

SRRTTF Technical Track Work Group (TTWG)

DRAFT Meeting Notes

July 2, 2014 | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 pm

Department of Ecology

4601 North Monroe Street | Spokane, WA 99205-1295

Attendees:

John Beacham – City of Post Falls

Adriane Borgias – WA Department of Ecology

Galen Buterbaugh – Lake Spokane Association

Aubri Denevan – Ruckelshaus Center (*video conference*)

Dave Dilks – LimnoTech (*on phone*)

Jeff Donovan – City of Spokane

Ryan Ekre – Inland Empire Paper

Ted Hamlin – Urban Waters

Don Keil – City of Coeur d'Alene (*on phone*)

Bud Leber – Kaiser Aluminum

Rob Lindsay – Spokane County

Dave Moss – Spokane County

Dale Norton – WA Department of Ecology

Chris Page – Ruckelshaus Center (*video conference*)

Sandy Phillips – Spokane Regional Health District

Lynn Schmidt – City of Spokane

Cathy Whiting – LimnoTech (*on phone*)

Kara Whitman – Ruckelshaus Center (*on phone*)

Introductions and Agenda Review

Chris Page welcomed everyone to the meeting and went over the agenda. No changes were made to the agenda.

ACE update

ACE met on June 30, 2014 and will meet again on Monday July 7, 2014. The scope of work documents are ready to go to LimnoTech now. The scope of work includes a funding to update the SAP and QAPP (note: ACE will need to make sure that there is enough money to cover the revised QAPP/SAP and confidence limit testing), Gravity High Volume Sampling (HVS) confidence testing (Note: Gravity specifications was updated and sent to Gravity for Review), sampling event preplanning, and sampling site access agreement determination.

Bud Leber updated the group on the sampling specifications that were sent to Gravity. ACE has not heard back from Gravity yet. They also added access agreements as needed.

Comments on the Gravity Specification:

- The Task Force would like to try the Gravity sampler.
- There was a suggestion that Gravity fill in the off days of the schedule with sampling at the outlet of Coeur d'Alene Lake and Ninemile. This data would be used to inform the results about seasonal events. (See item 2.6 in the SRRTTF – ACE "specification No. 2, Revision 1, June 30th, 2014)
- Gravity needs to connect with AXYS to discuss analytical work.
- There is a need to discuss sampling with Ecology and The Environmental Assessment Program (EAP) on how to coordinate efforts. EAP is flexible; however more information is needed in order to coordinate.

Question: Dale Norton asked if they needed help with the synoptic surveying. Answer: Bud Leber explained that he wants to connect Dale with Gravity soon to help with the synoptic sampling. They are shooting for about a month from now with the latest date of August 18 or 19, before Avista releases water. He had originally scoped out a team of people to come out that week and do the in stream sampling. Nothing has really been decided yet because it was up in the air as to what was needed.

Chris Page reported on the Gravity reference checks. References stated that Gravity could find ultra low trace PCBs by refining the results with SGS labs in North Carolina. Chris suggested that this group consider the relationship between the sampling contracts and the labs moving forward. Gravity had mentioned some concerns about AXYS in the interview, but no specifics mentioned about what this meant. If there are concerns, then the specifics should be provided so they can be addressed. Adaptive management is part of the path forward with this project and this type of work needs to be addressed in the QAPP and SAP.

Ruckelshaus Contract

Ruckelshaus contract terms and conditions was reviewed and approved by the ACE Board. They are now waiting for the final version back from Ruckelshaus Center for final approval.

AXYS Contract

Cynthia Tomy at AXYS said that they will be adding in some samples from the low level sampling. Once Gravity is on board, Bud Leber will connect with them to discuss the additional samples. They will add some samples for the HVS Confidence testing during the synoptic event into the AXYS contract. Lab #2 will be decided after conversation with Gravity regarding selection.

ACE notified the other contractors who presented at the June 18th, 2014 Task Force meeting (GeoEngineers and HDR) about the contract status for the sampling.

ACTION ITEM: Bud Leber to join the call between Gravity and AXYS to help with any issues that come up. (COMPLETE)

Financial Report

ACE has enough cash reserves to cover cash flow until an invoice is received by Ecology and processed. They are reviewing business licenses and by-laws in anticipation of 501(c) (3) application filing.

CLAM Sampling Work Group

Adriane Borgias typed up notes and posted them on July 2, 2014. The CLAM focus group discussed concerns about CLAM sampling and volume measurement. Other concerns that came out of the meeting were concerns over the grab samples because the confidence sampling wasn't low enough. Action items were also reviewed at the meeting. Arianne Fernandez will host a conference call with the lab to see what is going on there and to set up an experiment to test the difference between the grab and CLAM samples.

Brandee Era-Miller (WA Department of Ecology) posted the work they've done with CLAM and grab sampling on the Task Force website. They also provided a picture of a device to measure flow rate. One issue they have had with the CLAM is that the filter disk tends to get clogged up.

David Dilks reviewed the Confidence interval testing which predicts that PCBs will be more evident during times of lower river flow. Dave is writing up the confidence testing results and will have them available for review June 3, 2014. LimnoTech is expecting the signal to rise above the noise; however they will not be able to get a good mass spec between sites. They will still be able to do this but it will be more on a qualitative rather than quantitative analysis.

Question: Dale Norton asked if they are seeing any differences between Coeur d'Alene and downstream. It was interesting that the trip blanks registered higher than the site blanks. Answer: Dave explained that there are a couple PowerPoints on the web summarizing this. They will modify the objectives because of the confidence testing issues and the QAPP and SAP need to be revised. Also, Cathy Whiting will add to the language for lab number 2.

Question: Cathy asked the group if they wanted to revise one part of the QAPP/SAP now and the second part later. Or, do they at the same time? Answer: This will be added to the July Task Force Meeting.

Questions for TTWG feedback: Martha Maggi (with Ecology's EAP) GW project

The Ground Water (GW) project was proposed to the Environmental Assessment Program (EAP) last fall. Martha Maggi discussed the potential for doing some ground water testing next year. Martha wants the Task Force to make sure they are ready to go in order to get a handle on the data gaps.

Other potential areas to collect data would be springs. Spokane County regularly monitors several springs. There is significant depths of those springs. These would be excellent testing sites for loading. Spokane County has also adopted USGS model. They do have capacity to look at geographic modeling.

Spokane County will be happy to respond to some of these questions and send them back to Adriane.

Bud Leber commented that it might be worth it to expand the search criteria after sampling results come in if there is an area of the river that appears to be a "hot spot." This may require looking further than ½ mile. The group discussed how this would fit into the proposed schedule for the project. Sampling occurs in August, results are expected back by late November, and expecting to have a technical workshop in January or February of 2015.

This change would only impact item 2 of the sampling timeline (Perform Well Log review), which may be the bulk of the work. Having an inventory of what is available and the impact on gaining reaches is important. It would be good to line up a "database" so that it can be used to dig deeper once the sampling results are in.

The group discussed the synoptic sampling schedule. The timeline possibly could be pushed back with respect to Item 2, so that the Task Force can take advantage of the results of the field sampling. However, those results may not be available in time, in which case a phased approach may be better. For example, Tasks 1, 3, and 4 can be done independently of sampling schedule.

Other comments and discussion:

- Data mining is a good activity as there is a lot of data available.

- Some pieces of data are not available with respect to river data.
- Water purveyors do contaminant site inventories as part of the wellhead protection program. (Rob Lindsay is contact for this information)
- Springs are areas for collecting data in the gaining reaches. There are three springs that are regularly sampled (including Griffith and Waikiki) and this would be preferable to sampling wells. The springs are not tested for PCBs. These should be included on the inventory of places that could be sampled to obtain ground water information. (Rob Lindsay is contact on this)
- There is a USGS model that helps to “particle track”, and determines where influence from the Spokane River can be expected. This helps with predictive information and would be good if there is a site that has to potential to contribute PCBs. Mike Hermanson is familiar with this. (Rob Lindsay is the contact for more information).
- Discussion about project report vs. technical report. This is up to EAP. Since the outcome will be information that informs next years’ decisions, EAP determined that they will prepare a QAPP for this project. The important aspect is that information from this project is received in time to inform the next phase of the technical work.
- With respect to data mining: analytical data that uses the older methods of analysis for PCB (i.e., anything other than 1668) are probably not as useful since the concentrations are expected to be below the detection limit.
- The TTWG would like to focus this on an internal report.

Chris recommended that this group send suggestions to Martha Maggi through Adriane. Suggestions of where she should look. Rob would like to call her direct. Her email is in the directory as well.

The group discussed the QAPP and SAP revisions timeline. The draft Confidence Interval testing Memo is to be provided by LimnoTech Thursday July 3. The Data Quality Objectives will be modified to eliminate the mass balance objectives. It is predicted that at 30 pg/L difference in stations is observable. “Significance” in the Data Quality Objectives is defined as 30 pg/L. Also, the Adaptive Management concept will be included, and an acknowledgement that the Task Force is at the limit of being able to quantify PCB in the water because of the low concentrations.

ACTION ITEM: TTWG to send feedback to Martha Maggi, Ecology EAP, directly or via Adriane Borgias. Dale Norton will also communicate the discussion to Martha. (COMPLETE)

ACTION ITEM: LimnoTech to prepare draft Confidence Interval memo by July 3, 2014; TTWG to review by July 11 (include Dale Norton on distribution list), LimnoTech to prepare copy for SRRTTF review (posting on July 16). (COMPLETE)

ACTION ITEM: LimnoTech to amend body of QAPP and SAP to cover quality objectives revision and also prepare addendums for CLAM and HVS work by July 11, 2014. (COMPLETE)

ACTION ITEM: Adriane Borgias to proceed with agency/signatory review once final QAPP and SAP received. (COMPLETE)

Announcements

Ecology is offering an Alternatives Assessment workshop July 9, 2015. There are a limited number of seats available. Ecology would like to know if there are any Task Force members interested in the

workshop. Lynn Schmidt, Rob Lindsay, and John Beacham expressed an interest in attending and/or sending someone.

ACTION ITEM: Adriane Borgias to send out notice about Alternatives Assessment workshop, check to see if videoconference is available, and if guidance is available. (COMPLETE)

Upcoming Meetings:

- The next full Task Force meeting is July 23, 2014 at the Spokane County Water Resource Center | 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- The next Tech Track Work Group meeting is August 6, 2014 | 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. *(Note this meeting was canceled after these notes were prepared)*