

Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force (Task Force) and Technical Track Work Group (TTWG) Joint Meeting

Wednesday, November 08, 2017 | 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Washington Department of Ecology | N. 4601 N. Monroe St. | Spokane, WA

Meeting Documents: <http://srrttf.org/?p=8480>

DRAFT Meeting Notes

Bijay Adams (phone) –Liberty Lake Sewer &
Water District

Tom Agnew (phone) –Liberty Lake Sewer and
Water District

Karin Baldwin –WA Dept. of Ecology (Ecology)

Vikki Barthels –Spokane Regional Health District

Lisa Dally Wilson –Dally Environmental

Dave Dilks (phone) –LimnoTech

Jeff Donovan –City of Spokane

Brent Downey –Kaiser

Brandee Era-Miller –(phone)

Paul Klatt (phone) –JUB Engineering

Bud Leber –Kaiser Aluminum

Rob Lindsay –Spokane County

Dave McBride –Washington Dept. of Health

David Newton –Inland Empire Paper

Monica Ott (phone) –City of Post Falls

Chris Page (video) –Ruckelshaus Center

Mike Petersen –The Lands Council

Donna Reardon (phone) –Washington State

Academy of Sciences

Jim Ross –Ecology

Jeremy Schmidt –Ecology

Sandra Treccani –Ecology

Kara Whitman (phone) –Ruckelshaus Center

Introductions and Agenda Review

After a round of introductions, and establishment of a Task Force quorum (at least seven of thirteen voting members), no changes were made to the agenda.

Contract – ACE and Ecology

Since the Task Force last reviewed the draft contract between its Administrative and Contracting Entity (ACE) and Ecology, ACE expanded project narratives for clarity and detail. The contract now has language allowing flexibility for which funds get used when (as needed) and emphasizes deliverables. Other changes to the contract (agreed on by ACE and Ecology) since last Task Force review:

- On the task for identifying the groundwater PCB source upgradient of Kaiser, ACE added definition around deliverables at specific points.
- Task 2 (Mass Balance) is now described in two places, and includes Groundwater data collection at the General Electric (GE) site at the same time river sampling would occur.
- ACE and Ecology agreed to combine some green chemistry tasks into product testing, since the latter will often serve as a precursor for the former.
- Outreach materials: an item on Low Impact Development moved into general outreach.
- Positive Matrix Factorization (PMF): added in some steps and deliverables.
- Added LimnoTech general support for (ad hoc) requests, other than specific studies/reports.
- Contract now also includes ACE administration, facilitation services. It requires that all data wind up in Ecology's Environmental Information Management (EIM) system.

Doug Krapas (Inland Empire Paper) submitted comments via Lisa Dally Wilson:

- First page of appendix A: use appropriation language – provided to “address elevated levels in the Spokane River”. And remove type of “state” account. Karin Baldwin explained that this is on the first page of the full contract.

- Page 11 on “Green Chemistry”: There are concerns over using WA state money to fund a California School. Make this more general so that other schools (hopefully in WA) could be used. Karin explained that the money would be used to prepare a presentation to ask them to work on this – not necessarily giving money to the school. Change wording to be more general: engage with academia and outside researchers. Coordinate with Ecology’s Hazardous Waste Toxic Reduction Program (HWTRP) to prepare presentations and proposals to entities that have Green Chemistry programs. Rob Lindsay added that we don’t want to pin ourselves down to only WA state.
 - Deliverables: change to match the wording above: entities with green chemistry programs.
- Task 7 LimnoTech: add B: “project management”. Overall management that would be appropriate.
- Budget on page 15: ACE administration – where is Ruckelshaus? Wrote this without a full understanding of how the costs will be broken apart.

Rob explained that Dave Moss will be staying on board with the County part time and will remain the Treasurer of ACE. Rob also added that this process feels a lot like watershed grant administration. Rob explained that in the past when they have moved funds between tasks in an implementation grant greater than 10%, then they needed to start communicating with their grant funders. Fiscal question? Ecology contract person may require that things are split up by fiscal year. (\$155,000 per year).

DECISION: The Task Force approved the ACE contract with the changes as discussed. (recognizing that there are a few budget details left for ACE to figure out with Department of Ecology).

Project Management: Tasks and potential managers suggestions. Each Task outlined in the ACE contract will need a specific lead to be accountable for developing the scope of work and bringing it to ACE, a single accountable point of contact who makes sure the work happens. This lead would provide the contractual link between the Task Force and the contracted party doing work for the Task Force. Scopes of work from each group: what level of review will be needed when scopes of work are pulled together? How to structure projects – financially – make sure deliverables are reasonable.

- Task: identification of sources upgradient of Kaiser: Limnotech with subcontractors. Bud could work on project management with Jim Ross and TCP consultation.
- Task: PCB mass balance – through LimnoTech – point person would be Bud Leber.
- Task: Product Testing and Green Chemistry – Karin Baldwin and Green Chemistry Work group.
- Task: Outreach, a bit trickier. Work Group, Name a chair? This person could then be the project manager. Bring this forward to the Outreach Work Group this afternoon. Reach out to Michelle Mullin to see if they have materials ready-made. (Update, Vikki Barthels named the chair of this group for project management).
- Task: PMF Analysis: The County has the most experience with this kind of work. Rob Lindsay and/or another County person will be the Project manager. Chris Page contacted Lisa Rodenburg about scheduling and timeline for this work. She responded and thinks the timeline sounds reasonable. There is some uncertainty on her time due to a family issue, but could have a graduate student take on work if she needs to take a leave of absence. Scope of work and contract in the current fiscal year.
- Task: Technical Support and ACE administration: Dave Dilks, Bud Leber, and ACE.

Database contractor update:

Mike Hermanson was “assigned” to this as the interface between CDM Smith and the Task Force. Mike told Rob That we are currently awaiting AXYS providing the appropriate deliverables to input into the database. Bud Leber has sent them a contract, but it has not been completed yet, nor paid for. Dave

Dilks is still waiting on feedback from Rao Sangarmanchi of CDM Smith about the format that Dave should provide the information to him in. Monica Ott also needed some input from Rao.

ACTION ITEM: Rob Lindsay to check in with Mike Hermanson about connecting to Rao Sangarmanchi on addressing the formatting questions. (COMPLETE)

ACTION ITEM: Ruckelshaus to update the full Task Force on the discussion on the database work from the meeting at the next full Task Force meeting. (COMPLETE)

DECISION: The Task Force canceled the December 13, 2017 Task Force meeting.

EAP: Report on Tribal Boundary Monitoring. Brandee Era-Miller will be presenting on this at the Spokane River Forum.

- C. Well written and interesting to read. Addressed issues with the CLAM. There are folks on the Task Force who would like to discuss this further, once they have a chance to look at the report. Can we extend this to the end of November? A. Brandee thinks end of November will be fine.

ACTION ITEM: Kara Whitman to send email to Task Force letting them know the date for comments on the EAP report is extended to the end of November. (COMPLETE)

- Q. Sediment data, any surprises? A. the biggest surprise was that there was a difference in concentration during one of the sampling periods. During fall-winter (mid-September 2015 through Jan 2016) concentration of total PCBs were 2 to 3 times higher than the other sampling periods on either side of that in time. Different things were happening hydrologically. The first and 3rd deployment were similar (11 ppb and 10 ppb) the middle one had much higher. Looked at discharge flows from Long Lake Dam – a couple of interesting things happened during this time. Drawdown of the lake (end of deployment period) – this could have impacted the total PCBs – re-suspension of sediments. In early December there were some big storm events – bump in hydrograph. Also surprised in the water and sediment concentrations – pretty general signal in that part of the river. Theory: Likely Long Lake is pretty big sink for contaminants. Also surprised that after censoring CLAM Data against the clam disks, started to see a similar concentration of PCBs (between 50 to 110 pg/L – ppq). There is some sediment trap data compared in the report as well. Recommends that more sediment trap monitoring happen at little falls pool area at tribal boundary and in Nine Mile and Upriver reservoirs.
- Q. sediment trap. Can you tell how much sediment is collected – does this impact total PCBs? A. This did not really rise to the top as a cause. There were differences in TOC, but did not appear to explain the spike. Dave Dilks thinks it might be an inverse. Less sediment trapped in this time frame- more PCB per unit solid.

ACTION ITEM: Brandee Era-Miller to call Dave Dilks to discuss this issue of total sediment trapped and the PCB total.

Implementation Review Summary:

Chris Page walked the group through the draft template that was pulled together to assist in preparing the full document. Adriane would like to make sure that there is a tie to the language in “Measurable Progress” (inputs, outputs, outcomes). Also add: under individual entity accomplishments -brief summary of effort, activities, towards reductions of PCBs in 2017.

ACTION ITEM: Ruckelshaus to distribute the template to individual entities, and work group leads. The Ruckelshaus Center to pull together a facilitator summary of the Task Force Technical Track Work Group and full Task Force meeting accomplishments from 2017. (COMPLETE)

Fish Tissue Sampling work group update: Karin Baldwin spoke to Chris Donnelly. Chris has been gathering information to find out what is out there. He will be putting together a doodle poll to set up a meeting to discuss the scope of work.

ACTION ITEM: Add Monica Ott to the Fish Tissue study work group (add to Chris Donnelly's Doodle Poll). (COMPLETE)

Donna Reardon from the Washington State Academy of Sciences. Donna has an office in the same building as Ruckelshaus Center in Seattle. Donna explained that the Academy has been around for about 10 years. It has origins with Governor Gregoire, and mirrored the design and intent of the National of Academy of Sciences. Scientists and engineers organized with a purpose of bringing their knowledge to policy decisions. The academy has 270 members that mostly volunteer their time, but have a small stipend that goes through the Universities. The Academy can provide some insight and review of work the Task Force is doing. They would need Task statements with which the academy can assist with. If there are specific issues, they can work with their scientists to come up with a statement of intent. Their role is advisory – a product that reflects the best available science to be used for policy and decision making. Green Chemistry is not really assigned to any particular program at a University, would speculate that WA State has some high-quality work being done. They could do some work to find a good fit for the Task Force. Donna recommends going to washacad.org to see the work that is being done and symposia. They are gearing up for their second decade, and want to be of use.

The next full Task Force meeting is November 29, 2017 at Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District.
The next Technical Track Work Group meeting is December 6, 2017 at WA Department of Ecology in Spokane.