# Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force

 Quarterly Report (10/1/15 – 12/31/15)

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

**Q14 Meeting Schedule:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | October |  | November |  | December |
| **Task Force Meetings** |  **2015**  | **TT** | **TF** |  | **TT** | **E&O WG** | **TF** |  | **TT** | **E&O****WG** | **TF** | **WS** |
| **7** | **21** |  | **4** | **4** | **18** |  | **2** | **10** | **16** | **9, 16, 22** |
| **Chris Page, Facilitator** | 1 | 1 |  | 1 |  | 1 |  | 1 |  | 1 |  |
| **Kara Whitman, Coordinator** | 1 | 1 |  | 1 | 1 | 1 |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |

*TT: Technical Track Work Group*

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

*TF: Task Force*

*WS: Workshop Planning Work Group*

**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 also facilitated those six Task Force and TTWG meetings. Kara Whitman drafted and distributed announcements, materials, and summaries for each meeting. Kara also developed agendas and facilitated two meetings of the Education and Outreach Work Group and participated in the Task Force Workshop Planning Work Group.
* **Website Management:** Kara managed and updated the web page on behalf of the Task Force for all 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 adequate vetting of presentations and reports before meetings.
* **February 2016 Technical Workshop:** The Center assisted the Task Force in the planning of the February 2016 SRRTTF Workshop. This included developing the Workshop agenda, securing a venue, ordering food, setting up registration (with help from Ann Francis), and procuring graduate student logistical assistance from Washington State University.
* **Outreach:** The Center coordinated the Education and Outreach work group as it undertook updating of the SRRTTF outreach posters, developing brochures, identifying a list of outreach events for 2016, and putting together materials for the March 2016 Spokane River Forum.

**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 facilitate the development of the Task Force’s Comprehensive Plan to bring the Spokane River into compliance with applicable water quality standards.
* The Center will continue to provide support for Task Force ad-hoc work groups (hydroseed, vactor waste, education and outreach, database management, fish and hatcheries, etc.) as needed.
* The Center will facilitate the Task Force’s process of considering the addition of new members along with agreement on any further needed changes to the group’s Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) if that becomes necessary. The Center would also assist in inviting new parties as identified by the Task Force after MOA legal review.
* The Center will continue to assist the Task Force as it documents activities and develops and implementing a communication strategy.

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