# Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force

 Quarterly Report (10/1/14 – 12/31/14)

**Project Staff:** Chris Page, Facilitator; Kara Whitman, Project Coordinator; Michael Kern, Strategic Advisor; Cheryl Rajcich, Budget Manager

**Project Purpose:** The Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force (SRRTTF) is a collaborative group of governmental agencies, private industries, environmental organizations, and interested parties attempting an innovative approach to the reduction of PCBs within the Spokane River.

**Q1 Meeting Schedule:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  | Oct |  |  | Nov |  | Dec |
| **Task Force Meetings** | **2014** | **TT** | **TF** |  | **TT** | **TF** | **TF** |  | **TT** | **MOA** | **TF** | **MOA** |
| **1** | **22** |  | **5** | **12** | **17** |  | **3** | **4** | **17** | **18** |
| **Chris Page, Facilitator** | 1 | 1 |  | 1 |  | 1 |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| **Kara Whitman, Coordinator** | 1 | 1 |  | 1 | 1 | 1 |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

**Project highlights:**

* **Meetings:** Project facilitator Chris Page developed meeting agendas for six meetings, including three Task Force meetings and three Technical Track Work Group (TTWG) meetings. Chris facilitated 8 meetings including Task Force, TTWG and two Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) work group meetings. Meeting notices, agendas and materials, and summaries were drafted and distributed for each meeting by Kara Whitman. One Task force conference call was facilitated by Kara Whitman.
* **Synoptic Sampling and January 2015 PCB Workshop:** The Center assisted the Task Force in the planning of the January 2015 PCB Workshop. This included the development of the Workshop agenda, securing a venue, a venue visit, and identifying graduate student assistance from Washington State University for the Workshop.
* **MOA and Transparency:** The Center assisted the Task Force in the formation of the Memorandum of Agreement Work Group (MOA WG), scheduled meetings of the MOA WG and facilitated the consideration of revisions to the MOA.
* **Website Management:** Kara Whitman managed and updated the web page on behalf of the Task Force for the meetings facilitated by the Ruckelshaus Center. This included posting meeting announcements, materials and supporting documents, and meeting summaries—and also encompasses the documentation of the annual accomplishments of the Task Force for 2013.
* **Technical Advisor:** The Task Force worked with the Technical Advisor (LimnoTech) to assist in Task Force understanding of technical issues and to ensure that presentations and reports get adequately vetted before meetings.
* **Public Information and Outreach:** The Center assisted in the development of outreach materials for the Spokane River Forum with the assistance of a Washington State University student. These materials included 3 large posters, business cards and a 3X5 handout. The materials are now available for Task Force use at future events.

**Center Staff will continue to work with Task Force members and Work Groups in support of their project activities:**

* The Task Force and work groups will continue to meet on a monthly basis, with the MOA WG meeting regularly every two weeks or as needed until its efforts are completed.
* The Task Force will continue to work with the Technical Consultant on completing assigned Tasks as well as on Phase Two of the Technical Consultant’s work.
* EPA and the Idaho parties plan to join the Task Force formally now that the Idaho discharger permits are finalized. The Center will continue to facilitate the Task Force’s consideration of, and agreement on, needed changes to the group’s Memorandum of Agreement.
* The Task Force will continue to work on documenting their activities and developing and implementing a communication strategy.
* The Task Force and TTWG will finalize plans for the technical workshop to be held in January 2015, including extra planning meetings and the inclusion of experts from around the United States.

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