

# Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force

## DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

Facilitated by Kelsey Gray & Aubri Denevan

May 22, 2013 | 9:00am – 12:30pm

Liberty Lake Sewer & Water District Office

22510 E. Mission Avenue | Liberty Lake, WA 99019

### Attendees

#### *Voting Members and Alternates*

Galen Buterbaugh (on phone)\* - Lake Spokane Association

Bud Leber\* - Kaiser Aluminum

Doug Krapas\*, Inland Empire

Bruce Rawls\*, David Moss - Spokane County

Mike Peterson – Lands Council

Mike LaScuola\*, Sandy Phillips - Spokane Regional Health District

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

Bart Mihailovich (on phone)\*, - Spokane Riverkeeper

Lynn Schmidt\*, Elizabeth Schoedel, Marlene Feist - City of Spokane

Tom Agnew\*, BiJay Adams - Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District

*\*Denotes Voting Member*

#### *Advisors*

Adriane Borgias, Brook Beeler, Ellie Key, Diana Washington (on phone) - WA Dept. of Ecology

Kevin Booth, Bryce Robbert – Avista

Ben Jarvis (on phone) - IDEQ

#### *Public*

Michael Kern (on phone), Cheryl Rajcich (on phone) – Ruckelshaus Center

Jacob McCann, WA Dept. of Natural Resources

Jeff Bell - Gallatin

Lisa Dally Wilson - Dally Environmental

Mike Neher - City of Post Falls

### Introductions: Get Started & Review Agenda

Kelsey welcomed everyone and ran through the meeting agenda. She would like to insert Tom's idea around planning that he would like to discuss with the group.

### Media Package

*SRRTTF PowerPoint Presentation* - Jeff Bell and Adriane Borgias through the presentation. The following changes were made:

- On slide 10, add "Spokane Tribe" to the third circle.

- Add the number of liters in the slide notes on #11. Maybe change that from liters to gallons. Change the cereal box to a non-existent brand.
- Bring copies of the poster on slide 13 to presentations.
- Slide 19 is left open for each presenter to add important information specific to their audience.
- Slide 20 “We don’t know everything now, but we are trying to figure this out.”

It was suggested that the presenter urge the audience to find ways to learn more about products containing PCBs. Bruce suggested coming up with a one page flyer on “what can you do?” to pass out at meetings. Dave McBride mentioned the Dept. of Health is working on a chemical action now which will include relevant information. It will most likely be done by the end of summer.

DECISION – Incorporating the changes made during the meeting, the PowerPoint presentation slides and script were approved.

ACTION ITEM: Prepare two handouts to accompany the presentation: 1) Fish Advisory map and 2) a list of “what you can do”, knowing that it will be changing over time.

ACTION ITEM: Adriane Borgias and Mike LaScuola/Sandy Phillips to identify what resources are already available to answer the “what you can do” question. What are the Best Management Practices that are currently in place/recommended? What will the Chemical Action Plan provide? What are the recommended practices for paint disposal?

*Joint Key Messages* – Brook Beeler walked the Task Force through the joint messages designed to be used for media inquiries and other questions that may arise outside of the task force meetings. She also asked that the group approve adding the contact information for each organization’s representative. Brook will be Ecology’s contact. Bruce brought up a concern with the bullet: “Properly dispose your household waste. Be careful what you put down the drain and only rain down the storm drain.” That information isn’t followed up with fact right now. He feels until we have more specifics, that shouldn’t be included on the list. Mike LaScuola talked about the solid waste issue in Spokane residential neighborhoods. He wants to highlight the fact people can help clean up the streets, gutters and other public land when they see it. Best thing we can do right now is properly dispose of household products and stay tuned for more information about this. Bruce would like to have the handout with the list of things to do. He is afraid that people will hear the issues and think it’s not relevant to their practices and walk away thinking they don’t have to change anything. Mike LaScuola recommended adding a link (or links) to pages that explain “how to recycle (paints, motor oil, etc.).”

Adriane suggested that she and Brook do some research on what Ecology has and what Mike LaScuola has on file. Chemical action plan will also have some information shortly. Doug reminded people that we are just launching the PR campaign and this will be changing/evolving as more information comes in.

ACTION ITEM: Each organization will send in their preferred contact person (designated person to talk about that organization) to Brook Beeler.

ACTION ITEMS: Ecology, solid waste folks will put together a list of ways and links on proper disposal.

DECISION: These messages would be used if anyone was contacted by media, including who should be contacted by voting members.

DECISION: The key messages document was finalized.

*Generic Press Release* –A framework press release template was distributed at the meeting. It will be used for future press releases as needed. Put this on the letterhead when passed. This is the intro or end of the press release.

DECISION: The SRRTTF press release template was approved by the Task Force.

ACTION ITEM: Aubri Denevan to put the boiler plate onto letterhead.

*Editorial Board Meeting* – Discussion on editorial board meeting. Bruce Rawls mentioned that there is an opportunity to meet with Mike Prager at the Spokesman Review. He is interested in doing an article about the Task Force. The timeframe is late May or early June.

ACTION PLAN: Identify 4-5 people to work on this project from Municipalities, County (Bruce), Ecology (Brook), Idaho, IEP (Doug), and/or Environmental (Bart).

ACTION PLAN: Aubri Denevan to do a Doodle Poll to identify a time in the next two weeks to have a meeting with Spokesman Review.

#### **Ruckelshaus Facilitation Contract –**

Michael Kern summarized the current status of the Ruckelshaus Center (RC) contract. The Task Force contracted with RC to do facilitation and coordination services. The contract time is 2 years, the budget for one. The funds for the contract are expected to run through the end of July. The Task Force was asked to consider what they think their needs are for the coming year. The types of services RC thinks the Task Force needs are more coordination/website maintenance and less facilitation. Currently Aubri Denevan is doing the coordination and Kelsey Gray is doing the facilitation work. Kelsey will not be available August through December. Additionally, Kelsey can't be paid using state funds due to her retirement status. RC proposed that Chris Page, another practitioner, pick up the facilitation work. Chris has experience as a project lead and with conflict resolution work. There was a question about whether the contract would be moved to ACE. The options are:

1. Continue the existing contract between RC and Ecology, with additional funds from the Task Force participants;
2. Move the contract to ACE when the funds run out under the existing contract;
3. Do something else with respect to coordination and facilitation.

Task Force members asked to clarifying the availability of Kelsey Gray, the distinction between coordination (the logistical work done between meetings such as preparing notes, meeting summaries, coordinating between Task Force members, and website updates) and facilitation (conflict resolution and neutral third party activities). Aubri Denevan can continue with the coordination, but will need a facilitator to lead the Task Force meetings. Currently Kelsey Gray spends 5-10 hours per week on the project. Aubri Denevan spends 10+ hours per week, which is more than what was scoped (at 4 hours per week). Chris Page is located in Seattle. RC has made an estimate as to what services would look like should they continue the contract. One option would be to retain RC until the Task Force has established and Executive Director position (if this is done). The Task Force requested a proposed scope of work and budget from RC.

ACTION ITEM: Chris Page to attend the next Task Force meeting and make a presentation. The Task Force to schedule an executive session to discuss options.

ACTION ITEM: The Ruckelshaus Center will send out the draft scope and budget before the next Task Force meeting.

### **Limno Tech Update**

Bud gave an update on Limno Tech's progress. He has received invoices from Limno Tech and can use the funding from Ecology to pay for Limno Tech's work beginning in March. The Interagency agreement was signed late March, so they are able to pay from beginning March. Limno Tech's work is ongoing and appears to be on schedule.

ACTION ITEM: Bud Leber/ACE to have a conference call with LimnoTech regarding work plan status. Bud will also inquire about the schedule for the next visit to Spokane by LimnoTech.

ACTION ITEM: Bruce will schedule an ACE meeting in the next two weeks.

### **CEREO Update –**

The Funding Work Group met with several members of Washington State University Center for Environmental Research, Education, and Outreach (CEREO) by phone. Kelsey will be sending out their list of projects to the group tomorrow. Several CEREO researchers are working on an effort focusing on biochar uses that may be a fit with what this group is doing. The CEREO group is available to meet at the end of June, early July. It was requested that the meeting be scheduled with a regular Work Group or Task Force meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Kelsey Gray to distribute the information that she received from CEREO to the Task Force/Work Group.

ACTION ITEM: Kelsey Gray will ask CEREO to attend the July Work Group meetings in person.

ACTION ITEM: The SRRTTF to provide comments to Adriane Borgias on the Funding Work Group Strategy. Comment period was extended to May 29<sup>th</sup>. This will be on the next Work Group agenda.

### **EPA Optional Discussion in WA DC, June 2013 –**

The Task Force approved a meeting with EPA in June regarding the PCB in pigments issue. Also approved was to 1) request the Office of Water to be present at the meeting, and 2) request EPA to enforce the current 50 ppm limit on pigments. The recent enforcement report in Japan indicates that this could be an issue. The Task Force did not discuss whether a letter should be presented to EPA. But two key points were mentioned:

1. That PCBs are being introduced to the environment and present in background levels that could affect the ability to achieve the water quality standards, and
2. Shifting of PCB to other media (i.e. removal from water using treatment technologies, recycling, waste disposal practices) does not solve the issue.

### **Updates**

*Legislative Update* - Legislature is in special session. No action needed right now.

*Delegation Meeting with Maia Bellon* – Doug Krapas met with Maia Bellon a few weeks ago. During his meeting, they discussed the Task Force activity. Maia Bellon expressed an interest in meeting with members of the Task Force either in Spokane or Olympia. Doug suggested sending a delegation to Olympia to meet with her, the Governor’s office, and other key legislators. Tom Agnew suggested that we send over a delegation in the Fall as well.

DECISION: The Task Force approved sending a delegation to Olympia to meet with Maia Bellon, Governor Inslee’s staff, and other key legislators.

ACTION ITEM: Doug Krapas will find a date that works and then circulate the date for interested and available parties to join the delegation. *(Done)*

*National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) conference recap* – Adriane Borgias attended the NACWA workshop and gave the draft form of the presentation. It was well-received, which means the group did a good job of putting together a template that can be used for a variety of audiences.

*Webinar discussion* - Ken Zarker will be having a series of Webinars. The first one has already been scheduled for June 27. The potential topics include: June 27 – Documenting the Problem (Rodenburg); Challenges & Opportunities (Borgias/Figueroa) & Alternatives (Christie) [This one has been scheduled]; July – Commercial Paints (Hu/Hornbuckle); EPA Framework (Gimlin); September - PCB in Products (Ecology testing results); October - International perspective (invite Japan); India Pigment Industry and green chemistry? The Task Force is supportive of the concept and also mentioned that if the webinars were recorded, they could be presented on Cable Channel 5.

ACTION ITEM: Adriane Borgias to request the following from Ken Zarker 1) hold the webinars at a time that the Task Force can attend; 2) record the webinars for posting on the internet and 2) if recorded request permission to show on Cable Channel 5.

*Integrated Planning* - Tom Agnew presented information about EPAs Integrated Planning approach and commented that it seemed like something the Task Force should embrace since we are doing it already. Also, the City of Spokane is doing integrated planning as well so there is a tie in to existing efforts.

ACTION ITEM: Have a presentation by City of Spokane and/or Kevin Fitzpatrick on the topic of Integrated Planning and how might fit with Task Force activities.

*Bios for funding template language* – Mike Peterson still needs biographies from Idaho Dept. of Environmental Quality, Washington Dept. of Transportation, and Washington Dept. of Health for the funding template boilerplate language. Mike will follow up with those organizations after the meeting.

## **Public Comment**

No comments.

## **June 26 Agenda Items**

- Editorial Board Meeting

- TSCA Regulation Reform Campaign (Adriane Borgias to report back from the Washington DC meeting).
- City of Spokane, Toxics Management Plan report
- Presentation on Integrated Planning
- Chris Page from Ruckelshaus Center with scope and budget for future work

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**The next SRRTF Task Force meeting is June 26, 2013 at the Department of Ecology.**

The next Funding and Technical Work Group meetings are July 3, 2013.  
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