

Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

Facilitated by Kelsey Gray & Aubri Denevan
April 3, 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

Bud Leber* - Kaiser Aluminum

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, Elizabeth Schoedel, Jeff Donovan - City of Spokane

Tom Agnew, Dennis Fuller, Bijay Adams - Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District

**Denotes Voting Member*

Advisors

Jim Bellatty, Adriane Borgias, Dave Knight, Arianne Fernandez, Diana Washington- WA Dept. of Ecology

Public

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

Lena Funston - Gallatin

Lisa Dally Wilson - Dally Environmental

Paul Klatt (on phone) – J-U-B Engineers

Greg Lahti - Washington Dept. of Transportation

Mike Neher, Kit Hoffer - City of Post Falls

Jon Welge – Tetra Tech

Introductions: Get Started & Review Agenda

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

Limno Tech Presentation, Discussion, & Questions

David Dilks gave a presentation to the Task Force on Limno Tech's proposed activities in phases two through four. He announced now is the time to send in comments on phases 2-4. His associate Tim Towey will be tracking down the data sets currently available on the Spokane River.

Tim stated that the initial feedback on who to contact for different data sets will be within a couple of weeks. Then it will take about another month to talk to all of the people on the contact list. Tim will be the primary contact at Limno Tech for the data collection. His email is ttowey@limno.com. They are not

only looking for data sources, but also data categories they may have missed in their initial lists. Adriane has heard of over 200 different processes at EPA.

The Task Force cautioned that if Tim gets data collected from Ecology in or around 2006 then other conditions may have happened since then, some of which may or may affect what's going on in the river right now. There was a suggestion to talk to the individuals giving you data about the conditions that may have influenced on what has happened then and what may have changed. Tim clarified that there will be some time to comment on the data sets once they've been received. Hopefully, that comment period will help identify those factors.

It would be nice to have a draft comprehensive work plan to look at when they are redistributing permits. Bruce suggested an administrative extension to match up the timing. Jim Bellatty talked about the permitting work schedule. According to Diana Washington, the permit issuing cycle takes about a year. They are asking that people get their permit applications in as close to a year out as possible. It takes about 8 months to get that routed and approved internally. This is something for the Task Force to consider moving forward.

Bud Leber is the primary point of contact between LimnoTech and SRRTTF. Any other questions coming into this process needs to run through Bud.

ACTION ITEM: Post the LimnoTech Draft Data Request memo on the website.

ACTION ITEM: the workgroup(s) will start to look at data categories or assign someone to take that on.

Conflict of Interest Notification Process (Decision)

Adriane presented the Task Force with a conflict of interest flow chart outlining the process which addresses how communications regarding any potential conflict of interests with contractors will be addressed by the Task Force in the future.

Steps: 1) Notice will be posted on the website and a 5-business day period is allowed for comment. There is an assumption that a 5 business day notification would be enough time. 2) If someone notifies ACE or SRRTTF of a potential conflict of interest, then the SRRTTF would address the concern. 3) If there is no concern, or the concern is addressed, then a final notice will be posted on the website. Closure would be communicated with a posting on the SRRTTF website.

Task Force Suggestions: If someone raises a concern in the first 5 days, then it needs to come to the Task Force for discussion. If there is a conflict, after the concern, that information should be forwarded to the contractor. Need a box for a response prepared to the folks complaining.

Bruce wanted the first box more defined—who the client would be, what the scope is, and what their involvement would be. If a concern is brought up, that person or organization would need to define their concern. The first and last box should be run through ACE because they are the contract holders. They have an obligation to let ACE know.

There are currently two requests from LimnoTech that need to go through this process: 1) A Water Environment Research Forum volunteer participation, and Department of Fish and Wildlife on the Little Spokane River.

ACTION ITEM: Send Adriane Borgias comments. She will revise the chart and resubmit the final for SRRTTF approval at the April 24 meeting for Task Force Meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Post the current requests for 5 day review.

PIO Committee (Presentation/Discussion)

Lena thanked everyone for their feedback on the first set of slides. She then proceeded to run through the revised version and script as the public would see it.

Comments – Rick has heard people talk about PCBs in cosmetics, but wondered if anyone knew of reports or other information about that topic. Bruce thought the Task Force should do more research to identify the specific products the audience needs to be aware of. A list of products of concern is needed

Bruce suggests Lena voice record this presentation for the media spot online.

ACTION ITEM: Bart will send the Task Force the “Safer Family’s Toxics” list.

ACTION ITEM: Kelsey Gray/Aubri Denevan will post the PowerPoint presentation on the web along with the slide notes

Funding Discussion

Legislative Update – The \$350K line item is expected to be in the budget, but there’s still a lot of budget juggling going on right now so nothing is certain.

Kelsey suggested going over to Olympia to meet with the new Ecology director, and set up a work session with the environmental committees. There was also a suggestion to request an audience with the two caucuses in both houses, presenting to the entire group. This would require requesting an invitation.

Bruce was contacted by Todd Milke, Spokane Regional Chamber of Commerce. Bruce sent them the fact sheet stating that the number one priority is the \$350K. Jim Bellaty looked at the Ecology operating budget. Governor Inslee’s budget is the same amount as Governor’s Gregoire’s budget. He thinks this funding could potentially go directly to the taskforce.

Meeting with new Ecology Director, Maia Bellon – Task Force members had an opportunity for a date to meet with Director Bellon, but it didn’t work with everyone’s schedules. Kelsey Gray can put Bart Mihailovich or Rick Eichstaedt in touch with Melissa Gombosky to help arrange the meeting with the new director and set up workgroup sessions with the environmental committees.

Columbia River Toxics Funding – Bart Mihailovich updated the Task Force on the request for funding support for the Columbia River Toxics. Bart still thinks it’s worthwhile to try to get something like this for the upper part of the river as well.

Updates

Green Chemistry (Decision) – Adriane Borgias reminded the Task Force they agreed to participate in the green chemistry conference in June. The intent of the session was to provide a balanced perspective, which includes someone that had synthetic chemistry experience. Since the BASF speaker who originally volunteered, cancelled out, they found a researcher in Scotland, Dr. Christy, that can attend. Ecology has hired him under a consulting contract to attend, which includes giving a presentation and doing some work for Ecology on the topic. Because of contract limits, they are about \$650 short of getting this chemist to the conference. She asked the group if they would be willing to pay the remaining fee to cover registration costs.

People who are interested in Green Chemistry in general are attending the conference, but Adriane is chairing a specific session on PCBs in pigments. The agenda is very full.

Bruce (as treasurer of ACE), suggested that if the Task Force is going to start funding things like this then they will need to develop a budget. They also need to generate funding for these types of expenses. Adriane has been seriously trying to communicate with the manufacturers with little success. The fact that the pigment manufacturers aren't offering up a speakers says this may be an important effort.

Tom asked if the Task Force would have an opportunity to print a formal invitation to the industry representatives that you can give them directly at this meeting. He strongly feels that the BASF participation is a missing link here. It might be worthwhile that the Task Force write a letter to BASF now to request participation.

Rick suggested that in order to get TSCA change, the Task Force might be better off sending members to the conference to meet with folks there to 'lobby' them.

DECISION: The Task Force approved funding up to \$650 to cover the registration costs for Dr. Christy to attend the Green Chemistry conference in D.C. June 2013.

ACE – ACE is looking into Directors Insurance, non-profit liability, a mailbox, and an accountant to help file taxes. They are working to sort out different mechanisms. Bruce Rawls is the treasurer. He ordered QuickBooks as the tool they will be using to put out a monthly treasurers report. Rick Eichstaedt announced that Steve Faust, small business director at Gonzaga University, could provide ongoing assistance at no cost.

RiverKeeper Letter to EPA & Dept. of Ecology – The letter RiverKeeper wrote, asked for an update on what EPA was doing on TSCA reform. Bart announced he is going to a conference in June for all the Waterkeepers in Georgia.

NACWA wrote a letter to EPA saying they are going to engage in this. They also asked that the SRRTTF participate in the May Conference in Portland. They would like to have someone from the Task Force present at the conference.

ACTION ITEM: The Task Force agreed that this topic be discussed more in the Joint Work Group meeting that afternoon.

Spokane River Forum Results – The PowerPoint presentations will be posted on the Spokane River Forum website by the end of the week. Please fill out the evaluation forms. Adriane commented that the theme was making the connection between industry, government, and the public.

Spokesman Review Request – Last week because of the forum and other discussions the Spokesman Review approached several members of the Task Force. Kim Papitch had some questions about how to talk about the process.

Kelsey Gray asked the group how they would like to handle requests from the press in future.

Bruce was approached by the Spokesman Review. Opportunity was lost because we weren't posed to respond with talking points and a spokesman. Suggests with the PR folks to host a session with the media to convey what the task force is doing. Bruce suggested highlighting what the problem is in the river. What's the problem? Why is it important? What are we going to do with it?

Suggestions:

- Thought about putting out a press release every so often. Bruce suggests that we bring in an environmental reporter (Becky) along with several TF members to have a workshop with her.
- PSA would be very impactful.
- Hosting a community workshop.

At the next meeting Dept. of Ecology will discuss the PCB Chemical Action Plan. The task posted on the Dept. of Ecology's website.

Public Comment

No comments.

April 24 Agenda Items

- Approve the Conflict of Interest Flow Chart

The next SRRTTF Task Force meeting is April 24, 2013 at the Water Resource Center

The next Funding and Technical Work Group meetings are May 1, 2013.
