

SRRTTF Technical Track Work Group (TTWG) Meeting

DRAFT Summary Notes

July 13, 2015 | 10:00am-12:00pm

Department of Ecology | N. 4601 Monroe Street | Spokane, WA 99205

Attendees:

BiJay Adams—Liberty Lake Sewer & Water District
John Beacham—City of Post Falls
Adriane Borgias—Department of Ecology
Kevin Booth—Avista
Galen Buterbaugh—Lake Spokane Association
Ben Brattebo—Spokane County
Lisa Dally-Wilson (phone)—Dally Environmental
Dave Dilks (phone)—LimnoTech
Jeff Donovan—City of Spokane
Joyce Duncan (phone)—LimnoTech
Brandee Era-Miller (phone)—Dept. of Ecology

Ted Hamlin—Dept. of Ecology
Kris Holm (phone)—City of Coeur d'Alene
Bud Leber—Kaiser Aluminum
Dave Moss—Spokane County
Dale Norton (phone)—Dept. of Ecology
Chris Page (Video)—Ruckelshaus Center
Sandy Phillips—Spokane Regional Health District
Jeremy Ryf—Dept. of Ecology
Lynn Schmidt—City of Spokane
Kara Whitman—Ruckelshaus Center

Introductions and agenda review

Chris Page went over the agenda; no changes were made.

Final report for 2014 synoptic sampling

Dave Dilks is working on the comments/feedback received from the TTWG on July 1st. The Report will be ready for Task Force review and decision at the July 29th Task Force meeting.

2015 Dry Weather Sampling (Barker to Spokane)

Bud Leber explained that Spokane Community College received the Task Force funding and ordered the equipment, to be installed in the next two weeks. Dilks is preparing the sampling plan summary to identify the number of samples, timing, and locations for river sampling between Barker Road (Greenacres gage) and the Spokane Gage and at point sources in those reaches. The plan is expected to be complete by July 14th.

Gravity is interested in conducting the sampling, and once they have the sampling plan information from Dave, they will provide budget estimates and their availability. Gravity can collect flow measurements at Barker and Trent if needed. AXYS lab has been advised of the upcoming sampling event and will be sent details on the sampling when available.

Bud also explained that it appears that existing contracts with LimnoTech and Gravity can be amended to cover this work. ACE will address this at its next meeting on July 22nd.

Q&A/Comments

- Adriane: Need the scope of work for the contract. Will be very busy over the next few weeks.
- Dave Dilks explained level of sampling that was assumed for an update of the synoptic survey:
 - Four in-river stations sampled daily for five days (plus one composite sample per station)
 - Three point sources, sampled on days 1, 3, and 5 (plus one composite sample per discharge)
 - Manual flow monitoring at stations where gages are inactive
 - LimnoTech would plan to send Chris Behnke out for the event to assist in sampling.

- Groundwater sampling: Ben Brattebo asked if there is a way to add in some in-river sampling to be done concurrently with the groundwater sampling. Yes, they could be located at the same place as confidence testing was done.

Clarifying Potential Technical Work to Pinpoint Groundwater Contribution

- *Groundwater Assessment in Gaining Reach Upgradient of Kaiser*

Objective: Determine sources of PCB in groundwater that are hydraulically located upgradient of the Kaiser “background” groundwater monitoring wells in the Barker Road to Trent Bridge “gaining reach”. Data from these “background” monitoring wells show PCB levels that are significant relative to the estimated mass balance groundwater loading to the Barker Road to Trent Bridge reach of the river.

- *Groundwater Assessment in Gaining Reach Not Upgradient of Kaiser*

Objective: Determine sources of PCB in groundwater in the Barker Road to Trent Bridge “gaining reach” that are not hydraulically located upgradient of the Kaiser “background” groundwater monitoring wells. An analysis of the potential PCB contribution via groundwater into the Barker Road to Trent Bridge “gaining reach” that is not hydraulically upgradient of the Kaiser site may be significant, relative to the estimated mass balance groundwater loading to the Barker Road to Trent Bridge reach of the river.

Joyce Duncan of LimnoTech discussed the two-page map with locations of monitoring wells (provided by Pam Marti). Few wells exist on the reach with Kaiser’s site. There are only a few locations that would be useful for a groundwater study. There are six wells in this reach. The map provides general placement, relative to Kaiser; none are specifically up-gradient of Kaiser. The GE Sullivan wells are “cross-gradient”, with some located on the eastern edge of the blue reach on the map. Some of these could serve as background wells. Joyce will coordinate with Pam Marti on the date of those particular wells. They need to be within 20 to 30 feet depth of the water level (consistent with Kaiser). Joyce is not aware if there is any meaningful useable PCB data from these wells.

Q&A/Comments

- Bud said Rob Lindsay indicated one well by Sullivan Road Park is actually in the park on the North side of the river.
- Ted Hamlin added that there is a drinking water well (not on map) on the Central Premix property on the right side of Sullivan.
- Most of the groundwater loading would come from the North Side (based on existing information, bedrock vs. alluvial-assumption); however, this does not rule out sampling from the South Side.
- Adriane added that Rob Lindsay had mentioned looking at springs. Could look at a regional concentration/background by sampling springs (rather than well water). Bud explained that groundwater does not come into Kaiser through a spring. Could sample Central Premix’s ponds.
- Locations were originally picked because there were operating gages, but the Task force is not locked into these locations, given Gravity will measure flows by hand. More detailed surface water sampling could be done to get concentrations in the river. Bud added that a dye trace of the river could be done to delineate where to sample.
- John Beacham added that they could use temperature monitoring coupled with PCB monitoring.
- Joyce Duncan: If there are appropriate locations, it would be worthwhile as a starting point to sample a spring or obvious discharge points. Wells will be expensive to install and they will need to be sited accurately. She asked if there are any seepage measures available. Ben Brattebo explained there are springs/seeps in Sullivan Park and below upriver dam (north bank).

- Barker to Trent: is the PCB increase from one location or an incremental increase? This is an area to hone in on what is occurring.
- Adriane asked the group to think about how much more information will be gained with the study. Lynn Schmidt added that the Task Force will know if it is the whole aquifer source or smaller source.
- Could be a diffuse source, or 1-2 discrete sources. Need to look at the Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) and the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP).
- Dilks noted this sounds good in theory, however given the noise in the PCB concentrations, he not certain they can discern a fine level of detail on where incremental loads are coming in. Not sure that we will see a large background or incremental fine detail loading.
- Bud added that it may be worthwhile to sample at the point where the confidence limit testing was done. LimnoTech: one more river location may be useful.
- Ecology reports show PCBs in fish, and known PCB-contaminated sites, between Greene Street and downtown. Need to consider the groundwater contribution. Consistent approach for both reaches.

Parking Lot:

- *High Volume Sampling (HVS) at multiple river locations:* to be considered once we have settled on a method that everyone is comfortable with.
- *General level of PCBs in the aquifer:* Level of effort? Are there a sufficient number of wells already in place? Could be a condensed time frame given the limited number of appropriately-screened wells. The County has a number of wells with access and regularly samples for inorganics; they will be accessible for PCB sampling. Ted Hamlin said their budget could provide some funds for this.

ACTION ITEM: One more sampling location to be added to the 2015 synoptic sampling (perhaps at the location where confidence limit testing was done). The flow and PCB concentration are to be assessed at this location during the 2015 synoptic sampling (as long as they can complete this in one day).

ACTION ITEM: Bud to confirm that Gravity that they can add in the additional location for flow and PCB concentration.

ACTION ITEM: Ted Hamlin to confirm the location of wells by Waste Water Treatment Plant.

ACTION ITEM: Adriane to talk with Pam Marti at Ecology to ground truth the sites that are on the map and identify if there is any other data on these wells.

ACTION ITEM: Kara Whitman to add in related projects with Brandee and Dale and SWAT Teams to the work plan spreadsheet. Trout Lodge, etc. Also extend the timeline out through 2017. (COMPLETE)

Next Steps

Technical work items to prioritize moving forward:

- 1) Dry weather in-river work next month
- 2) Regional scope of groundwater
- 3) Barker to Trent: zero in on wells/sampling etc
- 4) Data mining on existing wells
- 5) Retrospective analysis (data gap on stormwater, LimnoTech proposal to quantify stormwater loading using existing data and sampling)
- 6) Incidental: Hangman and other tributaries
- 7) Fish sampling (feed, other?) congener/fingerprinting analysis (correlate water data to fish data over time) will the congener pattern stay intact as it moves from water to fish?
- 8) Ambient monitoring
- 9) Retrospective Analysis (Will Hobbs, using City data): use this information to guide what new information would be collected.

Other Efforts

- Lisa Rodenburg (PMF) status Look at existing data from the studies? Dave: Lisa asked for all the synoptic data 6 weeks ago. She has at least initially looked at it.
- Budget in Best Management Practices, development of source reduction activities, and education and outreach activities
- Ecology Contract: general categories- studies comprehensive plan development etc.

ACTION ITEM: Bud to work with Dilks on the scope and pull in the appropriate technical experts from the Task Force to work on each individual study scope by September 3rd Task Force meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Lynn Schmidt to send Stormwater outfall data to Will Hobbs.

ACTION ITEM: Adriane to work with Bud and ACE to put a draft work plan together for contract amendment for Ecology contract.

Other Suggestions:

- Ben Brattebo suggested the Task Force implement an ambient monitoring program to get a picture of what the watershed is doing. Bud emphasized the need to test using HVS. Galen, Kris, John Beacham and others would also like to see long-term ambient monitoring.
- Dale Norton: Sampling point below the dam (Little Falls pool). The Environmental Assessment Program (EAP) is actively sampling at this location (CLAM, HVS spring, sediment traps)—ongoing routine sampling, overlaid with comparing different techniques (data not back yet). Brandee said Will Hobs will look at sampling techniques (CLAM, HVS). Using 1668C, high resolution methods (dioxins, furans, metals, PBDEs, PCBs) and develop Standard Operating Procedures.
- Dale Norton: Retrospective Analysis (City Stormwater Data): extrapolate the City Data (150 outfalls)
- Kris Holm: July 15, 2015 draft hatchery permit will be issued for review. Kris has heard that there is an Attorney General opinion being generated on the permits/PCBs. (Note: CARP/lake Spokane- don't use whole data for impairment listings).

SWAT TEAM and EAP Updates:

- Hydroseed Project: The project is mostly complete. They are processing through the data. Dale Norton to connect with Lynn about this project. A lot of the data has NJ flags. If the NJ flagged data is included, there are some obvious trends. If they are removed, then there are a lot of non-detects. Timeline: depends on when AXYS gets the data back. Lynn will hand off to Jeff Donovan at the end of July.
- Fish from Trout Lodge: Objectives/questions and scope. Dale Norton explained that they are finalizing their project list now that the budget is out.
- Brandee asked the group if they needed more time to review the Lake Spokane Carp Study report. No.

The next Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force meeting is July 29th, 2015 at Spokane County Water Resource Center from 9am—12:30pm

The next Technical Track Work Group meeting is August 5th, 2015 at the Department of Ecology from 10am –12:00pm