# Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force

 Quarterly Report (1/1/15 – 3/31/15)

**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.

**Q11 Meeting Schedule:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  | Jan |  | Feb |  | Mar |
| **Task Force Meetings** | **2015** | **TT** | **MOA** | **WS** |   | **TT** | **MOA** | **TF** |   | **TT** | **MOA** | **TF** |
| **1** | **7, 23** | **13, 14** |   | **4** | **9, 23** | **25** |   | **3** | **9, 18** | **25** |
| **Chris Page, Facilitator** | 1 | 2 | 2 |   | 1 | 2 | 1 |   | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| **Kara Whitman, Coordinator** | 1 | 2 | 2 |   | 1 | 2 | 1 |   | 1 | 2 | 1 |

**Project highlights:**

* **Meetings:** Project facilitator Chris Page developed meeting agendas for eleven meetings, including two Task Force meetings and three Technical Track Work Group (TTWG) meetings, and six Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Work Group Meetings. Chris facilitated eleven meetings including Task Force, TTWG and 6 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) work group meetings. Chris Page and Kara Whitman assisted with facilitation and coordination of the 2 day January Workshop (WS). Meeting notices, agendas and materials, and summaries were drafted and distributed for each meeting by Kara Whitman.
* **Synoptic Sampling and January 2015 PCB Workshop:** The Center assisted in organizing and facilitating the two-day technical workshop in January 2015. The Center enlisted two volunteer graduate students from the WSU School of the Environment to assist with logistics including webinar and live polling services.
* **MOA and Transparency:** The Center continued to coordinate and facilitate the work of MOA Work Group. The center scheduled and facilitated meetings, developed agendas, and updated MOA versions and meeting summaries on the Task Force website.
* **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 2014.
* **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.
* **Fish Hatcheries:** The Center assisted the Task Force in identifying and contacting appropriate parties in Washington State the Fish Hatcheries operations that interact with the Spokane River.
* **Outreach:** The Center highlighted the work of the Task Force in the Center’s \_\_\_\_\_ and the Washington State University Academic Showcase.
* **Mid Point Assessment:** Project facilitator Chris Page conducted a mid-point assessment to gauge progress the Task Force has made toward achieving the goals and objectives outlined in its MOA. This assessment will provide information as to how the Center can improve its services provided to the Task Force and build on existing systems and accomplishments to date.

**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.
* 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.
* The Center will work with the newly formed Task Force Education and Outreach team on goals, education and outreach plan, and education and outreach materials and events.
* 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 MOA. The Center will also assist in inviting new parties as identified by the Task Force after MOA legal review.
* The Task Force will continue to work on documenting their activities and developing and implementing a communication strategy.

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