

Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force

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
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
Lisa Manning*—Kootenai Environmental Alliance
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 Pfeiffer—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, the agenda review produced no changes.

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 edits to 2/24/16 meeting summary, post to website. (COMPLETE)

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

WDFW: Add WDFW as Voting Member?

The Task Force discussed adding WDFW as a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permittee to the Task Force. Settlement agreement on the hatchery permit appeal will occur in the next week. The Task Force opted to wait until the next Task Force meeting to consider adding WDFW as a voting member.

TTWG Report & Technical Topics:

TCP sites: Should the Task Force address these in its Comprehensive Plan? If so, how? The Comp 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

Previously, LimnoTech issued a draft of this memo, and revised it based on Task Force feedback. Dave added two items: incinerators and used oil burning (potential combustion source) and private septic systems (potential groundwater source). Dave noted that the “Final Draft”- even with a decision, can 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 quantify a “major source”? Hayden Area Regional Sewer Board (HARSB) has discharge at the background level. **A.** The wastewater treatment plant (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 to calculate PCBs in transformers and capacitors? **A.** Puget Sound assessment. Bryce Robbert says this study is old and has flaws. Dave Dilks will confer with Bryce.
- **C.** Some of these are speculative estimates: groundwater up-gradient of Kaiser, quantity of PCBs introduced via inadvertent production, legacy soil contamination—thus many will have large ranges on them.
 - Groundwater loading near Kaiser site: request to share with TF the data and assumptions used to calculate loading (presented June 2015).
- **Q.** RE: 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. If so, can we identify the true sources?

Comp Plan Task 2: Best Management Practices (BMP) inventory

Specific legal definitions exist for the term “Best Management Practice” (BMP) in Idaho and Washington; should the Comp Plan use a different term? Change to “pollution control 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 Task Force 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, and list a range of actions. Note: There is a federal definition of BMPs for NPDES regulations.

ACTION ITEM: Task force members to send comments on the BMP memo by March 23. Dave to send to Ruckelshaus Center for posting.

Jerry White would also like to see tables with discharge data that quantifies (as closely as possible) the magnitude for loading in NPDES permits. The more information the better, e.g. the County information about the influent sources (industry vs residential).

Particulate phase monitoring: (suggestion at last Task Force meeting). Dave Dilks talked with Richard Grace of AXYS about several ways to analyze particulate phase. 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. Dave does not think this would be worth the extra cost. Ecology's Environmental Assessment Program (EAP) is considering a particulate sampling project. 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, specifically organic carbon and total suspended solids (TSS). 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 TSS data from its upcoming monthly, potentially using this to inform a future study by the Task Force or in coordination with EAP.

Informal SRRTF Session Prior to Spokane River Forum: At "Our Gem" Lake Symposium 3/22/16, 2-5 pm

The Task Force will hold an informal meeting to take advantage of having the expertise of Dave Dilks and Lisa Rodenburg in the same locale. The meeting agenda includes a brief presentation of data collected and data analysis to date along with knowledge gaps. The group will discuss the potential for pattern analysis and fingerprinting, including legacy sources and inadvertent PCBs in effluent. Key question: Do we assess PCB levels in fish tissue? If so, what kind of candidate fish-related analysis is possible (e.g. food web model, water quality model, fingerprinting of bed sediments and fish tissue etc.)?

ACTION ITEM: Ruckelshaus Center to send out an announcement about this "informal discussion meeting" (non-official Task Force meeting) and provide a call in number. (COMPLETE)

ACTION ITEM: To inform that meeting, Dave Dilks requested data: WWTP flows, and influent and effluent PCB concentrations, existing PCB control plans. Units should be in total PCBs, and Dave would welcome the congener data. Follow up items on call for data:

- Dave will make clear each set of data may deal with blank correction in a different way, and list how each deals with it.
- All this data in Washington state is submitted to Ecology. The County's next set of data will be available in April. Dave can take what they have now, and then incorporate new data when it becomes available (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 revising Water Quality Standards for water assessment, and are looking for data to inform the changes. Policy 1-11 only looks at fish.

Data Management Work Group: The group needs to understand how the Task Force envisions making this all work (Task Force vision of the management of the data). Items addressed by the group:

- Scope: what data are we managing?

- Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) protocols: many are already embodied in the Task Force Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). This may require a revision of the standard QAPP.
- Who “owns” the database? The public. What about its long-term management? Is there a way to combine public agency responsibilities, so agencies figure out a way to do this so that all parties are comfortable?
- Technical Track Work Group 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 monitoring congeners in sediment? **A.** Dave Moss explained that it has to do with logistics, collecting data makes sense but to put it all into a Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) is not practical; the data are submitted, but not in a DMR—cannot associate QA/QC in the DMR format so it is not representative of the data. It would work better to have an annual report that includes this.
- Data submission to the Task Force? Would this be appropriate? **A.** Brian Nickel explained that EPA does not require reporting to third parties in any permit. All data is all available by public records request.
- **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. **C.** Remove requirement for monitoring sediment downstream of hatchery. Change to: Sample sediments (total suspended solids and total organic carbon) in effluent.
- **C.** The County suggested striking the last three bullets on page three. NPDES permittees have to do a source study and put together a plan to address them.
- Prepare a PCB toxics management plan, which must address source control.
- **C.** Grant Pfeiffer: 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.
 - 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 changes. Post by Monday March 21st, Task Force meet by Phone at 10am on 3/28. (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 Measurable Progress evaluation conducted by Ecology for the January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2014 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 along with identification of needed financial and technical assistance.
- Consider EPA’s permitting recommendations.
- Adapt Toxic Management Plans towards achieving goals (implement BMPs, evaluate effectiveness, and practice adaptive management).
- Monitor and report annually.

SRRTTF Fact Sheet:

Sandy Phillips drafted a “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 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:

- Chapters one and two of Ecology policy 1-11: individual entities invited to submit general comments and relevant data for the section 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 SRRTTF 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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