# Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force

 Quarterly Report (4/1/16 – 6/30/16)

**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.

**Q16 Meeting Schedule:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | April |  | May |  | June |
| **Task Force Meetings** |  **2016**  | **TT** | **TF** |  | **TT** | **TF** |  | **TT** | **TT/TF** | **TF** |
| **6** | **27** |  | **4** | **25** |  | **1** | **15** | **22** |
| **Chris Page, Facilitator** | 1 | 1 |  | 1 | 1 |  | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| **Kara Whitman, Coordinator** | 1 | 1 |  | 1 | 1 |  | 1 | 1 | 1 |

*TT: Technical Track Work Group*

*TF: Task Force*

**Project highlights:**

* **Meetings:** Facilitator Chris Page developed meeting agendas for seven meetings including three Task Force meetings, three Technical Track Work Group (TTWG) meetings, one combined Task Force and Technical Track Work Group Meeting. Chris also facilitated those seven Task Force and TTWG meetings. Kara Whitman drafted and distributed announcements, materials, and summaries for each meeting. Kara also helped manage communications at the meetings including conference phones, presentations, and the use of webinars.
* **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. Kara also added a new organizational page (Site Map) to the webpage and updated the 2015 Task Force Year-in-Review. Kara also added a Comprehensive Plan page on the website to house all information related to the development of the Comprehensive Plan, including: scope and timeline, draft and final versions of memos, comments and revisions on memos, and more.
* **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, to ensure adequate vetting of presentations and reports before meetings, and to enable the TTWG to discuss and recommend next steps on technical issues to the full SRRTTF for decisions and actions. The Ruckelshaus Center also assisted in communication with Dr. Lisa Rodenburg on potential PCB Pattern Analysis study utilizing Task Force PCB data collected to date. This included sending a Task Force drafted cover letter and the memo “Summary of SRRTTF-Compiled PCB Data Available for Pattern Analysis” drafted by LimnoTech.
* **SRRTTF Comprehensive Plan:** The Center assisted the Task Force and the Technical Consultant with distributing and posting drafts and comments on the Comprehensive Plan memo. Two memos have been finalized at this time including: *“SRRTTF Sources and Pathways”* memo, and the *“SRRTTF Magnitude of Sources and Pathways”* memo. The Center worked with the Technical Track Work Group, the Task Force, and the Technical Consultant on the development of the format and the agenda for the July 27th Comprehensive Plan Workshop.
* **Outreach:** The Ruckelshaus Center drafted a Task Force Glossary of Terms and helped to finalize the Task Force/PCB Fact Sheet drafted by Sandy Phillips and the Education and Outreach Work Group.
* **TSCA:** The Ruckelshaus Center facilitated the process of the Task Force drafting a comment letter regarding the HR2576 Bill (TSCA Reform).

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

* The Center will facilitate and coordinate meetings of the Task Force and its work groups, as well as to identify opportunities for university research and expertise to inform outreach and public education and the process of reducing toxins in the River, at least through June 30, 2017.
* 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. This will include the facilitation of a full day comprehensive planning workshop on July 27th at the Spokane County Water Resource Center.
* 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 implements a communication strategy.

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