# Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force

Quarterly Report (4/1/15 – 6/30/15)

**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.

**Q12 Meeting Schedule:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | April | | |  | May | | |  | June | | | |
| **Task Force Meetings** | **2015** | **TT** | **TF** | **E&O WG** |  | **TT** | **TF** | **E&O WG** |  | **TT** | **MOA** | **TF** | **C.R. WG** |
| **1** | **22** | **1** |  | **6** | **27** | **6** |  | **3** | **16** | **24** | **2,4,5, 15** |
| **Chris Page, Facilitator** | 1 | 1 | 1 |  | 1 | 1 | 1 |  |  | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| **Kara Whitman, Coordinator** | 1 | 1 | 1 |  | 1 | 1 | 1 |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |

**Project highlights:**

* **Meetings:** Project facilitator Chris Page developed meeting agendas for eleven meetings, including three Task Force meetings and three Technical Track Work Group (TTWG) meetings, one Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Work Group Meetings, and 4 Coordinated Response Work Group meetings. Chris facilitated ten meetings including Task Force, TTWG, Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) work group, and four special small work group session meetings. Meeting notices, agendas and materials, and summaries were drafted and distributed for each meeting by Kara Whitman. Kara Whitman facilitated three meetings including one TTWG meeting and two Education and Outreach Work Group Meetings. Kara developed agendas for two Education and Outreach Work Group meetings.
* **MOA and Transparency:** The Center collected responses from the legal review of the revised MOA and compiled those edits and comments into a single document for posting to the Task Force website and for use by the MOA Work group.
* **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. The Center also assisted the Task Force small work group in researching past or current studies on fish tissue, hatchery fish feed and PCB toxics.
* **Outreach:** The Center highlighted the work of the Task Force in the Center’s at the 2015 University Network for Collaborative Governance (UNCG) Conference.

**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.

**The William D. Ruckelshaus Center**

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