# Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force

Quarterly Report (1/1/13 – 3/31/13)

**Project Staff:** Kelsey Gray, Facilitator; Aubri Denevan, 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, and environmental organizations attempting an innovative approach to the reduction of PCBs within the Spokane River.

**Q3 Meeting Schedule:**



**Project highlights:**

* **Meetings:** Project facilitator, Kelsey Gray has created meeting agendas and facilitated seven meetings, including two Task Force meetings, one quorum conference call, Technical Track Work Group, one Funding Work Group, and one Joint Work Group meetings. Meeting notices, agendas and materials, and summaries were drafted and distributed for each meeting by Aubri Denevan.
* **Between Meeting Facilitation:** As needed, Kelsey has meet with and discussed Task Force issues with members of the Task Force to ensure that meetings run smoothly and address important issues.
* **Website Management:** Aubri Denevan managed and updated the web page on behalf of the Task Force for the seven meetings facilitated by the Ruckelshaus Center. This included posting meeting announcements, materials and supporting documents, and meeting summaries.
* **Communications:** The Task Force prepared a draft funding concept paper and boilerplate language intended to help the Task Force coordinate and support consistent and predictable funding needed to accomplish the actions that will result in toxics reductions for the Spokane River. Representatives from Senator Cantwell’s and Senator Murray’s offices have participated in several Task Force meetings and offer support to the Funding Work Group efforts.
* The Task Force has enlisted several member organizations’ public information officers to develop PowerPoint presentation and key messages, to help raise awareness and educate the general public, policy-makers and potential funding agencies on the Task Force and issues caused by PCBs in the Spokane River.
* **Identifying Future Funding Sources:** The Task Force is aware that it will need to secure long-term financial commitments in order to achieve long-term goals. A previously-proposed Department of Ecology decision package for one million dollars was reduced to $350,000 by the Washington State Office of Financial Management. Many members of the Task Force have asked their governmental affairs staff to encourage Governor Inslee and the Legislature to include it in this year’s budget. The Funding Work Group is actively pursuing federal, local, and foundation funding opportunities with the help of Cynthia Wall, Dept. of Ecology, and others.

**Center Staff will continue to work with Task Force members and Work Groups in support of their project activities:**

* The Task Force and two work groups will continue to meet on a monthly basis.
* The Task Force drafted phase one of its work plan, with the expectation that the Technical Consultant will fill in the remaining phases.
* The Task Force had its first presentation from the Technical Consultant. Using this data, the Task Force will identify specific action projects for funding requests.
* With the help of the Technical Consultant, Task Force members will need to agree upon detailed work plan implementation efforts for addressing the reduction of PCBs within the Spokane River.
* The Task Force is currently exploring ways to work with the faculty, staff and students at the universities represented in the Spokane area (WSU, Gonzaga, and Eastern Washington), as well as the University of Washington and University of Idaho. The Center is working closely with the Task Force to outline partnership opportunities.

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