

Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force

Facilitated by the William D. Ruckelshaus Center (Chris Page and Kara Whitman)
DRAFT Summary Notes | Wednesday March 16, 2016 | 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Spokane County Water Resource Center | 1004 N. Freya | Spokane, WA

Attendees

Voting Members and Alternatives (* Denotes Voting Members)

Tom Agnew*, BiJay Adams—Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District
Galen Buterbaugh* –Lake Spokane Association
Lisa Manning* – Kootenai Environmental Alliance
Brent Downey*—Kaiser Aluminum
Don Keil* (phone), Kris Holm (phone) –City of Coeur d’Alene
Doug Krapas*—Inland Empire Paper
Mike LaScuola*, Sandy Phillips –Spokane Regional Health District
Dave Moss*, Ben Brattebo, Mike Hermanson, Rob Lindsay—Spokane County
Mike Petersen*—the Lands Council
Jerry White*—Spokane Riverkeeper
Elizabeth Schoedel*, Jeff Donovan—City of Spokane
Dave McBride* (phone)—Washington Department of Health

Advisors

Adriane Borgias, Grant Pfeifer –Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology)
Brian Nickel (phone) – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Bryce Robbert—Avista
Rich Watson –Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

Public/Interested Parties

John Beacham –City of Post Falls
Lisa Dally Wilson –Dally Environmental
Greg Lahti—Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT)
Ken Windram –Hayden Area Regional Sewer Board
Eric Williams –Gallatin Public Affairs, Inc.
Dave Dilks (phone) – LimnoTech

Introductions and Agenda Review:

After a round of introductions, Chris Page went over the agenda. No changes to agenda.

DECISION: The February 24, 2016 Task Force Meeting Summary is accepted with the noted edits:

- Page 1: remove “there are” from first sentence of last paragraph
- Page 3: change Pollution Prevention Triangle to Pollution Prevention Hierarchy

ACTION ITEM: Ruckelshaus Center to make the noted edits to the February 2, 2016 Meeting Summary and post to the Task Force website. (COMPLETE)

Clarification: Technical Track meeting summary for March 2, 2016. The group requested that Dave Dilks put together a plan for including Toxics Cleanup Program (TCP) sites- This will be raised on next agenda.

WDFW: NPDES permittee on Task Force? Agreement on the settlement will be completed in the next week. The Task Force will wait until the next Task Force meeting to consider the adding of WDFW as a voting member of the Task Force.

TTWG Report & Technical Topics:

TCP sites: Should they be included in the Comprehensive Plan? The Comprehensive Plan could include a strategy for addressing important sites and eliminating non-important ones. There were no objections to this inclusion.

Comp Plan Task 1a: “Sources and Pathways” memo – Decision

The draft has been distributed and revised based on Task Force feedback. Dave added two additional items including: incinerators and used oil burning as a potential combustion source and private septic systems as a potential groundwater source. Dave noted that the “Final Draft”- even with a decision, will be able to be revised later if needed.

Decision: Final Draft of 1a “Sources and Pathways” memo approved with minor edits.

Comp Plan Task 1b: Magnitude of Loading from Sources and Pathways

Dave Dilks explained that he has done a background search to assess the magnitude of sources and pathways in the literature. There is an extensive body of literature, however much of it is not conclusive. Limnotech has started the initial assessment. Can estimate some pathways from the literature, however it is much more speculative for other sources. Dave explained that a large majority of delivery sources have been quantified (industrial and municipal waste, contaminated groundwater, Stormwater and CSO discharge); however, there are some key uncertainties in sources and pathways that may have to be estimates. Many of these uncertain sources and pathways are likely to be considered small (How small?) He will be able to put ranges on each pathway, but hard numbers will be difficult.

Q&A/Comments

- Q. how do we qualify a “major source”? Hayden Area Regional Sewer Board (HARSB) has discharge that is at the background level. A. The WWTP data is summative: all combined together and the synoptic survey confirms this. Note: HARSB-does not discharge in August.
- Q. Dry wells on diagram? A. Groundwater delivery mechanism
- Q. What literature is used for PCBs in transformers and capacitors? A. Puget Sound assessment – Bryce Robbert says that this study is old and has some flaws- Dave Dilks will confer with Bryce.
- C. Speculative estimates: Groundwater up-gradient of Kaiser, quantity of PCBs introduced via inadvertent production, legacy soil contamination (TCP sites?)-many will have large ranges on them.
 - GW Kaiser: data behind presentations on this-share with TF-loading and assumptions. Raw data.
- Q. inadvertent production, can we classify discharge based on this? A. Not yet, they are listed as sources, at this point it is not linked to discharge. A portion of all dischargers effluent may have contribution from Inadvertent productions (True sources?)

Comp Plan Task 2: BMP inventory: Comments due by March 23rd, 2016. Dave has received 4 sets of comments to date.

Term Best Management Practice- specific legal definitions for BMPs in Idaho and Washington. Drop the term? Change to “pollution control efforts” of actions or measures? This would need to be defined. The term “BMP” may limit the range of options for addressing PCBs, however it depends on the intent. Adriane looked into the MOA and permits, and there is nothing that would require the TF to use another term. Limnotech is assessing existing BMPs, and is also taking into account other potential control actions. It was suggested that the Comprehensive Plan include both the Idaho and Washington definitions of BMPs. Use the verbiage from Task Force MOA and discharge permits: PCBs instead of “pollution”. Include the context -range of actions. Note: There is a federal definition of BMPs for NPDES regulations.

ACTION ITEM: Task force members to send comments on the Best Management Practices (BMPs) memo by March 23. Dave to send to Ruckelshaus Center for posting.

Request: Jerry White would like to see, alongside these categories: tables with discharge data that quantifies as best as can be done, the magnitude for loading in NPDES permits. With the intention of understanding the situation. The more information the better. Example the County information about the influent sources – industry vs residential.

Particulate phase monitoring: (suggestion by Ken Windram at last Task Force meeting). Dave Dilks talked with Richard Grace of AXYS. There are many ways to analyze particulate phase, however it is not simple. It would require field filtration samples, and the appropriate lab methods are not settled. The cost would be approximately \$1000 per sample. The cost for doing the proposed samples would be an additional \$12,600 per month extra (see slide). Dave does not think this would be worth the extra cost. Ecology’s Environmental Assessment Program (EAP) are considering a particulate sampling project. This is in the early stages of identifying capacity. If this is a priority of the Task Force, then EAP will consider it more heavily. Dave explained that they can use other data to estimate the distribution between particulate and dissolved phase (using organic carbon and total suspended solids) The science is well established for this method. Dave feels this will be as accurate as measuring the particulate given the background noise.

The group agreed to forgo the collection of particulates for separate analysis at this time. The Task Force will assess the particulate contribution using the monthly sampling data, and use this for informing a future study by the Task Force or in coordination with EAP.

Spokane River Forum: “our Gem” Tuesday afternoon from 2-5 pm

The Task Force will hold an informal meeting at the Spokane River Forum – Gem Symposium to take advantage of the presences of Dave Dilks and Lisa Rodenburg and their expertise. The information meeting agenda includes a brief presentation of data that has been collected to date, analysis, and key knowledge gaps- on a 1-page handout. The group will discuss the potential for pattern analysis and fingerprinting (understanding the difference btw. Legacy and inadvertent in effluent). Key question: Do we assess causes of fish tissue levels and if so, what kind of candidate fish-related analysis is possible. (food web model, water quality model, fingerprinting of bed sediments and fish tissue etc.).

ACTION ITEM: Ruckelshaus Center to send out an announcement about the “informal discussion meeting” non-official Task Force meeting at the “our gem symposium” will provide a call in number. (Complete)

ACTION ITEM: Call for Data: WWTP flows and influent and effluent PCB concentrations and existing PCB control plans. Total PCBs and would welcome the congener data. Follow up items on call for data:

- Blank correction: Dave will state the fact each set of data may deal with blank correction in a different way, and deal with it. The range of uncertainty in waste water loading will be small.
- All this data in WA is submitted to Ecology. County's next set of data will be available in April. Dave can take what they have now, and then incorporate after the new data is provided.
- Data on thumb drive – Dave Moss will be at forum, can provide the data to Dave Dilks.

ACTION ITEM: Ruckelshaus to also send out call for data. (COMPLETE)

Ecology Call for Data: Adriane Borgias reminded the Task Force that Ecology is going through and revising the Water Quality Standards for water assessment, and are looking for data to inform the changes. Policy 111 is only looking at fish.

Data Management Work Group: The group has met once. They need to understand how the Task Force envisions making this all work (Task Force vision of the management of the data). Standards- nuts and bolts, need folks who can work through this. This will be on the April Task Force meeting agenda. Items addressed by the group:

- Scope: what data are we managing?
- DRBC protocols: many are already embodied in our QAPP, may require a revision of the standard QAPP (may be an outcome). Agree on specifications. (the work group does not completely agree on this)
- Who "owns" the database? The public. Long term survival/expectation. Combination of public agency and participant's responsibility- agencies figure out a way for us to do this so that all parties are comfortable.
- Agenda topic: how and what data will be managed.

Federal Hatchery Permit Comment Letter:

Jerry White gave a brief overview of the letter and the proposed County' edits.

Q&A/Comments:

- Q. Why no mention of sediment monitoring of congeners and removal of plan? A. Dave Moss explained that it has to do with logistics, the County is for collecting data, but to put it all into a Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) is not practical. The data is submitted, but not in a DMR. So the data exists, just don't force into the limited database portal. Cannot associate QA/QC in the DMR format and it is not representative of the data. Annual report that includes this all is more preferable.
- Data submission to the Task Force? Would this be appropriate? A. Brian Nickel explained that this is not typical for a permit. May be better with an agreement with the dischargers.
- Q. Sediment sampling downstream of hatchery? A. Outside of the scope of the hatchery and would put undue burden on the hatchery given that not all sediment is coming from hatchery.
- All data is all available by public records request.
- C. Remove requirement for monitoring sediment downstream of the hatchery. Change to: Sample the sediments (TSS and TOC in effluent).
- C. Pg. 3: the County suggested striking the last 3 bullets. other NPDES permittees have to do a source study and put together a plan to address them. Prepare a PCB toxics management plan.

- Inventory any areas that based on (be consistent with permit language). Toxic Management Plan must address source control...Plan in 2 year window, then execute the plan in the timeline.
- C. Grant Pfeifer: Need to be mindful of how the Task Force gets the tribe involved, a directive can be very misunderstood and greatly reduce trust. Be careful of the diplomacy.
 - Participation in the Task Force: new wording. **The SRRTTF requests the federal government exercise its trust responsibility to request and encourage participation in the SRRTTF.**

ACTION ITEM: Jerry White to incorporate all changes. Posted by Monday March 21st, hold TF meeting by Phone at 10:am on the 28th (need 7 voting members). (COMPLETE, Letter approved at the meeting and sent to Catherine Gockel care of the Ruckelshaus Center, see March 28th conference call announcement at <http://srrttf.org/?p=6030>)

Measurable Progress:

Adriane Borgias gave a presentation on the Spokane River Measurable Progress Evaluation for the January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2014-time period. Ecology determined that the Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force **has made** Measurable Progress. She also specified that Task Force annual reporting will help with future Measurable Progress evaluations and determinations down the road.

Recommendations:

- Complete Comprehensive Plan by December 2016
- Create a five-year work plan with short term goals and strategies and identification of needed financial and technical assistance.
- Consider EPA's permitting recommendations
- Adapt Toxic Management Plans towards achieving goals (BMPs, evaluate effectiveness, and practice adaptive management).
- Monitor and report annually

Fact Sheet:

Sandy Phillips drafted a Task Force Education and Outreach "Fact Sheet" for use at outreach events. Task Force members are asked to send comments/suggestions/edits to Sandy Phillips or Ruckelshaus Center. As the Task Force has not had time to review the fact sheet, it will be posted at the Spokane River Forum on Spokane Regional Health District Letterhead until the time at which the Task Force agrees and votes on the final draft of the fact sheet (for distribution on Task Force letterhead).

ACTION ITEM: Ruckelshaus Center to print the Ecology press release on the Measurable Progress determination for the display at the Spokane River Forum (COMPLETE).

Updates and announcements:

- Ch. 1 and 2 of the policy 1-11: general comments and call for data. section that talks about toxics assessments. Comments are due on April 1st, 2016
- Ruckelshaus Center scope of work and budget: Decision at the April Task Force meeting.

Action Item: Ruckelshaus Center to include the following edits to the scope and budget and provide for decision at the April Task Force meeting:

- Add in Kara Whitman's name in scope. (Complete)
- Add additional hours for anticipated meetings for the development and finalization of the Comprehensive Plan. (Complete)

The next SRRTF Meeting is April 27th, 2016 from 9am -12:30 pm at the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District
The next meeting of the Technical Track Work Group is April 6, 2016 from 10am-12pm at the Department of Ecology

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