

# Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force

## DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

Facilitated by Kelsey Gray & Aubri Denevan  
February 27, 2013 | 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, Rob Lindsay - Spokane County

Sandy Phillips\*, Kim Papich (on phone) - Spokane Regional Health District

Dave McBride (on phone)\* - WA Dept. of Health

Bart Mihailovich\*, Rick Eichstaedt - Spokane Riverkeeper

Dale Arnold\*, Lynn Schmidt, Mike Cannon, Jeff Donovan - City of Spokane

Doug Krapas\* - Inland Empire Paper Company

Lee Mellish\*, Tom Agnew, Dennis Fuller, BiJay Adams - Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District

*\*Denotes Voting Member*

#### *Advisors*

Jim Bellatty, Adriane Borgias, Dave Knight, Ben Jarvis, Ellie Key, Diana Washington, Cynthia Wall - WA Dept. of Ecology

Kevin Booth, Bryce Roberts (on phone) - Avista

Dan Redline - IDEQ-CDA

Mary Lou Socia - EPA (on phone)

Rebecca Stevens - Coeur d'Alene Tribe (on phone)

#### *Public*

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

Lena Funston - Gallatin

Lisa Dally Wilson - Dally Environmental

Greg Lahti - Washington Dept. of Transportation

Mike Neher, Kit Hoffer - City of Post Falls

Tanya Riordan - Sen. Cantwell's Office

### Introductions: Get Started & Review Agenda

Kelsey Gray reviewed the agenda and asked if there were any changes. No changes were made to the agenda.

### Amendment to the MOA

Prior to the meeting, Kelsey asked the Task Force to reacquaint themselves with the process of adding new members to the MOA by reading the first page of the MOA. As the MOA states, in order to add a

member, each member would have to take that amendment back to their signatories to sign it. There was a suggestion to make an amendment revising the language about the joining process to make it simpler and not requiring signatures from all parties.

EPA won't be issuing the final permits for Idaho until July. Mary Lou Soscia clarified that it is EPA's intention to sign the MOA once the Idaho permits are in place. For now, Hayden Area Regional Sewer Board is willing to wait for more members to be ready to sign the MOA at a later date for efficiency.

Doug Krapas remembered that at the beginning of the process Idaho dischargers were sitting in on the Task Force with the intent to sign the MOA and they had differing language for those parties. Do we need to have new or other language at this point? Should we be looking at that? Kelsey suggests that everyone be thinking about that now; when it comes time to add signatories, they should introduce new language at the same time.

The process for making an amendment is not specifically written into the MOA. It was suggested that that the party wishing to join the task force sends a request to be added with the proposed amendment language.

**DECISION:** Hayden Regional Sewer Board will wait for additional parties to be ready to sign the MOA in a few months.

**ACTION ITEM:** Parties interested in joining the Task Force in the next few months are requested to review the MOA, in order to make the changes all at once.

## **Fact Sheet**

Doug Krapas asked to roll both the fact sheet and Legislative update together. He updated the group. This session there's a lot of hot button issues going on outside of this group, including MTCA funding. Numerous bills being proposed to get at that funding. The Legislators want to focus that on clean-up efforts. The original fact sheet created by Ecology had some issues. Originally, the \$1.2 million ask in the governor's budget. Washington State Office of Financial Management reduced that to \$350K. A proviso has been written and submitted. Some 'controversial poison pills' have been taken out, such as the mention of green chemistry.

The funding fact sheet distributed at the meeting came out of this effort. Their lobbyists have been using it with success. They've been talking about the phases, but the term 'phases' is a black hole in the legislature right now (basically meaning the need more money to them). Proviso has been vetted through ecology in Olympia. Encourage the city, county, conservation groups get with their particular legislator to move this forward. Kaiser Aluminum has submitted a letter of support. Others can also send in letters. Gaining global support is key.

Kelsey recommended that this group approve the fact sheet, citing the MOA. Doug mentioned this was vetted through the Funding Work Group as well. This isn't a fact sheet for the SRRTTF in general, but is a supporting document for this funding ask of the Legislature.

Question about the footer and the groups listed at the bottom. Mike Neher wondered if it was helpful or hurtful to have the Idaho organizations lobby for this ask. The participation of Idaho in this effort is important. That is captured in the Vision Statement of the Task Force. The Task Force decided to remove Idaho Department of Environmental Quality from this fact sheet. Doug called his lobbyist to see if the list of Task Force participants at the bottom of the letterhead is an issue. His lobbyist said it wasn't yet. Jim Bellatty clarified that also this fact sheet could be perceived as a lobbying effort, the name at the bottom indicates general support of the overall Task Force activities and he was comfortable that the Department of Ecology is listed on the letterhead.

DECISION: Unless there's a driving force to keep the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (ID DEQ) in the footer, the group decided to remove their name from the letterhead footer.

DECISION: The fact sheet was approved with the deletion of the ID DEQ.

### **Funding Updates**

*Senator Maria Cantwell's Office* - Tanya Riordan from Sen. Cantwell's office was asked to come to this meeting to talk about federal funding. She thought they would have more answer by now, but with the sequester and budget unresolved, they don't know what the funding status is from the key agencies this group could use. There's not much more to update now. Sen. Cantwell is hopeful they will not go into sequestration.

Bruce asked after the sequestration, what does the Task Force need to know and do? Tanya responded that it will be the same, there will be some funding. Be very clear about the priorities, programs, and projects of this group. Identify funding sources. And they have a role in federal agencies that many funding here, they could help advocate for those groups. Keep her in the loop as much as possible so she can help with funding and other advocacy efforts. It is important to understand the impact and priorities of the federal agencies. Senator Cantwell can write letters of support and can engage the rest of the delegation for support on a case by case basis.

Are line item appropriations still a practice? Senator Murray's office is the right place to discuss this question—specifically because they are most involved with the budget. She suggests that the TF be in contact with Murray's office as well. Tanya would be happy to contact Cathy McMorris Rodgers' office. Earmarks are not coming back, but direct appropriations would be available for a while. Riordan will communicate these strategies with Cantwell's policy team in DC, so they can keep their eyes open.

Mary Lou Soscia will be watching closely with what's going on at EPA and let the Task Force know if anything comes up they might be interested in. Soscia is working with Adriane right now, but asks if anyone has other ideas please let them know.

The big collaborative effort in the state is Puget Sound Partnership, which seems to be well funded. What are they and how do we get something like that. Those are specific appropriations for that effort. The Task Force can't tap into those funds.

Recommendations:

- It's important to have a dialog with federal delegation, local and state agencies.

- Include specific information about strategies, programs, actions, etc.
- Be in contact with Murray's office as well, particularly on budget related issues.
- Discuss with Sen. Murray Office on how the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) was formed, and if it's possible to create something similar for the Spokane River clean up.
- Request from Senator Murray how to ensure funding through the budget process.
- Be clear and specific about needs
- Identify how federal money can fund efforts
- Communicate with their office about the impacts to the community
- Letters of support and joint letters of support are helpful for funding. The Senator's office can provide these
- Examples of communications include a plan of work, fact sheet, and potential funding sources.

ACTION ITEM: Send Tanya Riordan the Task Force workplan, budget, etc.

*Presentation by Cynthia Wall, WA Dept. of Ecology* – Cynthia Wall, SRF/CCWF Project Manager, WA Department of Ecology, gave a presentation on the funding opportunities through the Dept. of Ecology.

Some highlights from the presentation:

- Section 319, grant funding requires 25% match. Available to Non-Profits.
- State revolving funding, loan money, low interest rate. Forgivable principal. Funds facilities and activities.
- Centennial Clean Water Funds (CCWF)
- Grant Water Protections
- Other grant ideas – EPA has a number of grant opportunities. The Non-Profit applying for the federal grant would need to be a 501(c)(3). The Non-Profit would have to apply for the funding and manage it for the group.
- Public participation grants – two year cycle (in the middle of the cycle right now)
- Coastal Protection Fund (Husseman Acct) – this isn't as cut and dry as other grant funding. The "coastal" doesn't mean that you need to be near an ocean. They fund riparian habitat restoration near rivers, etc.
- EPA smart growth technical assistances – Need to be edgy. Think outside the box.
- EPA Pollution Prevention Grant
- Tribal Assistance Sources. This would involve partnerships with a Tribe.
- In September the Department of Ecology hosts a funding workshop. Adriane can post that announcement.
- Most of Ecology's grant proposals are due in October.

Doug wondered if there was a way to streamline this effort because these grants are just the tip of the ice berg when it comes on funding opportunities. Adriane Borgias has a lot of experience running and funding programs through federal grants. When opportunities pop up, Adriane does post it on the SRRTTF website. The key is to look for matches to the SRRTTF mission and values.

The Task Force discussed the need to hire a grant writer, at least in the short term to help put together a boiler plate.

What about pursuing the Universities/Academic communities for grant ideas or partnership opportunities? Cynthia gets an email from Gonzaga each year looking for projects for their seniors/graduate students. The Task Force has looked at academia for the technical support in the past.

Cynthia recommended not limiting the look at the technical side of things. The Task Force could use students to do community outreach, surveys, etc. This group can tap into Cynthia Wall on a limited basis. Any requests can go through Adriane, or contact Cynthia.

**ACTION ITEM:** Funding Work Group agenda items

- Develop a boiler plate document for grant proposals.
- Stream line the grant opportunities and map out the deadlines.

**ACTION ITEM:** Cynthia Wall will look into the types of projects funded on the 319 grants.

**ACTION ITEM:** Tanya Riordan will look into how the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) was formed, and if there's any possibility to do something similar for Spokane through Sen. Murray's Office.

**ACTION ITEM:** Tanya Riordan will give the Task Force the contact information for number of great grant writers in this community.(COMPLETE)

**ACTION ITEM:** Discuss outreach to the local academic community at the next Funding Work Group meeting.

**ACTION ITEM:** Invite Sen. Murray's Office counterpart to the next meeting through Tanya Riordan

*Meeting with new Ecology Director, Maia Bellon* – Rick Eichstaedt let the Task Force know there hasn't been a meeting with the Dept. of Ecology's new Director, Maia Bellon yet. There was a question of who from this group should meet with her. Ideally it would be a small group with a good mix of government, business, and non-profit representatives. Rick suggested, and the Task Force concurred, that they identify the small group and go to Olympia to meeting with Director Bellon. Doug suggested that if a small group does go to Olympia, then they also meet with Legislators and/or PSP representatives.

Adriane gave a presentation to the Ecology Environmental Program Managers on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Maia was not at the meeting, but Adriane submitted the request to Kelly Susewind, the Water Quality Program lead.

**DECISION:** Form a small group with a good mix of government, business, and non-profit representatives to go to Olympia to meeting primarily with the new Department of Ecology Director, Maia Bellon. If time permits also consider meeting with Legislators and/or representatives from the Puget Sound Partnership.

### **PIO Presentation Draft**

Public Information Officer (PIO) group representative, Lena Funston, passed out a PPT draft of what the PIO group has put together based on the communications discussion at the January 30 meeting. For this presentation, the PIOs assumed the audience would be community members and the general public

who knows little to nothing about the PCB problem in the Spokane River. A script will be prepared to go along with the final presentation. The PIOs framed this presentation as a story line by the tagline.

Lena went through the entire presentation slide-by-slide to get feedback and suggestions from the Task Force. She will take that feedback back to the PIO group to revise the slide deck again. Several members of the Task Force recommended looking at the risk analysis the Lands Council did a number of years ago on the river. And to also look any the previous education done on the toxics in the river and build on it.

**ACTION ITEM:** Lena will insert a 'DRAFT' water mark on each of the slides until they have been approved by the Task Force. *(COMPLETE)*

**ACTION ITEMS:** Lena Funston to send out the slide deck to the group for additional comments. Include information about the intended audience. *(COMPLETE)*

**ACTION ITEMS:** Include Spokane River photos of general scenery, sediment sampling, etc. in the slide deck.

### **Year in Review**

Kelsey Gray has received quite a few activity lists from a number of members. She asked the group how these could best be utilized. Bart recommended using them for funding purposes now. In the future it would be great to also use these for educational and outreach purposes.

**ACTION ITEM:** Task Force members are requested to submit their Year in Review items to Kelsey Gray, Aubri Denevan, and Adriane Borgias.

### **Updates**

*Administrative & Contracting Entity (ACE)* – Bruce Rawls reminded the Task Force that the next ACE meeting is tomorrow. Steve Faust, Gonzaga University, will be there to discuss business practices of starting and running a non-profit. Bruce reviewed the contents of the ACE agenda for tomorrow. The WA Dept. of Ecology has \$35K to put toward the Technical Advisory contract that will need to be spent between now and the end of the fiscal year. DoE is initiating an interagency agreement with a municipal entity (County) to be run through ACE.

*Green Chemistry* – Adriane Borgias reminded the Task Force about the opportunity for us to participate with the Green Chemistry Institute Conference. She has lined up a number of experts to sit on the pigments and dyes session she will be organizing. Participants include representatives from Washington State, EPA, Rutgers University, University of Iowa, BASF (the largest pigment manufacturer), and a textiles researcher from Scotland who has done PCB-free pigment synthesis.

*Spokane River Forum* – Andy Dunau gave an update on the Spokane River Forum March 26-27, 2013. The registration is going well. This year's theme is finding the intersections between research, policy, and management. The agenda has seen several siloed initiatives come together. Its goal is to stimulate interesting conversations. Dunau mentioned that USGS may not be able to travel to the forum due to sequestration.

*Ruckelshaus Quarterly Report* – Kelsey Gray passed out the two quarterly reports the Ruckelshaus Center submitted to the Washington Department of Ecology. Kelsey Gray noted they are now seven months into their contract. She asked the Task Force to start thinking about their facilitation needs for next year.

**Public Comment**

No comments.

**April 3 Agenda Items**

- Presentation by Limno Tech
- PIO General Public Presentation

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**The next SRRTTF Task Force meeting is April 3, 2013 at the Water Resource Center**

The next Funding and Technical Work Group meetings are TBD.

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**Please note that the March 27<sup>th</sup> SRRTTF meeting will be cancelled and members are encouraged to attend the Spokane River Forum that will be held on March 26<sup>th</sup> and March 27<sup>th</sup>.**  
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