

Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force

Raw Meeting Notes | Facilitated by the William D. Ruckelshaus Center (Chris Page and Kara Whitman)

Wednesday, June 28, 2017 | 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District | 22510 E. Mission Ave. | Liberty Lake, WA

Meeting Documents: <http://srtrtf.org/?p=8125>

Attendees:

*Voting Members and Alternates (*denotes a voting member)*

Tom Agnew*, BiJay Adams, Jeremy Jenkins, Michelle Osthemier –Liberty Lake Sewer & Water District (LLSWD)
Galen Buterbaugh*(phone) –Lake Spokane Association
Brent Downey –Kaiser
Don Keil*, Mike Anderson, Kris Holm (phone) –City of Coeur d’Alene
Doug Krapas* –Inland Empire Paper
Mike LaScuola *–Spokane Regional Health District
Rob Lindsay*, Dave Moss, Mike Hermanson –Spokane County
Lisa Manning* (phone), Mike Zager –Kootenai Environmental Alliance
Dave McBride*(phone) –WA Department of Health
Mike Petersen* –Lands Council
Elizabeth Schoedel*, Jeff Donovan, Mike Coster –City of Spokane
Jerry White* (phone) –Riverkeeper

Advisors

Karin Baldwin, Kathy Falconer, Diana Washington, Jim Ross, Brandee Era-Miller –WA Dept. of Ecology (Ecology)
Kevin Booth –Avista
Brian Nickel, Lucy Edmondson –U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Public/Interested Parties

John Beacham, Monica Ott –City of Post Falls
Dave Dilks (phone) –LimnoTech
Sarah Hubbard-Gray –Spokane River SP
Eric Williams–Gallatin
Ken Windram (phone) –Hayden Area Regional Sewer Board

Introductions and Agenda Review

After a round of introductions, Chris Page went over the agenda. No changes were made to the agenda. Proposed agenda item for next meeting: John Beacham mentioned an amicus brief of potential interest to the full Task Force. Riverkeep submitted the brief, on PCB testing and analysis methods across the State of Washington.

ACTION ITEM: Jerry White to confirm with Rick Eichstaedt that Riverkeeper will present the information on this brief at the next Task Force meeting. (COMPLETE)

Announcements:

- The new primary representative for the City of Coeur d’Alene on the Task Force is now Mike Anderson, the new Wastewater Superintendent for the City of Coeur d’Alene.
- Ecology representatives explained that their goal is to fill multiple SRRTTF-related vacant positions within 60-90 days. Karin Baldwin will fill in Adriane Borgias’s position for a few months. Jim Ross is the new hire for Ted Hamlin’s position at Ecology in the Urban Waters program.

- LLSWD has two new faces at the meeting: Michelle Osthemier is interning for the summer of 2017 and Jeremy Jenkins works in their Lake Protection department.

ACTION ITEM: Don Keil to email the Ruckelshaus Center confirming that Mike Anderson will serve as the primary representative and Don Keil will be the alternate. (COMPLETE)

Meeting Summary: SRRTTF 5/31/15

DECISION: Meeting notes accepted with minor revisions as noted at meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Kara Whitman to make the minor edits and post notes as on the Task Force website. (COMPLETE)

Meeting Summary: EPA Task Force meeting on 4/26/17 on Toxics Substances Control Act (TSCA) PCB Issues

Lucy Edmondson explained that some of the comments were out of context. EPA has clarified those areas in the notes and have revised and cleaned up the discussion of the limits of TSCA and Water Quality Standards.

- **Q.** Regarding the expense and “considerable risk” to EPA to regulate inadvertent PCBs—why is EPA regulating at the end of the pipe if they are not regulating on the production side? It is a big concern at the local level that EPA discusses the cost to their agency while not acknowledging costs for dischargers who also bear significant expenses. This does not seem to be a fair response, and it insults some in the room to use this reasoning. **A.** EPA Region 10 will work to ensure that EPA headquarters recognizes this. Some EPA statues utilize economics in an upfront way, but others cannot.
- **Q.** Is there a list of EPA regulations where economics is a factor? **A.** Don’t’ think so, but Brian Nickel will look into this.
- **C.** If Economics is an issue, then EPA should include economics at the local level for end-of-pipe treatment and management.
- **C.** Possible solutions: the intention of TSCA is that these PCBs would not get into the environment. Could this be used as a mechanism for making changes to TSCA?

DECISION: The 4/26/17 EPA – Task Force meeting notes were accepted with minor grammatical edits. (Page 2, change evaluation to evaluate)

ACTION ITEM: Kara Whitman to make the minor edits and post the 4/26/17 meeting summary as final on the Task Force website. (COMPLETE)

ACE Commitment Report

Dave Moss noted \$46,466 in uncommitted funds, plus a credit of \$1,300 with AXYS. Also, it looks the Washington state legislature have agreed in principle on an operating budget that will include \$310,000 for the work of the Task Force.

LimnoTech: Homolog Mass Balance Update (see slides)

Dave Dilks (LimnoTech) explained that the reach-by-reach, homolog specific mass balance analysis has not identified any new sources. LimnoTech estimated PCB “fingerprints” for the previously-suspected sources from the 2014, 2015 synoptic studies, and 2016 monthly sampling study. The draft memo on the work will be available for review at the July 12th Technical Track Work Group (TTWG) meeting, and for potential Task Force acceptance at the July 26th meeting. The next step is to compare homolog patterns from in-river sampling to homolog patterns in groundwater samples.

Q&A/COMMENTS

- **Q.** What is the scale on the slide 7 plots? **A.** Load Units are mg/day.

- **Q.** Slide 8: There are two distinct signals/potential sources in 2015. The downstream one looks real, while the one upstream of Mirabeau depends on if whether or not the outlier is a real value. **A.** In this presentation, Dave is assuming it is real; there is a finger print to it. The next task is to gather all the well data and back calculate to confirm.
- **Q.** Will there be error bars in the final memo/report? **A.** Dave will consider how to best do this.
- Loss of lower weight PCBs:
 - **Q.** Could this be due to Volatilization? **A.** Dave calculated and concluded that this does not explain the loss. Dave's tentative conclusion is that the loss is an artifact of the data and not a real phenomenon.
 - **C.** Loss is similar in magnitude to some of the gains. **Q.** Would the conclusion be the same for the gains? **A.** These are not definitive conclusions, but fuzzy conclusions. There is no other variable to explain the losses. Dave will need to compare the signals to what is in the wells.
 - **Q.** Is there an increase in sediment loading in any of these reaches? **A.** Samples were taken in low flow, with little sediment input. **Q.** Is some being lost to sorption? **A.** This can occur at other times of year, but given other parameters, most PCBs would be in the dissolved phase. Dave does not think it is settling.
 - **Q.** Could the losses be explained by changes in river flow? **A.** All of this should be accounted for; there is some uncertainty over the water coming back in (new flow or reentry); however they did put in a reasonable range into the calculations.
 - **Q.** Preferential Loss? Is there a potential for preferential loss with lower weight PCBs due to the fact that it dissolves in water more than higher weight congeners (loss to groundwater)? **A.** Dave will think about this and get back to the Task Force.
- **C.** Brian Nickel noted that during a presentation on August 3rd, 2016, Dave speculated that the spike in the river could be associated with groundwater upgradient of Kaiser.

Future Monitoring in Support of the Comprehensive Plan (see slides)

Dave Dilks noted that nothing is definitive on future monitoring currently, as there are many moving parts. The Comprehensive Plan specifies a 5-year assessment of PCB concentrations/changes in concentration, so some level of data will need to be collected over the next four years.

Q&A/COMMENTS:

- **Q.** Do we have a list of potential PCB-related studies Ecology will do? **A.** Brandee Era-Miller, Karin Baldwin, and Adriane Borgias will provide as much info on this as possible by the July meeting. Ecology can do some monitoring regarding bioaccumulation of periphyton. There is also the option as they go into the next funding cycle to consider other monitoring work.
- July may be a good time to coordinate funding options.

ACTION ITEM: Dave Dilks to provide a list of monitoring options, their objectives, and associated costs for discussion at the July 12th 2017 TTWG meeting. (COMPLETE)

ACTION ITEM: Brandee, Karin, and Adriane are to provide info on whatever Ecology monitoring options are possible (in 2018 and beyond), for discussion at the July 2017 Task Force meeting.

Duwamish River PCB Cleanup: Components in Brief

Rachael McCrea (Ecology) summarized PCB-related the work going on in the Green/Duwamish River. There is a lot of work going on, so Rachel summarized each item the list below and let the Task Force follow up on which topics they would like to hear more about.

The following items are available for In-Depth Presentation (by Department of Ecology, King County, City of Seattle, or other):

1. Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund Cleanup & Source Control Overview: broad discussion of Superfund cleanup—history, status, and plans for sediment cleanup. Could also include a broad discussion of the source control program—multi agency coordination, upland site cleanup, discharge management, (note: there are no POTW discharges in this system).
2. Seattle Stormwater System Source Tracing Program: discussion of how funding and other elements of the program have changed over 20 years. Can also discuss what the program provides including: source tracing, infrastructure, tools, sediment traps, and dog- PCB detection, etc.
3. CSO Control Plans: overview of regulatory background (Seattle and King County under federal consent decrees). Seattle got approval for an integrated plan, which delays small CSO prevention projects five years and instead implements stormwater projects.
4. PCB Congener Sampling in Groundwater (in Lower Duwamish): covers sampling in groundwater wells at contaminated sites with existing orders; report not available as of early July 2017 (about a month away) but could do a preview on this.
5. Green-Duwamish Watershed Pollutant Loading Assessment: analysis of cross-media behavior of PCBs and modeling of this behavior.
6. PCB Congener Assessment: Green-Duwamish watershed multi-media positive matrix factorization (PMF) analysis by Dr. Rodenburg. The report will be out in August 2017 and will include recommendations.
7. “Our Green-Duwamish” Regional Stormwater Strategy Development: King County leads, with Seattle and Ecology as partners. The project focuses on building a coalition to implement stormwater management corrections on a regional basis.
8. Stormwater Action Monitoring: overview of ongoing monitoring and effectiveness studies. Could include a current study that may be of interest to the Task Force, a PCB mass balance assessment in bioretention, retrofit effectiveness study etc.
9. Finding and Fixing PCB Sources: assessment of program gaps and opportunities, with an opportunity to brainstorm shared needs between Duwamish and Spokane River watersheds. Ideas: TSCA regulations, PCB detection dogs, demolition waste disposal and management topics, PCB sources to air, statewide PCB education, etc.

Q&A/COMMENTS

- **Q.** What are the regulatory driving forces in the Duwamish? **A.** Superfund (aka the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, CERCLA). They are assessing the pollutant loading, to be addressed when “down payment” from CERCLA is done.
- **Q.** What is the connection of Superfund and CWA? **A.** Superfund is not required to attain surface water quality standards.
- **Q.** Duwamish does not have point source discharges but the Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) include wastewater discharges; can you explain this? **A.** Discharge management differs, depending on the type of discharge. CSOs have a different regulatory structure (they have point sources in wet weather, with stormwater and intermittent discharges). CSOs include sanitary sewer and any pretreatment, like a regular CSO. Industrial entities discharges go to the sanitary sewer discharge, comingled with all other sanitary waste and discharged to Puget Sound (wastewater system management delegated to King County).
- **Q.** Does PCB data collection use EPA Method 1668? **A.** Methods vary, and depend on the study (e.g. congener work uses 1668, but sediment work uses 8082).
- **Q.** How much of the runoff within the Duwamish industrial area contributes to a potential groundwater source? **A.** There is a mishmash of pipes (combined and separated); some discharge goes directly to surface water. The shoreline is highly modified, and groundwater gets into stormwater systems. One site appears to have this issue, but it is still early in their assessment and have yet to determine how big of a problem this is.

- **Q.** What CERCLA actions have been implemented at this point? Is the management objective to complete the CERCLA actions before CWA? **A.** They are implementing CWA now. The cleanup itself has been selected. Contaminated sites are likely a PCB source to the water column. The first action is to remove those sediments. Currently, they cannot identify the relative percent contributions of each source; nor can they determine how much benefit to the water column will come from sediment cleanup.
- **Q.** Are permits being drafted for dischargers? Are there similar concerns about the EPA water quality criteria? **A.** The Duwamish system differs greatly from the Spokane, in that low levels such as 170 or 7 pg/L are not even on the radar so they don't get wrapped up in the noise. The discharges are primarily during wet weather. They use general permits when required, in some cases using administrative orders.
- **Q.** When in the process will the project model cross-media behavior? **A.** EPA and Ecology are currently working together to scope this exercise (funding from EPA). They started looking at existing models of the system to identify the shortfalls. They have built the hydrologic/sediment model; however, they still have a long way to go to understand the cross-media pollution movement/behavior.
- **C.** Kathy Falconer: There is lots of redevelopment in the Duwamish, and much of this area is going through the voluntary cleanup program.

ACTION ITEM: Task Force/TTWG group to prioritize topics and follow-up questions that Rachel or other Duwamish representative present on in depth. (COMPLETE)

ACTION ITEM: Chris Page to work with Rachel to schedule presentations as the SRRTTF prioritizes them.

Update on CDM smith Technical Memo for Task 1&2:

Mike Hermanson explained that comments on the memo mostly regarded how different data sets go into the database tool when it is developed. These questions will be addressed in Task 3. The intent of task 1 and 2 was to review all the different types of data to see if the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) database is a suitable approach, which they confirmed it is.

Next CDM Smith begins the pilot of loading data and developing a tool to blank correct in the database. They received comments from Adriane Borgias (on data loading) and Kris Holm (on the intersection of data between Ecology's Environmental Information Management (EIM) system and the database). The timeline depends on the discussion at the July 26th Task Force meeting, when CDM Smith presents their work to date and solicits feedback. As they load the data into the database, they will need to work with the owners of the different data sets on formatting and input. So far, CDM Smith has been very responsive and timely.

CDM Smith Tech Memo: The Task Force would like to go through an approval/decision process for this.

ACTION ITEM: Memo to be posted for a decision at the July 26th Task Force meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Task Force members to send questions for CDM Smith before the July Task Force meeting, or bring them to that meeting.

July 26th, 2017 Task Force Meeting: Chris Page has a conflict with the regularly schedule Task Force meeting. Options: The meeting could be moved to the 19th or Kara Whitman could facilitate on the 26th.

DECISION: The meeting will stay on the 26th, with Kara facilitating and another Ruckelshaus Center person (Shane Carnohan) to fill in as note taker.

SRRTTF Technical Workshop: Options: Monday 11/13/17 before the Spokane River Forum?

Ecology's Environmental Assessment Program (EAP) projects are being finalized, so EAP staff will have lots of data to presented. It could take a half- or full-day workshop to look at all the results. Brandee Era-Miller said the November 13th, 2017 date works for her but not her colleague Will Hobbs—it would help to have him there, but

not it is not crucial. Will is working on low-level sampling/detection methods for PCBs and on a PCB project in Wenatchee River related to the food web work with periphyton. Alternatives to a workshop could be: several smaller reports incorporated into the existing meeting schedule, or incorporating the presentations into the Spokane River Forum (the Forum).

DECISION: Task Force Meeting to be scheduled for the 29th of November. (Kara to check room schedule)

ACTION ITEM: Rob Lindsay to coordinate with Andy Dunau on potentially having Brandee Era-Miller present the three completed studies at the Forum (rather than at a separate Task Force meeting).

Education and Outreach Workgroup: Website proposal

Mike LaScuola reported that the Education and Outreach work group proposes a holistic online approach to public outreach, with a website that can link to the specifically-focused campaigns by individual Task Force member entities. The website help the Task Force meet some of the obligations in the Comp Plan. The Workgroup held a lot of discussion over the appropriate name for a website. The Task Force may defer this decision for a later meeting, or pay to have multiple domains/URLs to address the need for multiple search terms to get visitors to the page: a PCB-focused URL and a river focused URL, an Idaho URL, etc. The following are options for URLs: cleanspokaneriver, Myspokaneriver, Spokaneriverpcbs, Toxicsfreespokaneriver, Pcbfreewater

DECISION: The Task Force approved the concept of the website and the outreach workgroup moving forward with the proposal.

ACTION ITEM: The Outreach Workgroup to confer on the top couple/three urls that could be purchased for a website.

Follow up from Brandee Era-Miller: EIM Fish tissue data: two samples from 1984 that had PCBs in fresh water fish – filet northern pike minnow and sucker analyzed for aroclor 1260.

Future Meeting Agendas Reminder: Chris Page reminded the Task Force that they should send agenda topics to Ruckelshaus Center as they come up.

No public comment

The next Full Task Force Meeting is Wednesday July 26, 2017 at Spokane County Water Resource Center
The next Technical Track Work Group meeting is Wednesday July 5, 2017 at Ecology