

Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force
DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

Facilitated by Chris Page and Kara Whitman
October 22, 2014 | 9:00am – 12:30pm
Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District Office
22510 E. Mission Ave | Liberty Lake, WA

Attendees:

Voting Members and Alternatives (Denotes Voting Member)*

Tom Agnew*, BiJay Adams – Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District
Dale Arnold*, Marlene Feist, Ashley Marshall, Lynn Schmidt – City of Spokane
Galen Buterbaugh* (on phone) – Lake Spokane Association
Rick Eichstaedt – Riverkeeper
Ryan Ekre, Eric Williams – Inland Empire Paper
Mike Petersen* – The Lands Council
Sandy Phillips, Kim Papich (on phone) – Spokane Regional Health District
Bud Leber* – Kaiser Aluminum
Dave Moss*, Rob Lindsay, Toni Taylor – Spokane County

Advisors

Adriane Borgias, Diana Washington (on phone) – WA Dept. of Ecology
Brian Nickel (on phone) – US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Dan Redline – Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ)
Kevin Booth – Avista

Public

John Beacham – City of Post Falls
Lisa Dally Wilson – Dally Environmental
Dave Dilks (on phone) – LimnoTech
Don Keil, Kris Holm (on phone) – City of Coeur d'Alene
Paul Klatt (on phone) – JUB Engineering
Ken Windram (on phone) – Hayden Area Regional Sewer Board

Introductions, Agenda Review, Approval of Meeting Summary

Chris Page went over the agenda and discussed changes to the agenda. The “Pursuit of Extended Water Quality Grant for the Region” agenda item has been postponed till the next meeting. No other changes were made to the agenda.

There was discussion over the protocol for reviewing and finalizing meeting summaries. Henceforth, the meeting notes will be made available a week before each monthly meeting for review; the Task Force can request any changes before agreeing to consider them final at the meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Kara will make a few minor corrections to the meeting summary for the SRRTTF meeting held on September 24, 2014 and post to the SRRTTF website. (COMPLETED)

DECISION: The Task Force would like meeting summaries available for reviewing one week prior to the next Task Force meeting each month.

TTWG Report and Technical Topics:

Update on Lab Analysis

Bud Leber and Dave Dilks gave an update on the lab analysis from the synoptic sampling that occurred August 12th to August 25th 2014. Dave summarized preliminary findings of PCB concentrations appearing in the samples. For example the CDA lake samples showed 30 to 40 picograms per liter (pg/L), as the samples move downstream they get up to 200 pg/L. Dave will give a more in-depth update at the November 17th Task Force meeting.

Paul Klatt asked if the results are as expected during low flow versus high flow and if the data is potentially showing a pattern related to regional human influences. Dave explained that the early results of the low flow sampling are showing that concentrations increase as you move downstream, and that the increase is at a higher rate than would be seen during a high flow sampling. This is what had been expected, however conclusions cannot be drawn until all the data is in.

ACTION ITEM: Bud Leber will call in to Cynthia Tomey at AXYS to check the status of the lab results. . (All but one set of data has been provided to LimnoTech. Expect last set transmitted by 11/12/14)

Workshop Planning:

Chris Page discussed the draft workshop agenda, workshop overview and workshop session overviews for the Toxics Workshop to be held in January of 2015.

DECISION: After some discussion the Task Force agreed that there was no preference on the date and will leave this decision up to the Technical Track Work Group.

ACTION ITEM: The Technical Track Work Group will do another round of outreach to potential workshop invited speakers and then choose the dates based on their availability. (COMPLETED)

DECISION: The Technical Track Work Group will proceed with plans to hold the workshop at Center Place and include the cost in the budget.

Bud Leber gave an overview of the workshop purpose, then discussed the four sessions:

- Analytical Session: quality and meaning of laboratory data
- Sampling Session: synoptic sampling event of August 2014 lessons learned
- Statistical Results and Mass Balance: statistical analysis of the results from the August 2014 sampling
- Where Do We Go From Here: feedback from experts on data and results thus far, and next steps for the SRRTTF

Bud also discussed who could be invited for each session. These invitees could include, but were not limited to the following:

Introduction/MC: Tom Eaton (EPA)

Analytical Session: Richard Grace (AXYS) ; Dave Dilks (LimnoTech); Joel Bird (Ecology); Adrian Hanley (EPA HQ); Shawn Hinz (Gravity); Dale Norton (EAP); Rep from Manchester?

Sampling Session: Shawn Hinz (Gravity), Dave Dilks (LimnoTech), CI Agent (built the CLAM), PUF, XAD2Resin, Dale Norton (EAP)

Mass Balance and Statistical Session: Rachael McCrae (Ecology), Dale Norton (EAP), Lisa Rodenburg (Rutgers)

Where to from Here Session: Shawn Hinz (Gravity); Lisa Rodenburg (Rutgers); Greg Cavallo (DRBC); Lester McKee (SFEI)

The Task Force discussed other potential invitees/speakers. Adriane Borgias suggested inviting members of the Center for Environmental Research, Education, and Outreach (CEREO). Lisa Dally Wilson suggested inviting a representative from Duwamish. They have been dealing with PCBs for the last 10 years (mostly in sediments). They are now working on water column factors. Joel Baker and Beth Schmoyer were suggested. Other potential invitees: EPA HQ (expertise on approval of test methods), Tribal regulatory and/or technical experts on PCBs, Joel Baker (University of Washington)

Bud Leber and Adriane Borgias clarified that these experts will be invited to listen to the information and then provide feedback based on what they have heard.

Question: Could EPA provide some expertise on approval of test methods?

Answer: Brian Nickel explained that he has not heard much about test method approval. There is potentially another method in the works to replace 1668 as EPA's preferred method. This method would not be as sensitive as 1668, however it is less expensive. This method may not be appropriate for the Task Force because it is less sensitive and may not work for the low levels of PCBs.

Adriane Borgias asked if someone from EPA's Office of Research and Development could answer these questions about blank correction methods and variability between laboratories. Answer: Brian Nickel will try to find a contact and provide to the Task Force. (COMPLETE)

Bud Leber discussed budget for the workshop. The estimated cost of the workshop is \$4,000 to 5,000 based on previous workshops and the cost of the venue. The Task Force discussed agreeing on a range for the budget to provide flexibility.

The Task Force also discussed technology that could be used at the workshop to include attendees that cannot be there in person. Some options are: Webinar (ecology); Adobe connect (EPA) EPA can hold meetings with up to 50 people without any additional cost.

ACTION ITEM: The Technical Track Work Group will move forward with contacting invitees to the workshop.

ACTION ITEM: Chris Page will invite members of CEREO to the Workshop by sending an email to Stephanie Hampton, the director of CEREO. (COMPLETE)

ACTION ITEM: Adriane Borgias will reach out to tribal interests; inquire about potential experts to attend the workshop. (National tribal water council (Rick Eichstaedt has contact info). (COMPLETE)

ACTION ITEM: Kara Whitman will contact Center Place to inquire about technological possibilities including sound system, microphones, and laptop connection. (COMPLETE)

DECISION: The Task Force approved a budget up to \$10,000 for the workshop.

EPA Briefing on Ramifications of Idaho permits for SRRTF

Brian Nickel discussed the ramifications for the Task Force of the finalization of the Idaho permits. The Idaho Permittees are required to participate in the Task Force. EPA did not include Measureable Progress (MP) in the permits, because the permits require monitoring. If this is followed it will lead to reductions. MP is not defined in the permits and has been left to the Task Force to address.

The Task Force discussed how to integrate data from the Idaho permittees into the data collected by the Task Force. The Idaho permittees will need to create a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and this could address data compatibility with the Task Force data while also meeting Quality Assurance (QA) requirements. Permittees could do the sampling so that it meets the requirements of the QA as well as the taskforce needs.

Idaho data integration will be an item of discussion during the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) revisions and Idaho permittees joining the Task Force.

PCB-Related Cleanup at Trentwood

Bud Leber (Kaiser Aluminum) gave a presentation on the PCB related cleanup at Trentwood. Highlights from the presentation:

- In 2005 Kaiser and Ecology formalized the on-going investigations and independent actions by signing an Agreed Order. The West Discharge Ravine was identified as one of the areas for further investigation
- 2006 remedial investigation of shallow soil samples found a wide range of results. When the plant was built they tied the stormwater and sewer into the ravine. In 1974 the ditch was abandoned.
- 2007 Interim Action: removed and disposed of the PCB containing soils in the ravine. This was done in 2 foot lifts until field screening test kit indicated that cleanup target had been reached. Excavations stopped based on field screening results of excavation slope stability. Confirmation samples were then collected. Cleanup target was 1ppm (residential). Excavation was then backfilled with certified clean fill.
- Removed 2500 cubic yards which constituted an estimated 250 lbs of PCB removed.
- 2011 investigation: collection of groundwater elevation data
 - Pressure transducers were installed and groundwater data tracked for 2 years. Took data points every 10 seconds. When river elevation came up, there was instantaneous response to groundwater elevation. Based on the results of the groundwater elevation mapping, 2 monitoring wells and 3 soil borings were installed which helped to identify an area that needed further work on PCB removal.
- 2014 Interim Action: Capped the upper-lower ravine and excavated lower-lower ravine. Upper-lower ravine capped with 60 mil HDPE and GCL. Lower-lower ravine backfilled with clean off-site fill. Re-vegetation will occur in November 2014. Ravine work cost approximately \$300,000. Used slide rail trenching to prevent collapse of the sidewalls of the excavation area. Groundwater monitoring in the area will continue as specified in site Sampling and Analysis Plan. The contaminated soil went to Arlington.

The Task Force discussed how this information could be integrated into the Task Force sampling and calculation of groundwater contributions. This integration could help solve the mass balance questions and help to get a better handle on the groundwater contribution; particularly at the Barker Road and Plantes Ferry sampling sites.

MOA Revisions – Decision: identify work group constituencies

The Task Force is in the process of updating its Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). Chris Page discussed forming a work group to make the revisions. Updating the MOA and revision of MOA language will occur concurrently because they are linked activities.

The Task Force discussed how to convene the work group, including appointing members to the work group, incorporating comments from new potential signatories, and inviting new signatories.

The process by which the MOA will be revised was discussed by the Task Force and is as follows:

- Initial comment period: all comments and suggested changes to the “Track Changes” version of the MOA that is posted below, to be sent to Chris Page of the Ruckelshaus Center (c.page@wsu.edu) no later than **10 am on November 17th, 2014**
- MOA Work Group formation: one (or, if necessary, two) representative(s) to serve on an MOA Work Group will be identified by each of the following: Idaho NPDES permittees, Washington NPDES permittees, NGO’s/Environmental Groups, EPA, Ecology, IDEQ, Health Agencies, Tribes by (or at) the **November 17th** Task Force meeting
- The MOA Work Group will incorporate changes to the MOA and bring to the full Task Force for approval. (Dates TBD.)
- Revised MOA signatory review period. New signatories will run the MOA through their legal departments and decision makers and send any needed changes back to the full Task Force for consideration. This may require another work effort by the MOA Work Group before the document is finalized and acceptable to all parties for signing. (Dates TBD.)

Adriane Borgias expressed the need to send out a communication to all potential parties that may sign on to the MOA, (including those who were previously invited but did not sign on). The Task Force needs documentation that they were asked to participate and sign the MOA.

Question: Does the permit language as written require Idaho permittees to sign the MOA, and is there a time limit to sign on to the MOA? Answer: Idaho permittees must “participate under the terms of the MOA”. The permits do not dictate a date for Idaho permittees to have signed the MOA.

ACTION ITEM: Kara Whitman to send out a communication to the Task Force with the current track changes version of the MOA and the procedure for the revision process to the Task Force for initial review and comment as well as post to the task force webpage. (COMPLETE)

Documenting Measurable progress:

It was requested during the last Task Force meeting to put “Documenting Measurable Progress” as a standing agenda item to ensure that the Task Force with how it is making and showing measurable progress leading up to when permits are up for renewal.

Updates:

The Ecology permit group will attend the February 2015 Task Force to discuss “Measurable Progress” questions the Task Force has. Ecology would like to know what information is needed and what would the Task Force like to hear about in February meeting and also as a regular update in future meetings.

Questions/Topics for the Ecology permit group to address:

- Are there other things that need to be done in order to meet the “Measurable Progress” requirements?
- Is the progress that the Task Force is making meeting the “Measurable Progress” requirement in compliance with the permits?
- Can Ecology review the “Measurable Progress” as we go along, rather than at the end when the permits are coming up for review again?

ACTION ITEM: Task Force members to send questions for Ecology pertaining to “Measurable Progress” to Chris Page to be relayed to Ecology.

Dan Redline suggested that the Task Force may want to consider adopting the Ecology definition of “Measurable Progress” in the MOA.

Events & Outreach, Funding

Public information officers and Communication Strategy:

Chris Page discussed the work done in January of 2013 by the Public Information officers (PIOs) for the Task Force including the development of a funding fact sheet, key messages, and slide show with script. PIOs were invited to this meeting to listen to the new and evolving needs of the Task Force and potentially help develop a communication strategy and/or updated outreach materials.

Adriane Borgias pointed out that each organization has its own interests that need to be communicated. It is a challenge to communicate with the public as technical professionals.

The PIOs explained that there is a difference between communicating “Measurable Progress” and a public information campaign. The PIOs need more direction in order to move forward.

Questions that need to be addressed:

- What is the campaign that is needed?
- What outreach materials are needed?
- What resources are available: what can the different organizations provide?

Ideas:

- Annual Report: Measurable progress, studies that have been done,
- Two sets of messages: general public, and government agencies and decision makers/regulatory
- Align our needs with the tools available at different “scales” of communication

Outreach Update:

Spokane River Forum: Kara Whitman (Ruckelshaus Center) and Katherine Chin (WSU student) are developing outreach materials for the forum including posters and handouts. The materials will be complete by Nov. 5th for Task Force review. Materials can be reviewed at the Technical Track Work Group meeting on the 5th and then sent to the full Task Force for review and decision.

The Task Force Op-Ed has been submitted to the Spokesman Review and has a good chance of publication, however it will not be published until after elections are complete.

ACTION ITEM: The PIOs to meet and develop a rough idea of tasks and feedback to bring to the Dec. 13th Task Force meeting. (COMPLETE, UPDATE: PIOs have asked for more feedback from the Task Force prior to the December Task Force meeting)

ACTION ITEM: Chris Page to send email to the PIOs containing the Op Ed, and most updated list of accomplishments (currently have Year-in-Review completed up through 2013 on the Task Force website). (COMPLETE)

DECISION: The Task Force agreed to let Kara Whitman and her WSU Student create materials for the Spokane River Forum, to be completed by Nov. 5th. The Task Force will convene a conference call meeting to approve the materials on November 12th in order to have time to print materials.

Updates and Announcements

Update from ACE on task list for potential SRRITF-staff person: has been discussed, no formal list is done as of yet.

The next Technical Track Work Group meeting scheduled for Wednesday Nov. 5th. Lynn Schmidt and Adriane Borgias cannot attend as they are presenting at a conference. The Ecology Room is available.

ACTION ITEM: Adriane Borgias to send out a Doodle poll to determine availability for the TTWG meeting. (It was decided, before sending out the Doodle poll, to keep the meeting at the original date and time. Adriane to attend by phone.) (COMPLETE)

ACTION ITEM: Kara Whitman to add new column "do you wish to make a public comment" to the attendance sheet for all future Task Force meetings. (COMPLETE)

Public Comment: No public comment.

Next SRRITF Task Force meeting: November 17th, 2014 at The Water Resource Center from 1:00pm to 4:30 pm.

The next Technical Track Work Group Meeting is November 5th, 2014 from 10am-12pm at the Department of Ecology.
