

SRRTTF Technical Track Work Group

DRAFT Meeting Notes

March 4, 2015 | 10:00am – 12:00pm

Department of Ecology

4601 North Monroe Street | Spokane, WA 99205-1295

BiJay Adams –Liberty Lake Sewer & Water District	Rob Lindsay (<i>on phone</i>) –Spokane County
John Beacham –City of Post Falls	Chris Page (<i>video</i>) –Ruckelshaus Center
Adriane Borgias –Department of Ecology (Ecology)	Sandy Phillips –Spokane Regional Health District
Lisa Dally-Wilson (<i>on phone</i>) –Dally Environmental	Dave McBride (<i>on phone</i>) –Washington State
Dave Dilks (<i>on phone</i>) –LimnoTech	Department of Health
Jeff Donovan –City of Spokane	Brandee Era Miller (<i>on phone</i>) –Ecology
Kris Holm (<i>on phone</i>) –City of Coeur d’Alene	Dave Moss –Spokane County
Doug Krapas –Inland Empire Paper	Lynn Schmidt –City of Spokane
Greg Lahti –Department of Transportation	Kara Whitman –Ruckelshaus Center
Bud Leber (<i>on phone</i>) –Kaiser Aluminum	Ken Windram –Hayden Area Regional Sewer Board

Introductions and Agenda Review:

Chris Page welcomed everyone to the meeting and went over the agenda. No changes made to the agenda. A couple of announcements:

- Adriane Borgias announced that Ken Zarker (Ecology) will be available to speak with Task Force members on Monday, March 9, from 1pm to 2:30 pm at the Department of Ecology in Spokane.
- An abstract submitted by the Ruckelshaus Center to the Washington State University (WSU) Academic Showcase, featuring the work of the Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force (Task Force), was accepted. The showcase is March 27th, 9:00am to 12:00 pm in the Compton Union Building on the Pullman Washington WSU campus.

LimnoTech next steps:

Dave Dilks laid out next steps in two categories: closure of synoptic sampling and high level scoping for the next phase. The work is to be completed by the end of May.

- Closure of synoptic sampling: \$10,000 to complete, done by the end of April.
- High Level Scoping for Barker to Trent, \$15,000 to complete by end of May.
- High level scoping for wet weather contribution, \$15,000 to complete by end of May.
- High level scoping of potential Greene Street to Spokane Gage, no estimate on cost.

Q&A

- Do we need a hydro-geologist for this work? LimnoTech has a hydro-geologist.
- Adriane Borgias had a conversation about data mining with representatives in Ecology’s Environmental Assessment Program (EAP).
- What is the size of the stormwater district they are looking at? Dave is not sure yet, will determine after data mining.
- How are the flows at Greene Street being estimated? Dave talked to John Covert from Ecology and to Spokane County. He acquired historical and flow model data. Looks like they are all converging on one number. Rob Lindsay added that they have late 1990s low flow data and have put together a graph with a good R².

ACTION ITEM: Adriane Borgias to connect Dave Dilks with representatives from EAP. (COMPLETE)

Discussion:

The group discussed the scope of work to be done with the remainder of the Task Force funds (approximately \$55,000); the Task Force may need to adjust the “subtasks” to fund LimnoTech work.

ACTION ITEM: Ecology to meet with ACE to make sure the tasks fit within the scope of the funding. If they do not fit, it may require a contract change.

At the last full Task Force meeting, the Task Force authorized the Technical Track Work Group to work with ACE to contract with LimnoTech on the next steps scope of work.

DECISION: The group authorized ACE to enter into a contract with LimnoTech to move ahead with the next steps of work outlined in Dave Dilks presentation.

Evaluation of High Volume Samplers (HVS):

Adriane Borgias and Brandee Era Miller explained that EAP is finishing the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and Memorandum of Understanding for establishing the long-term monitoring station at the boundary of the Spokane Tribe Reservation. This study will evaluate different high volume sampling (HVS) methods. The first step will happen in May of 2015. This is a big study, going beyond the Spokane River, not yet officially approved—but the project and funding are conceptually approved. The project will look at two seasons at a Walla Walla location (PCBs, PBDEs and a few other chemicals), and three seasons in the Spokane River location to capture 3 hydrologic regimes (PCB congeners and PBDEs). Decision is expected by May. The HVS study is a one year study. The PCB/PBDE study would continue as long as it makes sense. Preliminary results may help inform methods used by Task Force for wet weather sampling. EAP is also doing some literature review on efficacy of different sampling methodologies.

Q&A

- Has EAP done a Quality Control (QC) analysis on the disks in the CLAM sampler? Some of this work is being done right now. The Pacific Rim Lab is working on the background signal from the CLAM. Contamination may be coming from the housing during the elusion process. Will know more about this in the coming weeks. The HVS study will also look into contamination from the sampler.
- How is EAP collecting 20-liter samples, grab or composite? Brandee explained that tentatively they are going to do 20-liter composite samples. They will use the direct immersion method for each grab, into a carboy. They will be collecting water over the period that the CLAM is sampling.
- There will be a long term monitoring station at the upstream boundary of the Spokane Tribal Reservation. EAP is looking at potential sites in coordination with the Spokane tribe.
- Brandee will make the QAPP available to the TTWG for review when it is completed.
- Gravity HVS work (time frame, EAP in May, August and January)

ACTION ITEM: Bud Leber to follow up with Richard Grace about his concerns with the Gravity HVS and the possibility of sampler contamination. (COMPLETE)

ACTION ITEM: Bud and/or Lisa Dally Wilson to follow up with Gravity about the HVS system and potential background contamination. (Has Gravity done these studies, could they participate in a concurrent sampling session with EAP, other options, Where is Gravity at with their QC on their equipment). (COMPLETE)

ACTION ITEM: Brandee to connect with TTWG prior to Task Force wet weather sampling to help determine methods. The hope is to have preliminary data from the long-term monitoring site.

The group discussed whether they will need to do an analysis of different sampling methods (HVS) prior to the wet weather sampling given that EAP is working on a longer term project to assess HVS. Dave Moss suggested that the Task Force fund the use of the Gravity HVS system concurrently with the EAP study. The timing of the project may be an issue as the wet weather sampling will happen in November. The QAPP will need to be completed much earlier.

Brandee explained that the Spokane Tribe boundary sampling will occur in May 2015, August 2015 and January 2016. EAP will not be focusing on all of the HVS systems until the August sampling.

Comments

- What do we need to understand to facilitate the wet weather sampling?
- Gravity HVS, leaching from the system components. (This is a lab analysis, not an in the field analysis.) Need a level of confidence on the equipment. Would Shawn Hinz of Gravity be willing to work on this analysis? This is their equipment, perhaps they need to show us the level of confidence.
- Could the group have Gravity work up a bid, just in case it is deemed necessary? Wait until we understand the logistics of what we really need.
- TTWG or Task Force Agenda: Develop a project to have the Gravity HVS system tested along side of the EAP Study long term sampling site.
- Question to address: Does the equipment (materials and construction) generate a signal that may confuse the field results, generate a false positive?

ID/Prioritize Qs for WDFW, Ecology to Address re: PCBs in Hatcheries and Stocked Fish

Chris reviewed previous conversations about engaging Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) about the Fish Hatchery concerns related to PCBs. The group discussed how to approach WDFW. It was suggested that the Task Force inquire about fish planting efforts in the entire Spokane River system to get some background knowledge.

BiJay Adams gave a brief overview of a US Fish and Wildlife (USFW) study on PCB bioaccumulation in fish. The study suggests that it may be useful to look at the eggs, as there appeared to be maternal transfer of PCBs as a PCB pathway. There may also be dilution of PCBs over time after release. The PCBs in the tissue were diluted and/or mobilized. A literature review may be needed.

Need to find out: The Task Force could engage those involved in the EAP 2006 study and the USFW study and/or the WDFW, and university resources concerning:

- Dynamics of hatcheries
- Where the stocked fish come from and where are they released
- Difference between private/public plants
- State contract for commercial feed and what that looks like
- Invertebrate studies and bioaccumulation

Kris Holm asked if representatives from EAP could talk to the Task Force about what has been done to follow up from its 2006 study. Brandee can answer questions about this study as well as another study currently happening on Little Spokane River listing verification (Native fish concentrations).

Galen Buterbaugh explained that Lake Spokane is stocked by Avista from Trout Lodge. Tim Vore is the fish biologist for Avista and can answer questions about fish stocking.

ACTION ITEM: Chris Page and Lisa Dally Wilson to contact Tim Vore of Avista and a contact from WDFW about presenting at the March Task Force meeting about the dynamics of hatcheries and where hatchery fish are entering the Spokane River. (COMPLETE)

ACTION ITEM: Chris Page to connect with Brian Crossley of the Spokane Tribe about fish hatchery dynamics. (COMPLETE)

ACTION ITEM: Chris Page to set up a Task Force visit to the Little Spokane Fish Hatchery. (COMPLETE)

Data Management/Workshop

Chris Page reviewed conversations about data management. The TTWG agreed that a small group will work on a list of key decisions and develop a proposal to address them for the Task Force. The group will consist of John Beacham, Brandee Era-Miller, Adriane Borgias, Chris Neumiller, Dave Dilks and another LimnoTech representative. Adriane volunteered to coordinate the group.

ACTION ITEM: Lisa Dally Wilson to contact Duwamish representative Beth Schmoyer regarding databases and connect them to the small data management work group. (COMPLETE)

The next full Task Force meeting is April 22, 2015 from 9:00am-12:30pm at the Liberty Lake Water & Sewer District
The next Tech Track Work Group meeting is April 1, 2014 from 10am-12pm at the Dept. of Ecology