggested having a conference call with the sovereigns to discuss the wording. The group decided to set up a conference call between the tribes, EPA, and Ecology to discuss the language.

DECISION – the Task Force agreed that once the wording issue has been resolved by Ecology and the sovereigns, the fact sheet is ready for distribution. (COMPLETE)

ACTION ITEMS: Adriane Borgias to schedule a Sovereigns meeting to revise the Fact Sheet regarding reference to Tribes (specifically Bullet 1 under “Collaboration”). (COMPLETE: Fact Sheet revised. Sovereigns meeting possibly 2nd week of January 2013, schedules permitting)

*Website* – Adriane talked about the recent changes and additions to the SRRTTF website. She added a tab for resources, quick links, and funding opportunities. To continue to make the website as useful as possible, Aubri Denevan will be working on streamlining the front page in December.

ACTION ITEM: Aubri Denevan to update website in December to make it more user-friendly.

ACTION ITEM: Update website to include links:

- Other website links Columbia River Toxics Task Force (COMPLETE)
- Facebook pages (i.e. Coeur d’Alene Tribe and the Lake Management Plan site)
- Task Force members to send web links for their organizations if they want them linked to the SRRTTF website [Posted at this page: [http://srtrtf.org/?page\\_id=1114](http://srtrtf.org/?page_id=1114), Web link from Galen Buterbaugh, Lake Spokane Association <http://www.lakespokaneassociation.org/>]

## Administrative/Funding Work Group

The administrative/funding work group created a concept paper. Adriane authored it from the discussion at the last Admin Work Group meeting. It originated from a focused question on two the tech consultant would be funded. But they realized that this is a bigger question. After they met in the work group meeting there was a discussion to take what was done from the other workgroups and create another proposal to start a funding work group.

The Task Force decided that the funding work group would be separate from the administrative work group. For now the administrative work group would be on hiatus until they are needed in the future.

The funding work group members are Doug Krapas, Mike Petersen, Rick Eichstaedt, Tom Agnew, Don Martin (Mary Lou Soscia), Mike LaScuola, and Diana Washington (6 months).

Tanya Riordan (Marie Cantwell's office) was there to support the group, and they could possibly offer other support. She volunteered connecting this group with other people (in DC or other). The time of appropriations (or earmarks) won't come back. Everything that the Task Force talking about is critical. She suggested looking at some of the short term opportunities, especially at the Federal level. As new regulations are being looked at, they might be able to match the priorities at the federal level.

*Legislative Piece* – Doug Krapas let the group know the Department of Ecology request has been submitted, and is in OFM for vetting. His lobbyist has been in contact with many legislators. Spoke with Spokane County's lobbyist. They are all working together on this. They've had a lot of communication with eastside Legislature. The only missing piece is they have yet to work with the petroleum groups. Right now there's very little MOTCA funding coming to this side of the state. It's very early in the appropriations stages.

If anyone at the table has a lobbyist and would like to be involved please let Doug know.

*Star Fellowship* – Science to Achieve Results (STAR). Lisa Rodenberg was contacted. She said one of the caveats of that funding is its federal so it might not come through. Knowing that, she has a student working on an application. Adriane sent her the information we talked about at the last meeting. This is an example that some is doing something that may have some benefit with us here. If this student needed or wanted a letter of support from the congressional delegation, Tanya Riordan offered to look into getting one from Senator Cantwell. She also offers to have the Senator will contact that agency directly with support, but noted that sometimes it's not important or relevant for the delegation to step in.

### **Green Chemistry Institute**

Adriane recently noticed that that the Green Chemistry Institute is hosting a conference next June. So she contacted them. They asked if Adriane will be a session chair for that conference – looking at PCB in inks and dyes and in products, etc. She also thought they could have Lisa Rodenberg speak and other experts in Spokane or around the US. Seemed like a great opportunity to go. Adriane has agreed to chair the session, but is hoping she can rely on this group for advice. This exposure could bring this effort to national level.

DECISION: The Task Force agreed to support participation in the ACS Green Chemistry Institute meeting and session on inks, dyes, and pigments.

### **Communication Plan Development**

Brook Beeler has agreed to come to the Dec. 19 meeting to talk about some tools we could use in this effort. The Task Force tabled the communication plan discussion until Brook's presentation.

ACTION ITEM: Kelsey Gray/Aubri Denevan to distribute last years' Urban Waters Grant to Task Force members for review prior to the meeting on communications (COMPLETE: Draft Grant to be provided at the Funding WG meeting)

ACTION ITEM: Kelsey Gray/Aubri Denevan Reschedule Brooke Beeler on SRRTTF Agenda to January (Complete)

ACTION ITEM: Mike Petersen/Bart Mihailovich to review the UW grant application with Brooke Beeler regarding communications concepts

ACTION ITEM: Kelsey Gray/Aubri Denevan to plan a special meeting, possibly in concert with a regular Task Force meeting to discuss Communications. TF members to confer with their own government/public affairs staff regarding a communications tools that are available within the respective organizations. (COMPLETE: Planned for the January 30, 2012 meeting, details to be discussed at the FWG meeting)

### **December/January Agenda Items**

- Cynthia Wall will present funding opportunities from Ecology
- Brandee Era-Miller will give an updated on Ecology's FY2013 Spokane River Toxics Monitoring activities
- Adriane Borgias will provide information about the Funding Work Group as well as the status of the STAR Grant opportunity.

### **Public Comment**

No comments.

### **Executive Session**

ACTION ITEM: TTWG reviews applications, creates list of interview questions on December 5 (COMPLETE)

ACTION ITEM: Consultants to be interviewed by Task Force December 19th.

ACTION ITEM: Change location of the December 19th meeting of the SRRTTF to the Spokane Water Resources Center (COMPLETE)

ACTION ITEM: KG to communication change of interview schedule to consultants (COMPLETE)

ACTION ITEM: KG/AWD to revise agenda for December 19th, to schedule Cynthia Wall for another meeting, possibly a workgroup meeting and to reschedule Brooke Beeler for January. (COMPLETE)

ACTION ITEM: Bruce Rawls to contact consultants that did not submit and get feedback. (COMPLETE)

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**The next SRRTTF Task Force meeting is December 19, 2012**  
**Spokane Water Resource Center**

The next Funding and Technical Work Group meetings are December 5, 2012.  
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