

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

December 7, 2016 | 10:00 am -12:00 pm

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

Meeting Documents Posted: <http://srirtf.org/?p=7392>

Attendees: (*denotes voting member or alternate)

Tom Agnew* –Liberty Lake Sewer & Water District
Gary Andres –NewFields, Inc.
John Beacham –City of Post Falls
Adriane Borgias –WA Dept of Ecology (Ecology)
Galen Buterbaugh* –Lake Spokane Association
Lisa Dally Wilson (Video) –Dally Environmental
Dave Dilks (phone) –LimnoTech
Chris Donley* –WA Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jeff Donovan* –City of Spokane
Kris Holm (phone) –City of Coeur d’Alene
Doug Krapas* –Inland Empire Paper
Mike LaScuola* –Spokane Regional Health District

Bud Leber (phone) –Kaiser Aluminum
Lisa Manning* (phone) –Kootenai Environmental Alliance
Dave McBride* –WA Department of Health
Dave Moss* –Spokane County
Cadie Olsen –City of Spokane
Monica Ott –City of Post Falls
Chris Page (video) –Ruckelshaus Center
Amanda Parrish –Lands Council
Jeremy Schmidt –Ecology
Sandra Treccani –Ecology
Ken Windram –Hayden Area Regional Sewer Board
Kara Whitman – Ruckelshaus center

Introduction and Agenda Review

After introductions, the group did not change the agenda.

Comprehensive (Comp) Plan Cover Letter/Press Release

The group discussed the rough Comp Plan cover letter/press release, drafted by Mike Petersen and Tom Agnew at the request of the SRRTTF. Issues and suggestions related to formatting, tone, topics, graphic(s), and key message(s).

DECISION: The Task Force felt the Press Release needed more work, so requested the Education and Outreach Work Group pull together a new draft that addresses the items discussed at the meeting.

ACTION ITEM: The Task Force Education and Outreach Work group will meet at 1:30pm on December 7th. The Education and Outreach Work Group will draft a new press release by December 28th to post for discussion at the January 4, 2017 TTWG meeting. The Task Force will then have the opportunity to provide comment/feedback on the draft. The Draft will be discussed on January 4th, then go out for Task Force review. Once comments/edits have been incorporated, the Draft will be posted by January 18th for potential approval at the January 25th Task Force meeting.

Comp Plan

LimnoTech submitted the Comp Plan to the Task Force as a deliverable on November 29th, 2016 (after the SRRTTF accepted the Comp Plan on November 16th 2016). Dave Dilks agreed to make a small change to title and send to Task Force for posting.

Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) Letter: Request to Meet EPA’s TSCA & Water Staff Jointly

The Task Force TSCA Work Group drafted a letter to send to EPA regarding the Implementation of TSCA to reduce PCB inputs to our Nation’s waters. The letter is to Jim Jones (EPA Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention) and Cynthia Giles (EPA Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance), along

with a number of other EPA officials and state legislators. The idea is to get to enable the two departments (TSCA and Water Quality) to work together.

The Group expressed the need to submit the letter before the end of the year in time for the issues to be discussed for the transition between administrations. The Task Force submitted a letter two years ago, requesting EPA enforce existing regulations, and consider lowering the 50-ppm restriction to better match the State's Water Quality Standards (WQS). EPA's response on the first letter basically said they would not change the 50-ppm restriction. Now that Washington WQS have changed, it is time to ask for a meeting to discuss this issue again.

Discussion/Comments on the Draft letter:

- Put state of Washington and Idaho legislators and Maia Bellon (Ecology Director) on the cc list.
- Shift target audience in congress, due to the shift in congressional power
- Add a timeline for EPA to respond: request a response to the letter by "date" and request a meeting within the next two months
- **Q.** How will the shift in administration affect EPA, and the ability to get a meeting? **A.** The staff level we are looking for will not likely shift, though their availability may be different.
- **Q.** If this letter accomplishes what we want, then will EPA stop allowing products with PCBs into the country? **A.** Ultimately yes, though there is the concern that EPA is also protecting special interest (chemical industry), may have to be a phased approach.

DECISION: The Task Force approved the letter with the edits made at the meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Adriane Borgias and Kara Whitman to add legislators and Ecology Director to cc list, track down all cc list email addresses. Also, to specify region 10 for EPA on the letterhead. (COMPLETE)

ACTION ITEM: Adriane Borgias to make the edits to the letter and send to Kara Whitman to put on letterhead – then Chris Page to send. (COMPLETE, posted at <http://srtrtf.org/?p=7442>)

Technical Topics: Updates on Sampling

Dave Dilks noted that the raw data from 2016 Monthly Sampling arrived and will be ready for discussion by the end of January. Blank correcting will not be done till Quality Assessment/Quality Control (QAQC) is completed. Dave will send the in-river data prior to the January Task Force Meeting.

Jeff Donovan reported the City of Spokane got opportunistic stormwater PCB data during a wet weather event. The results appear typical of prior stormwater samples: average concentration of 5300 pg/l, loading of approximately 124 mg/day for the Cochrane stormwater basin on that day, leading to about 11.8 pg/l increase in concentration in the river. Homolog profile: pretty typical from what they have seen in the past from the basin.

ACTION ITEM: Jeff Donovan to send data from City of Spokane to Kara Whitman and Kris Holm. This data is also posted on the December 7th meeting announcement. (COMPLETE)

Data Management Work Group: Update on Proposals

The group has not met yet to review and rank the proposals received. They will meet by phone in time to finalize a recommendation for the January Task Force meeting.

Data Mining:

Lisa commented that the TF has a plethora of data. Once all of the 2016 data is completed (QAQC) it may be time to move into analysis of all data collected to date (homolog analysis, Positive Matrix Factorization, etc.). The group suggested avoiding a piecemeal approach and noted:

- Comp Plan, Section 6.3.2 includes addressing data gaps, mining of existing data, format, assessment, results inform future work. (The SRRTTF has not committed to do this.)
- Section 5.14.1.A (sites of concern for groundwater contamination): control action that the Task Force agreed to develop a work plan for.

PCB Control Actions Requiring Work Plans

The group discussed format, expectations, detail, and what should be in the work plans. The TTWG identified leads for each work plan and establish a target date for completion.

- Basic Framework: Table of specific actions by when?
- List of what is going to be done with target dates, then work into the details.
- Note: The Sept. 15th draft of plan has more detail that may be useful as a starting point for coming up with the work plans – milestones and timelines in there.

Sites of Concern for Contaminated Groundwater

Adriane is willing to help with this, also many other Task Force members may want to be involved. Need to put together a scope of work on what is out there.

- LimnoTech can do this type of work, either support Ecology or take the lead.
- First Step, schedule a meeting with Sandra Treccani, Jeremy Schmidt and Bill Fees and other pertinent folks and develop a list from this discussion.
- 2nd step: Explore central files on each of those sites that can be found: not going to be reports online because they are smaller, mostly paper, some CDs. Many will not be in Ecology's Environmental Information Management system (EIM). All 8082 method. The Task Force can match aroclors in 8082 at a rough level if there are detections. This may not be worth it, if the outcome will be all non-detects. Could be soil data that could exceed.
- 2nd simultaneous step: feet on the ground driving around checking on old monitoring wells. Look at sites from roadway.
- Someone from Ecology should have a lead role. Bud Leber explained that at a high level, the Task Force can look at the river segment by segment, and examine if there is there an unknown source that Ecology or the Task Force has congener level data for. Then can connect congener to aroclor (Lisa Rodenburg work) to determine if a signature of something coming in can be identified. Upgradient data from Kaiser could also be used the same way.
- Dave Dilks: potential of sites that have met their target cleanup – look at groundwater flow balance, these sites could still be contributing to contamination of water.
- Adriane Borgias to lead. Follow what is in 5.14 to pull work plan together, aiming for an agreed-on plan in mid-2017. Will need some assistance from interested entities.
 - Step 1: evaluate existing data – what is the universe of data, what is the geographically important data to look at?
 - SWAT team approach: Adriane Borgias (lead), Jeff Donovan, Jeremy Schmidt, Bud Leber, Mike Hermanson (need to confirm).

ACTION ITEM: The 5.14 SWAT team to schedule a meeting and develop a timeline.

Waste Disposal Assistance: Spokane Regional Health district to lead – through waste directory mechanism, draft a message and get Task Force approval. Basic steps and dates by which they are achievable.

Green Chemistry:

ACTION ITEM: Adriane Borgias to discuss a Green Chemistry work plan with Ken Zarker and Others and Schedule a meeting. the new point person from Ecology will be Saskia VanBergen (Ken Zarker Retired). (COMPLETE)

Building demolition and renovation: Coordinate with local government on guidance documents. Developing materials, but then communicate/get buy in from these other division. Note: Toni Taylor of Spokane County has been looking into materials that could be adapted by the Task Force. SWAT team: Cadie Olsen (L), Toni Taylor (?), Mike LaScuola., Adriane Borgias, Post Falls Rep (still deciding who).

The next Full Task Force meeting is January 25th, 2017 at Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The next Technical Track Work Group meeting is January 4th, 2017 at WA Department of Ecology, Spokane from 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.