

SRRTTF Technical Track Work Group (TTWG) Meeting

Draft Meeting Notes

July 1, 2015 | 10:00am-12:00pm

Washington Department of Transportation | 2714 North Mayfair Drive | Spokane, WA 99163

Attendees:

John Beacham—City of Post Falls
Adriane Borgias—Dept. of Ecology
Ben Brattebo—Spokane County
Lisa Dally-Wilson (video)—Dally Environmental
Dave Dilks (phone)—LimnoTech
Jeff Donovan—City of Spokane
Joyce Duncan (phone)—LimnoTech
Ryan Ekre—Inland Empire Paper
Brandee Era-Miller (phone)—Dept. of Ecology
Ted Hamlin—Dept. of Ecology
Kris Holm (phone)—City of Coeur d'Alene
Doug Krapas—Inland Empire Paper

Greg Lahti—Dept. of Transportation
Bud Leber—Kaiser Aluminum
Pam Marti (phone)—Dept. of Ecology
Dave McBride (phone)—Dept. of Health
Dave Moss—Spokane County
Chris Page (Video)—Ruckelshaus Center
Mike Petersen—Lands Council
Sandy Phillips—Spokane Regional Health District
Bryce Robbert (phone)—Avista
Jeremy Ryf—Dept. of Ecology
Lynn Schmidt—City of Spokane
Kara Whitman—Ruckelshaus Center

Introductions and Agenda Review

After introductions, Chris Page went over the agenda. Doug Krapas requested the group discuss the implications of the budget approved by the State. No other changes were made to the agenda.

Final Report for Dry Weather Sampling

Dave Dilks summarized changes requested to the final report. The comments compiled for the June 24th, 2015 Task Force meeting were separated into four categories:

- 1) Things that need to be incorporated;
- 2) Things that are important, but are future work and outside the scope of this work and report;
- 3) Things not to be included in the report or future work; and
- 4) Comments that don't require significant extra work.

The Spokane River Stewardship Partnership (SRSP) proposed five “big picture” comments. Dave addressed these and added a 6th:

- 1) Append all affiliated studies,
- 2) Include loading schematic,
- 3) Incorporate a discussion of uncertainty,
- 4) Compare high volume and grab sample results,
- 5) Discuss the ramifications of missing flow measurements, and
- 6) Discuss the data quality assessment.

Dave posed questions for the group pertaining to the following:

- The loading schematic in the report (box and whisker plot, unitless graph showing relative magnitudes etc)
- High volume sampling as compared to grab sample result
- The use of the word “anomalous” vs. “outlier”
- Whether to show incremental loading results for reaches that had flow measurement issues.

ACTION ITEM: Task Force to develop an inventory of new questions and future technical work.

ACTION ITEM: Dilks to obtain final field report from the 2014 synoptic survey from Shawn Hinz (Gravity).

ACTION ITEM: Dilks to address the following in the final report of the 2014 synoptic sampling/mass balance assessment:

1. Axys data to be included only in the electronic version of the report.
2. Include an explanation of the uncertainty in the study (could include a box and whisker plot, unitless graph with relative magnitudes etc),
3. Expand discussion of potential stormwater issues during 2014 synoptic sampling;
4. Replace the word “anomalous” with “outlier” in the final report; include a discussion of why the 2011 Ecology report is not comparable to the 2014 Synoptic Study;
5. Include data for all original reaches attempted and the results. The report is to explain the issues with calculating incremental load for the reaches where information on flow was inaccurate (Coeur d’Alene to Post Falls and Spokane Gage to Nine Mile Gage); and
6. Present the data from Trent to Spokane and from Barker to Trent with a qualitative explanation of why and how stormwater data was used in the loading calculation.

Dry Weather Sampling

Dilks is working on the scope of work for the approved dry weather sampling to be implemented during low flow in 2015. He would like to know when the Greene Street gage will be installed. Rob Lindsay has talked with Dave Stasney, who confirmed the gage will be operational in time for an August dry weather sampling event. If this or any other gage is not operational by then, the Task Force could have Gravity measure flow, which could be later compared to the rating curve for the Greene Street Gage.

Up-gradient Groundwater Analysis

Pam Marti has been working with Joyce at LimnoTech and Sandy Treconni, looking at monitoring wells that could be used for groundwater monitoring. They provided the group with three handouts:

- A one-page summary of cleanup sites identified in the gaining reaches between Barker Road to Trent Road and Trent to Greene Street,
- List of well locations in the Barker to Green Street area, and
- A map of Toxics Cleanup Program (TCP) Sites listed for PCBs on the Spokane River.

Adriane Borgias provided a one-page summary of cleanup sites identified in the gaining reaches (between Barker and Green Street area, identified in the map). She also looked at PCB data in Ecology’s Environmental Information Management (EIM) database. Inland Empire Paper does not have monitoring wells. She asked urged the group to connect the groundwater sampling to data on PCBs in surface water: what are we looking at, what are the objectives? Sampling at what wells? How are we going to use and interpret the information?

Q&A/Comments

- Dave Moss explained that some of this area is part of the County’s sewer collection system. The County is currently focused in this area. They are in their 4th year of sampling the North Valley Interceptor (NVI) sewer pipes. Most of industry is on the NVI, however most of the PCBs were found in the South Valley Interceptor (SVI).
- What is the goal/purpose of the study? Learned that there is a groundwater contribution between Barker and Trent from previous testing. There is groundwater PCB contamination coming across the Kaiser site, up-gradient. If there is a large groundwater contribution coming from upgradient, then the Task Force needs to look at wells. Need an investigative study to hone in on a plan for looking at where this contamination is coming from (LimnoTech, Ecology hydrogeologist).

- There are good groundwater models (ModFlow) for the Spokane River Basin. LimnoTech (Joyce) could look at these combined with well information and advise on next steps and the study scope.
- Bud provided a potential project summary for Groundwater, Retrospective stormwater, Hangman Creek Wet Weather, and Incidental sampling.
- Ben Brattebo expressed that some assumptions made in Joyce's groundwater assessment of the Kaiser site may be incorrect. Joyce explained that the purpose of that assessment was not to be definitive, but more relative to see relative contributions. The assessment showed that there could be a significant loading up-gradient.
- The group suggested that Joyce and/or Dave put together some thoughts/recommendations for the Task Force to consider. There is enough information from Pam Marti and John Covert (Ecology). Mike Hermanson also has expertise in this area (aquifer/river dynamics).

Miscellaneous

Brandee Era-Miller would like to know if the 2012 fish samples can be disposed of. Answer: Yes.

ACTION ITEM: LimnoTech to develop recommendations for an upgradient groundwater study.

ACTION ITEM: Task Force members to send comments in response to Project Summaries Sheet to Bud Leber by July 8th. (Reflect the priority ranking).

ACTION ITEM: The Ruckelshaus Center to post the Lake Spokane Carp PCB study, completed by Brandee Era-Miller, to the Task Force website and send out announcement to Task Force that the report is available for review. (COMPLETE)

The next Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force meeting is July 29, 2015 at Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District from 9am—12:30pm

The next Technical Track Work Group meeting is July 13th at the Department of Ecology from 10am –12:00pm