# Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force

Quarterly Report (7/1/15 – 9/30/15)

**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.

**Q13 Meeting Schedule:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | July | | |  | August |  | September | | |
| **Task Force Meetings** | **2015** | **TT** | **E&O WG** | **TF** |  | **TT** |  | **TT** | **E&O**  **WG** | **TF** |
| **1** | **1, 15** | **29** |  | **6** |  | **2** | **2** | **3, 23** |
| **Chris Page, Facilitator** | 1 |  | 1 |  | 1 |  | 1 |  | 2 |
| **Kara Whitman, Coordinator** | 1 | 2 | 1 |  | 1 |  | 1 | 1 | 2 |

*TT: Technical Track Work Group*

*E&O WG: Education & Outreach Work Group*

*TF: Task Force*

**Project highlights:**

* **Meetings:** Facilitator Chris Page developed meeting agendas for six meetings, including three Task Force meetings and three Technical Track Work Group (TTWG) meetings. Chris facilitated six meetings including Task Force and TTWG. Kara Whitman drafted and distributed announcements, materials, and summaries were drafted and distributed for each meeting. Kara Whitman developed agendas and facilitated three meetings of the Education and Outreach 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.
* **Technical Advisor:** The Task Force worked with the Technical Advisor (LimnoTech) and other technical staff (Department of Ecology Environmental Assessment Program staff, representatives from Task Force entities, and TTWG Chair Bud Leber) to assist in Task Force understanding of technical issues and to ensure that presentations and reports were adequately vetted before meetings.
* **Partnerships:** The Center continued to coordinate the initiation and development of multiple partnerships among the Task Force and other agencies including the Northwest Pollution Prevention Center (NWCC), the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), the City of Seattle, the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI), The Washington Department of Enterprise Services (DES), and Washington State University.
* The Center facilitated dialogue between the Task Force and the Department of Enterprise Services (DES) and subsequent formation of a Task Force work group to advise DES on the implementation of the State RCW 39.26.280 “PCB-Free” Purchasing policy and the use of the “Best Value Bid Weighting Calculator”.
* Outreach: The Center coordinated the Education and Outreach work group, which recently drafted and submitted an application (through the City of Spokane) for a municipal stormwater Grant of Regional or Statewide Significance (GROSS) from the Department of Ecology requesting ~$300,000 to develop and implement a strategic public education and awareness campaign focused on providing information on the water quality challenges facing the Spokane River and the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer.

**Upcoming Center work with Task Force members and Work Groups:**

* 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 continue to provide support for the Task Force ad-hoc work groups (hydroseed, vactor waste, education and outreach, database management, fish and fish hatcheries) as needed.
* The Center will facilitate the Task Force’s process of adding new members along with Task Force’s consideration of, and agreement on, needed changes to the group’s Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) if that again becomes necessary. The Center would 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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