

# Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force Meeting and Technical Track Work Group Meeting (TTWG)

DRAFT Meeting Summary

December 2, 2015 | 10:00am-12:00pm

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

## Attendees:

Bijay Adams – Liberty Lake Sewer & Water District	Kris Holm (Phone) – City of Coeur d’Alene
Adriane Borgias – WA Dept. of Ecology (Ecology)	Doug Krapas – Inland Empire Paper
Galen Buterbaugh – Lake Spokane Association	Bud Leber – Kaiser Aluminum
Lisa Dally-Wilson (video) – Dally Environmental	Rob Lindsay – Spokane County
Dave Dilks (Phone) – LimnoTech	Dale Norton (Phone) – Ecology
Jeff Donovan – City of Spokane	Chris Page (Video) – Ruckelshaus Center
Brandee Era-Miller (Phone) – WA Dept. of Ecology	Sandy Phillips – Spokane Regional Health District
Ted Hamlin – Ecology	Jeremy Ryf – Ecology
Mike Hermanson – Spokane County	Kara Whitman – Ruckelshaus Center
Will Hobbs (Phone) – Ecology	

## Introductions and Agenda Review:

No changes were made to the agenda.

## Workshop Planning

Lisa Dally Wilson reviewed 2016 Workshop planning: date, room, and overview of sessions. The group will next meet Wednesday 12/9/15 at 10am via phone.

## Presentation: LimnoTech

Dave Dilks presented on the 2015 synoptic results and elevated lab blanks, addressed the Spokane County comments on the “final” technical documents for the 2014 sampling, and presented the options for wet weather sampling in 2016.

### *2015 Synoptic Sampling—Elevated Lab Blanks:*

Some lab blanks exceeded acceptable PCB concentrations. One elevated blank impacted data collected August 18<sup>th</sup> and others, the data collected August 19<sup>th</sup>. Dave determined the data are not salvageable even using the field blanks for correction. Other options: 1) have AXYS re-analyze those samples (delay mass balance analysis), 2) proceed with existing data (discarding unusable data), or 3) use a combination of the two to do a draft analysis with existing data, updating it after AXYS re-run the samples.

## Q&A/Comments:

- **Q.** Are uncorrected values anomalous? **A.** They are not.

**DECISION:** The group agreed that the hybrid approach would be the best option. Bud Leber will ask AXYS to prioritize the rerunning of the samples.

### *Spokane County comments on “final” technical documents for 2014 sampling*

Dave explained that LimnoTech put “Final” technical documents from the 2014 Synoptic Sampling together quickly at the end of the project to meet contract obligations. The documents did not go through Task Force review before posting as “final”. These documents covered data review and

validation, data usability assessment, field data audit, and the final synoptic survey database. So: Does LimnoTech go back and revise the 2014 documents or change the process moving forward, informed by the comments from Spokane County? Bud Leber added that it would be good to spend resources on pulling the 2014 and 2015 data sets together in a single summary report that addresses these concerns. Mike Hermanson stated that it would be good to revise past document so that records are accurate.

**Decision:** The group agreed that LimnoTech will incorporate the comments into “Revised Final”.

*Options for wet weather sampling in 2016*

Dave explained that the 2013 data assessment identified wet weather PCB loading as a data gap. The Task Force recommended wet weather monitoring at its 2015 Workshop to establish a mass balance for wet weather (similar to the dry weather sampling). LimnoTech concluded that because a mass balance assumes steady conditions, a study of this type would not be conclusive for a mass balance assessment.

In November 2015, the Task Force requested that wet weather monitoring be conducted. LimnoTech concluded that wet weather sampling would be useful for:

- A synoptic snapshot of wet weather PCB concentrations in the river,
- To verify the assumption that existing loads do not cause a major increase in river concentration, and/or
- To gain additional information about the Hangman Creek PCB load.

The group agreed to recommend to the Task Force that wet weather sampling be done in spring 2016.

**Q&A/Comments**

- Could provide information about year-round conditions and ambient concentrations.
- Provide information about Greene Street and about stormwater influence.
- Range of conditions at the same locations, also include Cochran Basin.
- USGS can provide flow measurements anywhere using an acoustic Doppler. Take a snapshot of flows in spots lacking a gage station. The County has already paid for this service.
- Will there be a need for a QAPP (Quality Assurance Project Plan) addendum?

**ACTION ITEM:** Dave to send a proposed wet weather study for January TTWG discussion. (COMPLETE)

**Presentation: Annual Stormwater PCB Load Estimate using updated PCB data, and Cochran Basin Rainfall-Runoff Relationship**

Jeff Donovan presented his analysis of stormwater PCB loading looking at the Cochran Basin rainfall-runoff relationship. The City has been monitoring flow from Cochran Basin. Jeff used the flows from Cochran Basin, rainfall from Parson’s 2007 report (18 inches/year) and assumed for each other basin, that flow is proportional to the amount of flow from Cochran Basin (based on acreage of impervious coverage of Cochran basin vs. Acreage of impervious coverage of the other CSO). He updated PCB concentrations with City’s monitoring. Jeff was also able to use same flows for CSOs as previous studies.

**Table 1: Estimated PCB loading from City of Spokane Stormwater and CSOs (from Jeff Donovan’s analysis)**

	Parsons - 2007 Estimate of PCB Load (mg/day)	PCB Load Estimate (mg/day) (used)
STORMWATER TOTAL	161.5	29.9
CSO TOTAL	33.6	7.6
CSO & STORMWATER TOTAL	195.1	37.6

### **Q&A/Comments**

- **Q.** Is this capturing a significant portion of discharge basins? **A.** Yes.
- **Q.** Do you have flow on all these basins, instead of using runoff factor assumptions? **A.**
  - PCB data: used the sum of all data the city has collected. (Parsons data, for which the City used different sampling methods, is higher.)
  - Union Basin – 40 swales and stormwater to disconnect it from discharge. This has historically been the highest PCB load of the basins.
  - Have sampled for PCBs in CSO 34 and CSO 6.
- **Q.** What data would improve the estimates? **A.** Focus on industrial areas or pick off some of the unknowns. **Q.** Is there a need to get concentration information on some of these other basins? (some would be tricky to get flow from)
- **Q.** Could this study fill the need for the stormwater retrospective analysis? **A.** There are a lot of assumptions in this study. It is a good starting point. Dave will be in contact with Jeff Donovan on this. This is a key part of a wet weather loading estimate for the Comprehensive Plan.

### **SWAT Teams / Work Groups:**

*Hydroseed:* Doug sent a copy of the final report to manufacturers, but the group is not currently working with them. There may be some Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) applications for this study. **Q.** What is the Washington Department of Transportation (WDOT) doing with the data?

**Action Item:** Adriane to follow up with Greg Lahti about what WDOT is doing with the hydroseed data.

### **Ecology Environmental Assessment Program (EAP) Project Updates:**

- EAP staff members are working on the Atmospheric Deposition study QAPP.
- Brandee has sent the information to Bud on the incremental cost of adding additional sites to the PCB Deposition study. It would cost around \$8000.
- Michael Friese working on the upcoming Spokane & Troutlodge Fish Hatchery PCB Evaluation
- **Q.** Is there any information on the high-volume sampling at the tribal reservation boundary? Brandee Era-Miller gave an update a few months ago, when she only had data from the May sampling (conclusion at that time: not much discernible from blanks) The monitoring data has just come in and EAP will be sampling again in January. Brandee will give an update at the January Technical Track Work Group meeting.
- Best Management Practices (BMP) Work Group: Sandy Phillips agreed to be the lead for this work group, which will meet January 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am at the Ecology's office. The group will work on the planning of the BMP session of the 2016 workshop.

---

Next full Task Force meeting is December 16, 2015, 9:00am-12:30pm, at the Liberty Lake Sewer & Water District Office  
Next scheduled Tech Work Group meeting is January 6, 2016 from 10am-12pm at Dept. of Ecology