

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

DRAFT Summary Notes | Wednesday, May 5, 2016 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

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

### Attendees:

Mike Hermanson—Spokane County  
Ben Brattebo (phone)—Spokane County  
Adriane Borgias—Ecology  
Lisa Dally Wilson (Video)—Dally Environmental  
Dave Dilks (phone)—LimnoTech  
Jeff Donovan—City of Spokane  
Ted Hamlin—Ecology  
Kris Holm (phone)—City of Coeur d’Alene  
Doug Krapas—Inland Empire Paper  
Mike LaScuola—Spokane Regional Health District

Dave McBride (phone)—Department of Health  
Dave Moss—Spokane County  
Chris Page (video)—Ruckelshaus Center  
Adriane Pearson—City of Spokane  
Sandy Phillips—Spokane Regional Health District  
Jeremy Rys—Ecology  
Ken Windram (phone)—Hayden Area Regional Sewer Board  
Jerry White (phone)—Spokane Riverkeeper  
Kara Whitman—Ruckelshaus Center

### Introductions and Agenda Review

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

### Rodenburg Data Analysis

Dave Dilks reviewed a timeline of events leading to a draft cover letter for the summary of data to be sent to Lisa Rodenburg. The cover letter asks Rodenburg:

- *What can be said about the ultimate origin (e.g. legacy sources, inadvertently produced PCBs) of PCBs in the Spokane River?*
- *Does the nature of the source (or the PCB signature/signal) change as one moves downstream?*
- *Can you draw any conclusions regarding relative importance of (1) storm water, (2) groundwater, and (3) wastewater effluent (industrial and municipal) as contributors to observed Spokane River concentrations?*
- *Can the handful (three in the Spokane River, two in Latah Creek) of anomalously high river PCB concentrations observed during patchy wet weather during the (add “August”) 2014 synoptic survey be linked to wet weather sources?*
- *Does the contaminated groundwater up-gradient of Kaiser show as a significant contributor to the concentrations observed at Trent Ave. Bridge during the synoptic surveys?*

(From Cover Letter at <http://srtrtf.org/?p=6187>.)

### Q&A/Comments

- **C.** Dave Moss supplied a Spokane County 2016 annual toxics management report with more context for the cover letter (based on work Rodenburg has completed, or could do with Task Force data).
- **C.** Future TTWG Topic: look more closely at the Spokane County Toxic Management Report: PCB-specific sections.
- Revision to cover letter: add additional date information to the cover letter (for sampling events)

**ACTION ITEM:** Dave Dilks will send the LimnoTech memo “Summary of SRRTTF-Compiled PCB Data Available for Pattern Analysis. With the cover letter with minor edits to Ruckelshaus Center. Ruckelshaus Center to put the cover letter on Task Force letterhead, add additional date information and send the documents to Lisa Rodenburg. (COMPLETE)

**LimnoTech Presentation:** “Plan to Incorporate Comments on Draft “Magnitude of Sources and Pathways” Memorandum”

**Timeline for Finalizing the Magnitude of Sources and Pathways Memo:**

May 4th: Present proposed edits at TTWG meeting

May 11th: Provide revised draft for review

May 18th: Provide “final” draft for Task Force review and approval.

May 18-25<sup>th</sup>: Feedback on Final Draft

Dave Dilks has received many valuable comments on the draft memorandum. For a summary of comments see Limnotech presentation posted at [http://srtrtf.org/?page\\_id=1721](http://srtrtf.org/?page_id=1721) or see original comments at [http://srtrtf.org/?page\\_id=6228](http://srtrtf.org/?page_id=6228).

**Q&A/Comments:**

- **C.** Sally Brown of the University of Washington has provided feedback on sludge concentrations (Dave was put in contact through Ken Windram).
- **C.** Need to track down types of agricultural lands and types of bio-solids being applied to them. **Q.** How comprehensive does this need to be? Some in Hangman Creek. Names and numbers from treatment plants? Spokane County gets its bio-solids turned into compost that gets redistributed. Dave will have to follow up with treatment plants to determine who land-applies, composts, etc.
- **Q.** Will you consider compost as a source/pathway? Look to King County, unpublished study. **A.** did quantify total being generated in bio-solids, not a solid number for where it goes (volatilization etc.).
- **Q.** Does it make sense to spend time worrying about what is volatilized (leaving system)? Is it a net loss? **A.** Don’t know if it is a net positive, but want to put a credible number on it. Can keep a question mark on this in the comprehensive plan to address later, particularly for fate and transport areas that are difficult to put numbers too.
- **Q.** Unregistered dry wells, how is this accounted for?
- **Q.** Why did Dave remove outlier PCB measurement from Hangman Creek? **A.** Ecology source assessment did not see high values from this location. They won’t ignore it, but will not be used for best guesstimate (will be used for uncertainty).

**ACTION ITEM:** Dave Dilks to follow up with dischargers on bio-solids data, Adriane Borgias to send contact information for other entities if they exist.

**ACTION ITEM:** Task Force members to send any additional comments to Dave Dilks.

Conflicting comments from different Task Force members regarding blank correction of Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) data:

- Memo currently mixes and matches two sources of WWTP data (using 3x and 10x correction).
- Several reviewers gave comments for how to show the data, e.g.:
  - Show results only using 10x
  - Show results with no blank correction
  - Show results using all correction methods (more than 400 measurements)
    - Results will be shown with a range.
    - Explain the range and how it was derived.

**HR2576 Comment Letter**

The work group discussed alternative language provided by Dave McBride just prior to the May 4<sup>th</sup>, TTWG meeting.

### Q&A/Comments

- **C.** Dave Moss: The County are not able to sign on to a letter without review by legal counsel; unable to provide that on this schedule.
- **C.** The intent of this letter is a bit tangent to the Task Force's Memorandum of Agreement.
- **C.** The Spokane Regional Health District would abstain from this collective letter.

**DECISION:** Based on the positions of voting members of the Task Force voiced during this meeting, the group realized the letter would not be able to be sent as a full Task Force, so decided not to schedule a Task Force phone meeting to make a decision on that question. Entities can send letters on their own if they wish.

**ACTION ITEM:** Ruckelshaus Center to send an email to Task Force explaining there will not be a Task Force phone meeting for approval of a comment letter. (COMPLETE)

### EAP Fish Monitoring Map

Jeff Donovan explained that the map he created to look at fish tissue PCB sample results in comparison to "low energy" areas of the river (where sediment might collect) needs revision, as there are errors (he had been double counting some results).

**ACTION ITEM:** Jeff will redo the math and send out revised version. Ruckelshaus Center to post new version to the Task Force website. (COMPLETE, all maps by Jeff posted at [http://srtrtf.org/?page\\_id=6228](http://srtrtf.org/?page_id=6228).)

### Q&A/Comments

- **Q.** The long segment behind Nine Mile dam that has a sediment load: can this be taken into consideration along with Jeff's map and the Golder report done for Avista on sediment transport in the River? **A.** Not all sediment is the same – may not all have PCBs.
  - Hangman Creek sediment is Palouse loess soils. What is their capacity to hold archive PCBs separately from the more granular?
  - The Golder report defines the sediments from different depositional areas. Also have distribution of sediment samples, associated with different areas of the rivers.
  - Organic content component? Have older Ecology data on this. Will Hobbs could provide some insight from the Environmental Assessment Program (EAP) studies on the Wenatchee River.
- **C.** Comp Plan – PCBs in sediment – fish. Have data on sediment, not linked to fish right now.
- **C.** Look into the fish and establish the numbers. (San Francisco data show feedbacks between sediment and fish.) We should at least reference this possible connection in the plan to provide a platform to continue that investigation.
- **C.** The Task Force did not include fish data for consideration for the Rodenburg work.
- **Q.** Do the PCBs in the water column explain concentrations in the fish tissues? If there is no connection, then it could point to sediments.
- **C.** The bigger question is how does this information address cleaning up sources? Sediments can be a sink for PCBs, and a continuous source—but short of a cleanup, how is this addressed?
- **C.** Water in Long Lake is slack-water, if it gets remobilized it will settle back out again. There is the possibility that some PCBs will de-sorb into the water column.
- **Q.** Where does the Task Force put their energy – eliminating the inputs?
  - Water quality standard, fish advisory, two separate but related issues. – need success for both.

### Data Management Workgroup

Next Meeting scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup>. Note from Kris Holm: Duwamish – cites the Task Force blank correction protocol. (?? Clarify)

### **Ecology “request to reactivate a real-time gage on the Spokane River at Barker Road”**

Ecology would like the Task Force to consider providing funding to make this gage operational. The cost would be \$8500 for hardware. Ecology’s EAP would cover station and data maintenance.

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

- **Q.** Who would own the equipment? **A.** USGS gaging station. County used to provide funding for this gage. Only useful during low flow times, otherwise very similar to Post Falls. Can do a one-time measurement (~\$700) at time of sample collection. Dave Dilks: If down the line, other studies look at sediment and fish tissue, it may be useful. This is a well-understood section of the river, at the tail end of a losing reach.
- **C.** The justification from Ecology: to measure the low flow, collect good water flow measurements upstream of most of the dischargers. Lifespan would be indefinite (once installed it is only a matter of maintenance and data storage).
- **Q.** Time to install and get up and running? **A.** 90 days or less, once funding comes through. There is no urgency for fiscal year, would be owned by Ecology.
- **C.** Other options: SRRTTF grant activities? 50/50 split?

#### **July 2016 Comprehensive Plan Workshop**

LimnoTech and Ruckelshaus Center to put together the agenda and facilitation strategy. Task Force members to help provide the “inventory of items” to address at the workshop.

**How to Structure Workshop/Content?** The Task Force does not have administrative or regulatory authority to administer Best Management Practices (BMPs); however, they can recommend control actions.

**ACTION ITEM:** The TTWG will collaborate with LimnoTech and Ruckelshaus Center, who will format the agenda and workshop. The TTWG will advise on the “content” of the workshop.

Timing: June 1<sup>st</sup> TTWG meeting scheduled; put another meeting on the calendar in mid-June, another one leading up to the July workshop. Full Task Force workshop July 27<sup>th</sup>.

**ACTION ITEM:** Ruckelshaus Center to send the memo and cover letter to Lisa Rodenburg (COMPLETE). Ruckelshaus to schedule two additional meetings of the TTWG (COMPLETE: *additional TTWG Meetings: June 15<sup>th</sup> and July 20<sup>th</sup>. Scheduling information update: June 15<sup>th</sup> has limited availability at Ecology but Adriane Borgias has reserved the room from 8 am to 10:30 am. July 20<sup>th</sup> is flexible. Adriane Borgias has reserved room at Ecology from 10 am – 12 pm.*)

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The next SRRTTF Meeting is May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 from 9am -12:30 pm at the Spokane County Water Resources Center  
The next meeting of the Technical Track Work Group is June 1, 2016 from 10am-12pm at the Department of Ecology