Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

Facilitated by Chris Page & Aubri Denevan
March 26, 2014 | 9:00am – 12:30pm
Spokane County Water Resource Center
1004 N. Freya Street | Spokane, WA 99202

Attendees

Voting Members and Alternates

Tom Agnew*, BiJay Adams – Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District
Galen Buterbaugh* – Lake Spokane Association
Bud Leber* – Kaiser Aluminum
Doug Krapas* – Inland Empire
Rick Eichstaedt (*on phone*)* – Spokane RiverKeeper
David Moss*, Rob Lindsay – Spokane County
Sandy Phillips* – Spokane Regional Health District
Dale Arnold*, Lynn Schmidt, Elizabeth Schoedel, Jeff Donovan – City of Spokane
**Denotes Voting Member*

Advisors

Adriane Borgias, Jim Bellatty, Ted Hamlin, Diana Washington, Holly Davies, Alex Stone, Ellie Key – WA Dept. of Ecology
Bryce Robberts – Avista

Public

Lisa Dally Wilson – Dally Environmental
Dennis Fuller – Century West Engineering
Don Keil, Kris Holm (*on phone*) – City of Coeur d'Alene
Greg Moller – University of Idaho & Washington State University
Jon Welge, Shannon Brattebo – TetraTech
Ken Windram – Hayden Area Sewer & Water

Introductions: Get Started & Review Agenda

Facilitator Chris Page (Ruckelshaus Center) welcomed everyone to the meeting. No changes were made to the agenda.

"Measurable Progress" Update

Adriane Borgias lead a discussion on Measurable Progress. The Task Force PCB work effort will take several permit cycles. Each permit cycle will give this group an opportunity to review and revisit progress. Ecology developed this document by talking with stakeholders, interested parties, etc. Based on those discussion, Ecology came to several conclusions. Three fundamental questions:

- Is the Task Force still working together in a collaborative manner?
- Is the Task Force still moving forward on activities that will lead to:
    - Reduction of toxics in the river
    - Development of Best Management Practices
    - A plan for achieving water quality standards
- Is there environmental evidence that progress is being made toward achieving water quality standards?

Ecology determines measurable progress and has no authority over Idaho participation or how that works with the Idaho participants. It is important that EPA explains their position on this. There is an opportunity to send legal questions.

Comments:

- Make sure facilities get credit for reductions.
- Measurable progress accounting needs to include qualitative as well as quantitative factors.
- Request that Ecology respond to comments individually.

Schedule: Accepting comments through April. Final decision in May.

ACTION ITEM: Adriane Borgias/Aubri Denevan will send out an email announcement asking for comments.
ACTION ITEM: Provide input to Adriane Borgias by the end of April
ACTION ITEM: Adriane Borgias/Ecology will respond to each comment in a document to be shared with the group.

EPA Update

Recently-passed WA legislation: A bill sponsored by Senators Billig and Erickson passed the WA legislature and requires the Department of Enterprise Services to identify and purchase as close to PCB-free products as possible. This was partly a result of the Task Force's effort. The manufacturer would be asked to provide information about PCB content in their products.

City of Spokane is looking at a similar effort (sponsored by Councilman Snyder).

ACTION ITEM: Adriane Borgias/Aubri Denevan will send out a reminder email asking each organization to write a thank you to each of the legislators that supported this bill. (COMPLETE)

"Put a Pin on the Map" Session

The Task Force participated in an activity to put dots on a map of the Spokane signifying areas of potentially high PCBs: blue dots represented fish advisory areas, green for areas with clean ups or Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) work, and red are areas where they've found PCBs. As a visual exercise, Adriane asked everyone to mark areas not already marked.

New areas pinned include:

- Military installations
- Landfills
- Lumberyards Post Falls
- Burlington Northern
- Havana and Atlas Milling
- Review LimnoTech database

ACTION ITEM: Review GIS application
ACTION ITEM: Adriane Borgias to complete and finalize map
ACTION ITEM: Adriane will follow up with folks on areas dotted on the map.
ACTION ITEM: Send any additional spots or comments to Adriane.

PCB Product Testing by Dept. of Ecology

Holly Davies and Alex Stone from Ecology gave a presentation on the PCB product testing done by Ecology. They tested 74 individual products and are creating a database for product testing, which will go live this summer. Alex Stone is interested in consumer products that go down the drain: toothpaste, fats, oils, greases, toilet paper.

ACTION ITEM: Send Alex Stone (alex.stone@ecy.wa.gov) any other products that might be sources for future testing.

TTWG Report & Technical Topics

Project Manager for Sampling? Who should be project manager for sampling effort? Discussion about needs and options for managing as we move forward. How have other groups similar to the Task Force handled this? It was pointed out that other groups have federal funding while the Task Force does not. Phase 2 would include all the QA/QC and training and oversight of the sampling team. Would LimnoTech be the logical choice for them to have oversight of the monitoring?

Right now there are two more immediate needs:

- Facilitator
- Project Manager: This is an immediate need. ACE to make recommendation. Need to prepare for next year and the long term management.

ACTION ITEM: Bud Leber to ask LimnoTech about this and will bring back to Task force to discuss. Also to consider opportunity for others such as Bob Heinz, Bruce Rawls.

Overall the Task Force could use Facilitation, Project Management, Grants-Funding Lobbying, PR/Education, and Legislative help.

ACTION ITEM: ACE develop concepts for management (now and future).
ACTION ITEM: Ask LimnoTech to consider and write a proposal with costs to fill the management role. If they are not interested, or cost is too high open it up to the public.

RFQQ for Lab Services: Due date March 21, sending out to labs a week later, middle of week of March 31. Will need to contract with a second lab (to analyze for Total Suspended Solids, Total Dissolved Solids, Total Organic Carbon, and Total Dissolved Carbon by EPA standard methods) separately. Expect to have responses April 18th.

RFP Sampling Update – Bud and Rob Lindsay went through the comments from the last meeting. The proposal will rely heavily on the QAPP/SAP language so there's not a lot of detail in the RFP. Will get a draft document out April 16, provide for a week of review, discussion on the April 23 TF meeting.

Update on Draft QAPP and SAP - The TTWG also worked through the QAPP and SAP at their last two meetings in March. The group decided to put together a small ad hoc work group (to address comments and questions raised to date on the QAPP/SAP) in preparation for the April 23 meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Post updated SAP and QAPP on web and ask for comments by April 9th (complete)
ACTION ITEM: Focus workgroup (Don Brown, Bud Leber, Dale Norton, Cathy Whiting, Arianne Fernandez, and Adriane Borgias) to meet on April 9th to finish (complete)

Timeline – The timeline will be revised shortly.

Updates & Announcements

Facilitation Services after July 31, 2014: Chris Page reported that Ruckelshaus contract is through July 31.

- Task Force is functioning well
- Been challenged to manage work load and project scope creep
- Presented ideas to do this:
    - Use WSU intern for note taking tasks and logistics
    - Technical Project Manager could be other than Ruckelshaus
- Question about academic source. This would possibly be a new hire by ACE. And could be difficult given faculty time restraints.
- Is there a full-time position that state funding could cover (between the two states?)
- Ruckelshaus goal is to help the Task Force move forward with the river clean up and engage diverse interests/public interests.

ACTION ITEM: Ruckelshaus to provide proposal for services for next year.
ACTION ITEM: Ruckelshaus will put together a scope proposal for the next meeting (contract through ACE).

Funding Work Group Update: The group discussed the process: receive, classify grants and decide on how to pursue them. Some could support relevant university studies. We would benefit by having more

publicity about what we are doing – an outreach opportunity. Also we should use opportunities from Ecology, such as assistance with sampling, studies, etc.

Outreach Calendar: Greater Spokane Incorporated (GSI), Gonzaga Conference, WSU Student Challenge "Saving the Spokane":
Greater Spokane Incorporated (GSI) – Doug Krapas and others spoke in front of GSI and other groups. They talked about what the task force was, what it meant to them, and had a group discussion. It was well received. In the future they could be supportive with cleanup plans.

WSU Student Challenge – Opportunity for Task Force members to serve as judges of student projects will be on April 18. Dave Moss meet with the coordinator last week and described it as an interesting effort. Some teams were more advanced with their thinking. The coordinator is taking Dave's suggestion of addressing "What's the issue?" and how to get that message out. The presentation will happen in Pullman on April 18. This is the first year they are doing the interdisciplinary challenge.

Gonzaga Conference – Adriane Borgias was asked by a group in Gonzaga to speak on a panel at their conference. Adriane will send that out to the group and include the date.

ACTION ITEM: Greater Spokane Incorporated: Try to be on GSI's annual meeting and agenda of community issues (January)
ACTION ITEM: Adriane Borgias to send out information about upcoming student seminar at Gonzaga (COMPLETE)

Public Comment

Jim Bellatty announced that Maia Bellon, Director of Washington Department of Ecology, gave Adriane Borgias a director's award for her work on the Task Force.

The next SRRTTF Task Force meeting is April 23, 2014 at Liberty Lake
The next Tech Track Work Group meeting is April 2, 2014 from 10am – 12pm,
and Funding Work Group to convene by phone or in-person as needed

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