**Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force**

DRAFT Meeting Summary

Wednesday, June 22, 2016 | 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District | 22510 E. Mission Ave | Liberty Lake, WA

*All Meeting Documents posted:* [*http://srrttf.org/?p=6514*](http://srrttf.org/?p=6514)

**Attendees:**

*Voting Members and Alternatives (\*Denotes a Voting Member)*

Tom Agnew\*, BiJay Adams –Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District

Galen Buterbaugh\* –Lake Spokane Association

Don Keil\*, Kris Holm (phone) --City of Coeur d’Alene

Doug Krapas\*, Ryan Ekre –Inland Empire Paper

Adriane Kronebaugh\* (phone) –Kootenai Environmental Alliance

Bud Leber\*, Brent Downey –Kaiser Aluminum

Dave McBride\* (phone) –Department of Health (DOH)

Dave Moss\*, Mike Hermanson –Spokane County

Mike Petersen\* –Lands Council

Sandy Phillips\*, Jon Sherve, Vikki Barthels –Spokane Regional Health District

Elizabeth Schoedel\*, Mike Coster, Jeff Donovan, Adrienne Pearson–City of Spokane

Jerry White\* –Riverkeeper

*Advisors*

Kevin Booth –Avista

Adriane Borgias, Holly Davies (phone), Grant Pfeifer Jeremy Ryf –Department of Ecology (Ecology)

Greg Lahti –Department of Transportation (WSDOT)

Mary Lou Soscia (phone) –Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

*Public/Interested Parties*

John Beacham –City of Post Falls

Lisa Dally Wilson –Dally Environmental

Dave Dilks (phone) –LimnoTech

Chris Donley—Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

Jim Kimball –J.U.B. Engineering

Eric Williams –Gallatin Public Affairs

Ken Windram –Hayden Area Regional Sewer Board (HARSB)

**Introductions, Agenda Review, and Acceptance of Prior Meeting Summary**

After a round of introductions, Chris Page went over the agenda. No changes were made to the agenda. The group then reviewed the May 25th, 2016 and June 15th, 2016 Task Force meeting summaries.

**DECISION:** The Task Force accepted the May 25th and June 15th meeting summaries for the record.

**ACTION ITEM**: Ruckelshaus Center to post accepted meeting summaries to the Task Force Website. (COMPLETE)

**New SRRTTF Voting Member? WDFW**

Chris Donley explained thatWDFW has two years to complete a PCB control plan, including a monitoring protocol with 1668 method. This went out as an administrative order attached to the Spokane Hatchery permit.

**DECISION:** The Task Force agreed to add the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) as a voting member of the Task Force pending signing of the Task Force Memorandum of Agreement.

**ACTION ITEM:** Ruckelshaus Center to make a nameplate for WDFW.

**Court Case Update**

Bud Leber reported that the Sierra Club filed a supplemental complaint. EPA plans to file a motion in September of 2016 to dismiss the case because of jurisdictional issues. If the judge rejects either (complaint or dismissal request), there will be briefs back and forth. The judge has not given a decision, and there will be no resolution soon. The Spokane Tribe also moved to amend their complaint. There is no schedule or deadline at this point.

**ACTION ITEM:** Kris Holm to send link to supplemental complaint, Ruckelshaus Center to send to Task Force. **(COMPLETE)**

**TTWG Report & Technical Topics**

**Presentation: “Update on Comprehensive Plan Activities”. *See presentation at*** [***http://srrttf.org/?p=6514***](http://srrttf.org/?p=6514)***.***

Dave Dilks of LimnoTech said he has made final revisions to the “Magnitude of Sources and Pathways” memo (adjustment of Figure 2 scale, updates to map to highlight data outliers, and clarification/corrections in response to Mike Hermanson’s comments at the previous meeting).

Dave will distribute a revised draft of the Task 2b: “Cost/Effectiveness of Control Actions” Memo by the end of the day, 6/22/16. LimnoTech restructured the memo in response to comments and included a qualitative assessment of each control action (efficiency, significance, cost, implementing entity, pollution prevention hierarchy, ancillary benefit). A review of plans from other sites showed that plans to mitigate PCB sources and pathways have uncertainty as the rule not the exception all of them rely heavily on adaptive management.

*Conclusions:* The most important delivery mechanisms already have control actions in place (wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) upgrades, City of Spokane’s Integrated Clean Water Plan, Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) site cleanup, etc.). and many control actions identified in the memo are redundant with existing efforts. Further, some control actions are so uncertain that they cannot be fully evaluated at this time.

Final draft of Cost/Effectiveness of Control Actions due by July 14th.

***Q&A/Comments***

* **C.** Load reductions to river be monitored in the future, gage effectiveness in future
* **C.** Task Force Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) notes that the Task Force will monitor and assess progress. A column to set goals will be important long term. **A.** Task Four of the Comp Plan includes establishing Interim Targets. It is difficult to measure some control actions (given wide variability), but still worth doing.
* **C.** State regulation on products: assess and evaluate this line item.
* **C.** What is the control action and linkage to cost: regulation vs implementation of a control action?
* **C.** Enforcement via existing mechanisms, or need new enforcement mechanism (voluntary, regulatory etc.)?
* **Q.** Prioritize actions that reduce the most PCBs, how to make that action happen? Which ones are most ready for implementation, and what are the next steps to make them happen?
* **C.** Really need to flesh out the description of control actions.
* **C.** Add column for “ease of implementation.”
* **C.** Add narrative that explains the ease or difficulty of each implementation.

***Potential broad-scale prioritization for PCB Control Actions:***

1. Maintain existing control actions.
2. Gain understanding of uncertain source areas and pathways; prioritize these actions by best current estimate of magnitude.
3. Assess if additional actions merit near-term consideration. Only consider those that can be reasonably expected to achieve noticeable reductions of loading. How many actions will be in this category?

**Update on Monthly Sampling 2016:** LimnoTech received and blank corrected data from the March event. AXYS has changed lab procedures and is now doing three method blanks. This poses questions on how to use the three blanks for analysis. The Task Force will need to address this in future Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs). Highest concentration appeared at Nine Mile during a high flow event at the mouth of Latah Creek. Blanks levels were all very low, none of the concentrations are in triple digits. PCB concentrations showed nothing shocking, with relatively low concentrations. Once all data are in, LimnoTech will compare all data and make recommendations on moving forward. There is a need to look at the rain events during this time and link to the sampling (and location). There were some significant rainfall events during the sampling period.

**Workshop Planning:** Technical Track Work Group (TTWG) Meetings: July 1st and July 20th. Chris Page gave an overview of the workshop approach based on Task Force input. The workshop will start at 8:30 am (rather than 9 am). The TTWG will work on the refining of the purpose statement for the WS.

Chris read the draft purpose. **C**. Dave Dilks – reality is that there is another month to hash things out if needed. The workshop can provide a rough screening, with prioritization and consensus soon after workshop. Format ideas: group by categories: 1) Implement near term, 2) implement longer term 3) Don’t implement – non viable, or 4) revise action and bring back later. Facilitated discussion on each item- put into the “buckets”.

* **Q.** Some control actions are already being implement, where do they fit in? What about actions for source pathways with information gaps?
* **C.** The Comp Plan can identify actions with interim steps (studies or regulatory/policy steps, funding mechanisms).
* **C.** This is a collaborative effort with a wide range of stakeholders that can create momentum through comprehensive plan for voluntary actions and milestones for evaluation.

**Funding Work Group Update:** Adriane Borgias reminded the Task Force of its Funding Strategies document, which has significant details about actions, funding mechanisms, and other information potentially usable for the Comprehensive Plan. The group proposed that the funding work group begin meeting again soon.

**Upcoming EPA Rulemaking Regarding PCBs**

Mary Lou Soscia (EPA) gave a brief overview of upcoming rulemaking that that Task Force should be aware of**.**

* “Reassessment of Use Authorizations: October 2017, advance notice of proposed rulemaking (2010), Draft rule to move forward by Oct. 2017.
* PCBs in Small Capacitors in Schools and Daycare Centers: (lighting ballasts) Oct. 2016, this may be pushed back a bit (could be a significant delay).

***Q&A/Comments:***

* **C.** These rulemakings have nothing to do with overhaul of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).
* **Q.** Is it worth being involved, or writing a letter? A. This is a good action for TSCA reform group to be involved in. There are 14 relevant items, e.g.: the definition of 50 ppm as “PCB-free,” manufacturing processes, caulks, porous surfaces, risk analysis/water quality standards, stakeholder meetings with WWTPs, current waste disposal capacity (versus when regulations were passed), pathways to water, weather events, pigments, environmental Impact of releases 🡪 fish, pollution prevention principles, cost benefit analysis and waste disposal, cost of water treatment, retrofits and removal, recycled products and industry, etc.
	+ **Q.** What action to take? Not open for comment, how can the Task Force have an impact? **A.** Mary Lou recommends the Task Force keep pushing because they have a big impact even at a national level. EPA is going through transition soon; no matter who is president, things will change, still keep pushing and sending letters (even resending letters sent before). Travel and meet with people. The Task Force is one of the leaders in the country on this issue.

**ACTION ITEM:** The Task Force TSCA work group to meet and work to develop a draft letter to send to EPA, coordinating with the Environmental Council of States (ECOS) and the entities working on cleanup of Duwamish PCBs. The TSCA work group will meet and begin developing list of talking points.

**ACTION ITEM:** Mary Lou Soscia to provide the Task Force a “30-thousand-foot view” of what TSCA reform bill means to EPA (timeline, substance, opportunities, process). This may take a while to get a really clear picture.

**Spokane Regional Health District Overview of activities and resources *(online at*** [***http://srrttf.org/?p=6514***](http://srrttf.org/?p=6514)***)***

Sandy Phillips described the Local Source Control Program. The program began with the 2006 legislature recognizing the distressed state of urban waters including the Spokane River, work began through the Urban Waters Initiative (UWI) and the Local Source Control Program (LSC). The focus is on improving water quality through no charge technical expertise, which helps businesses understand and implement improved environmental practices and comply with regulations. The River was the main driver, but also addressed protection of the aquifer. The program includes a lot of education on the connection of the aquifer and the river. LSC helps businesses identify pollution at the source, ensures that businesses have the proper permits, helps to implement best management practices, and provides access to waste handling and disposal expertise.

LSC representatives could visit businesses in Task Force priority areas, working with Lisa Brown at Ecology. The Task Force could help by identifying priority areas. The current contract for the program is up in the middle of 2017, when priorities could be added.

**Update on Schedule for draft NPDES Permits (see presentation slides at** [**http://srrttf.org/?p=6514**](http://srrttf.org/?p=6514)**)**

Adriane explained the draft NPDES municipal and Industrial permit schedule. Expectations in the permits regarding SRRTTF include continued involvement in the Task Force and completion of the Comprehensive Plan by end of 2016. Ecology expects the Task Force and permittees to focus on implementation in the next permit cycle, focused on implementing activities and measuring reductions of toxics inputs and environmental results.

* **C.** Environmental results may be difficult to show in water column. Are there other ways to measure reductions?
* **C.** The next fish tissue study (7-year cycle), beyond permit cycle. Task Force to discuss with the Environmental Assessment Program (EAP) about doing a fish study during each five-year permit cycle.
	+ Fish studies need to be structured to answer questions that address measured reductions – how to link PCB inputs to fish tissue studies?
	+ EAP fish studies inform water quality assessment process and fish consumption advisories.
	+ Spokane Community Indicators graph shows the change in fish tissue PCB concentrations.

**ACTION ITEM**: Adriane Borgias will make sure that the draft permits are made available to the TF when they are out. (COMPLETE, Posted to the Task Force website at <http://srrttf.org/?page_id=6703>)

**Events & Outreach, Funding**

* Funding: Ecology has published a funding list: statewide, $109 million available for water quality work. $10 million went to the Spokane River: $7 million to loans (CSO and wastewater) and $3 million to stormwater grants.
* Funding Work Group: Adriane recommends the Task Force review the funding strategies document. Will bring back to group after the workshop.

**Announcements:**

* City of Spokane lawsuit: Monsanto submitted a large data request to Ecology.
* Spokane Tribe Hatchery expansion will include new technology upgrades, with lots of investment by Bonneville Power.
* August 17th, annual tour of cleanup activities in the Silver Valley: open to public.

No Public Comment

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The next SRRTTF Meeting is July 27, 2016 from 8:30am -5 pm at the Spokane County Water Resource Center.

The next meeting of the Technical Track Work Group is July 6, 2016 from 10am-12pm at the Department of Ecology