

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

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* (on phone), Rick Eichstaedt - Spokane Riverkeeper

Dale Arnold*, Lynn Schmidt, Elizabeth Schoedel, Jeff Donovan - City of Spokane

Tom Agnew* - 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.

Conflict of Interest Flow Chart

Adriane walked the Task Force through the draft flow chart describing the process. ACE will initially receive the notice, post it on the website and send it to the SRRTTF mailing list requesting comments within 5 business days. If a concern is not resolved, ACE will take the notice to the SRRTTF for further review and decision. The Task Force approved the flow chart.

DECISION: The flow chart process was approved by the Task Force.

ACTION ITEM: Adriane Borgias will post the final flow chart process document to the website.

Limno Tech

Confirmation that the TTWG will act as the interface with the Technical Consultants

The Task Force will need to make a decision on how to communicate with LimnoTech. ACE has a contract with LimnoTech, but Bud reminded the Task Force, in the proposal the TTWG was to be the interface between outside work and the Task Force between task force meetings. Bud felt it would be much more efficient if the outside contractors have one point of contact. He proposed the TTWG be the point of contact for the outside contractors. The Task Force agreed.

DECISION: The Task Force approved that for technical work, the TTWG be the point of contact for outside contractors.

LimnoTech Calendar Management & Communication with the Task Force

The Task Force discussed how they would communicate with LimnoTech and track their progress.

DECISION: Any communication needs with LimnoTech will go through Bud Leber.

ACTION ITEM: Adriane Borgias will create a page on the website to document LimnoTech's activities and track their progress.

ACTION ITEM: Adriane Borgias will coordinate with Bud and David Dilks to make sure the information posted on the website is accurate.

Draft Data Request Memo Finalized and Approved

The current draft Data Request Memo is dated April 17, 2013. The table in the back was expanded. If anyone sent comments back to Adriane they were included. Take a look at appendix A. If you do have additional resources, get those to Adriane so she can add them.

DECISION: The Task Force approved the Data Request Memo.

ACTION ITEM: Adriane Borgias will post the finalized Memo on the website.

ACTION ITEM: Send any additional resource to Adriane Borgias.

Review of the Preliminary Scope of Work Phase 2-4

Bruce Rawls explained that this is to give the Task Force an estimate of timing and tasks. At the next meeting the Task Force will need to approve the scope. This is their best guess of what everything will cost in the future. Adriane clarified that when this is accepted, then we are telling David Dilks, LimnoTech has completed phase one. Bruce went on to explain the purpose of this was to start thinking about how much needs to be raised. The title says "preliminary scope of work." Kelsey asked the Task Force if they would you like make the decision on the scope today. The Task Force decide to approved the completion of phase one.

DECISION: The Task Force approved LimnoTech completion their phase one work.

Sampling & Data Collection

Kelsey proposed that this item go to the TTWG for them to discuss the sampling and data collection.

David Dilks suggested that this may go to some "local talent." Bruce cautioned that it's not known yet

what the sampling plan will look like. He suggested the TTWG work on this. Not sure what needs to be sampled yet, that will help determine who the 'local talent' would be.

ACTION ITEM: The TTWG will discuss sampling and data collection at their next meeting.

CEREO

Kelsey Gray contacted the Director of the WSU Center for Environmental Research, Education & Outreach (CEREO). There are approximately 200+ researchers connected with the center. Right now, CEREO hasn't been able to identify researchers that work with/on projects involving PCBs. Kelsey has made an arrangement for the TTWG to talk with them at their next meeting, May 1. At that meeting, they can ask questions about the needs, complexities, etc. Once they know more about the efforts of the Task Force, they may be able to help connect other researchers, and possibly grants.

PIO Presentation

The Task Force reviewed the PIO PowerPoint draft. Adriane suggested bringing this to the funding work group to work with the PIOs on finalizing the slides.

Doug suggested at some point the Task Force develop a clear message(s) that can be utilized. Just looking at the agenda, there are several upcoming meetings, events, etc. that this would be helpful to have as a presentation. Brooke Beeler drafted a list of joint messages at the last meeting that can be used if the press calls. The Funding Work Group will look at the messages Brooke created, and bring them to the May meeting for Task Force approval.

The workshop May 15-17, Portland, OR is coming up and will need to have something for then. Bruce wasn't sure that this would be the right presentation for NACWAs (or high level congressional delegation). This to him is a general population presentation.

DECISION: The Task Force will allow unbiased modifications to the PIO PowerPoint presentation based on audience needs.

DECISION: Approved allowing members of the Task Force to speak for the Task Force when using the presentation.

DECISION: Approved the talking points to go along with the presentation.

ACTION ITEM: The Funding Work Group will review the joint key messages at their next meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Adriane will circulate her presentation for the May NACWA meeting as an FYI to the group.

PCBs Chemical Action Plan Presentation (Holly Davies)

Holly Davies, Department of Ecology, gave a presentation to the Task Force titled, "PBT Initiative and PCBs." Holly thought it would be helpful for one representative from the Task Force to sit on their advisory board. An official request will come further down the line (mid-summer).

Task Force Questions:

A lot of these issues and aspects are state related, but some are coming in from out of state. Do you have people working on this outside of WA? Yes, they are talking to EPA. EPA is not doing anything currently with pigments. EPA is another organization on the advisory board.

Can you talk about how the PCBs came to be the next chemical action plan? There was a large amount of interest from Ecology to push up PCBs because it was the right time, and it coincided with the human health aspect.

ACTION ITEM: Anyone can email Holly with questions and information.

ACTION ITEM: Holly Davies will send Adriane Borgias targeted lists to share with the Task Force for comments.

ACTION ITEM: Adriane Borgias will post the presentation on the website.

Spokane County Annual Toxics Management Plan

Rob Lindsay introduced Mike Milne, consulting team lead by Brown & Caldwell. Milne gave a presentation on the Spokane County Wastewater Toxics Monitoring – Year One. On April 15, Spokane County submitted their action plan. This is their first year of the monitoring program.

ACTION ITEM: Adriane Borgias will post the presentation on the website.

Discussion on Ecology Review Process

All toxic management plans have been received. Diana Washington is putting the review process together and will provide a check list for the next round of reports. Will the reports be posted online? Until they are reviewed and approved, they are considered draft. But once they're finalized Ecology will post a summary report.

Updates

Legislative update

Doug reported that the funding request is in the house and senate budgets for \$350,000. The House language allows for more flexibility. The negotiators are meeting to agree on the final language. Once it passes both houses, the governor to sign the budget.

Doug passed out a letter he draft to the legislature in support of the \$350K request. He proposed that the letter bet approved by the Task Force without going through the five day post requirement. He would like to get that approved today. The language was pulled from the fact sheets, and other materials approved by the task force.

The Lands Council agreed to sign on to this letter. There was concern that some of the agencies on the Task Force might not be able to have their name listed because it was boarding on lobbying.

Two options where on the table:

1. Post it and schedule a quorum call in five days to approve it.
2. Or, use this as a template and each agency submit it and include their own stories.

Doug would like to have this approved on the TF letterhead, and would like to also suggest that organizations also send a similar letter to legislators as well. Adriane clarified that organizations must write this as their own (on their own behalf) but not as the Task Force.

The Task Force decided on the quorum call option. Ruckelshaus will send out a meeting announcement. If there are any comments, please send them to Kelsey.

DECISION: The Task Force decided to schedule a quorum call on May 1 at 10:15 a.m. to approve the funding support letter.

ACTION ITEM: Kelsey Gray will send out and post the May 1 meeting announcement.

Delegation Meeting with Maia Bellon

There may be a chance to meet with Maia Bellon, Director of the Dept. of Ecology, on May 7th, Adriane will know more soon.

Another upcoming meeting to note is with the WA Ecology Water Quality Program management team (10-12 people) on May 21 in Spokane. There will be an opportunity to meet with them from 10am-11am. Adriane Borgias is looking for 2-3 Task Force members to attend. Kelsey will look for volunteers.

ACTION ITEM: Kelsey Gray will look for volunteers to meeting with the Ecology Water Quality Program Management Team on May 21.

Green Chemistry

Nothing new to report now.

PCB Workshop?

There are a number of topics that would be worth hosting another PCB workshop potentially in August. This will be up for discussion at the workgroup meeting next week. Any comments to take to the work group would be helpful. No comments.

Press Release

Bruce Rawls would like produce a press release on the budget approval (if it happens). Diana suggested that the Task Force create a press release that they are pursuing funding from the state. And then a follow up if they did get one confirm, if not lay out the reasons why not. Doug will check with his lobbyist if this would be helpful or hurtful.

Next meeting agenda items

- TSCA Reform Campaign
- Media Workshop
- Decision on PIO presentation
- Decision Common messages
- Sampling & Staffing