

## Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force Meeting

Wednesday, January 24, 2018 | 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Spokane County Water Resource Center | 1004 N. Freya Street | Spokane, WA  
Facilitated by the William D. Ruckelshaus Center (Chris Page and Kara Whitman)

Meeting Documents: <https://srtrtf.org/?p=8801>

### Attendees:

#### *Voting Members and Alternatives (\*Denotes Voting Members)*

Tom Agnew\*, BiJay Adams –Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District  
Sharon Bosley\* (phone), Mike Zager –Kootenai Environmental Alliance  
Galen Buterbaugh\* (phone) –Lake Spokane Association  
Doug Krapas\* (phone) –Inland Empire Paper  
Mike LaScuola\*, Vikki Barthels –Spokane Regional Health District  
Bud Leber\* –Kaiser Aluminum  
Rob Lindsay\*, Ben Brattebo –Spokane County  
Cadie Olsen\*, Mike Coster, Jeff Donovan, Adrienne Pearson –City of Spokane  
Amanda Parrish –Lands Council  
Dave McBride\* (phone) –WA Department of Health  
Jerry White\*, Rick Eichstaedt, Lee First –Riverkeeper

#### *Advisors*

Adriane Borgias, Bill Fees, Diana Washington, Sandy Trecanni, Jim Ross –WA Department of Ecology (Ecology)  
Brian Nickel –U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

#### *Interested Parties*

Kevin Booth –Avista  
Lisa Dally Wilson –Dally Environmental  
Dave Dilks (phone) –LimnoTech  
Jim Kimball –JUB Engineers  
Greg Lahti, Dani Williams –WA Department of Transportation (WSDOT)  
Monica Ott –City of Post Falls  
Ken Windram –Hayden Area Regional Sewer Board

### Introductions and Agenda Review

After a round of introductions, no changes were made to the agenda.

**DECISION:** The SRRTTF approved the November 29, 2017 meeting notes approved with minor typos as noted.

**ACTION ITEM:** Kara Whitman to edit 11/29/17 meeting notes and post to SRRTTF website. (COMPLETE)

### Administrative & Contracting Entity (ACE) Commitment Report

Bud reported \$125,833 in committed funds and \$139,935 in uncommitted funds. The contract with LimnoTech is almost complete and will become part of the committed funds.

**ACTION ITEM:** Project Tracking: spreadsheet to assist in tracking projects in the ACE/Ecology Contract to be sent out to the Task Force for review and comment. (COMPLETE)

### Project Management:

Bud walked the group through the project management process. Project leaders need to follow the project all the way through development of the project scope, working with ACE to develop the contracts.

The Task Force then considered rough, high-level scopes for projects under the ACE/Ecology contract. Chris Page asked the group to consider each conceptual scope and place it into one of the following “Buckets” of projects:

- Like it – go do it, and work with ACE to develop the specific scope and contracts.
- Not sure, need to think about it – need more time to consider.
- Don’t like this approach – look for new approach.

### ***Groundwater Upgradient of Kaiser***

Bud explained that the workgroup (Jim Ross, Mike Hermanson, Jeremy Schmidt, and Sandy Trecanni) met to consider how to best move forward. Existing Kaiser data need to be pulled together, then validated. After validation, the workgroup will gauge what is possible to determine with the data. There are three potential paths forward based on what they find out, with the following ***Deliverable on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018:***

1. Look at all the existing data upgradient of the Kaiser facility and see what PCB signal emerges (is there a signal, where is it, who owns the land, etc.). Then they can potentially move forward with next steps.
2. Well-protection model could be used to combine Kaiser data to assist in tracking down the upgradient source.
3. If the first two are not possible, they can divide the river in small chunks and measure each segment to analyze changes they see. This will require getting data to LimnoTech (Joyce Duncan) for external support.

**Q.** Is there an expectation that concentrations in the upgradient groundwater will be a non-detect? **A.** Yes, based on previous work.

**Q.** Will there be a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP)? **A.** Yes.

**DECISION:** SRRTTF approved moving forward with Task 1 (in the ACE/Ecology contract) for the Groundwater Upgradient of Kaiser study. The work group will develop the study specifics and work on contracts with ACE.

### ***PCB Mass Balances in River Reaches – Planters Ferry to Nine Mile***

Bud said LimnoTech can provide an overall look at sampling locations, addressing sampling frequency to increase confidence. The QAPP is in place but they may need an addendum to adjust sampling frequency. This project will involve Gravity for sampling, including potentially some opportunistic sampling that would not cost much additional money. The QAPP will be done by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 with the intention of sampling in fall 2018. Sampling will also include Hangman Creek for the mass balance. They will not sample active discharges from stormwater as it will be during low flow. The rationale will be spelled out in the QAPP, with clear objectives.

**DECISION:** The Task Force approved moving forward with Task 5 (in the ACE/Ecology contract), the PCB Mass Balances in River Reaches – Planters Ferry to Nine Mile project.

### ***Green Chemistry Advancement***

Dr. Lauren Heine (Northwest Green Chemistry) attended the last Green Chemistry workgroup meeting and expressed interest in work on a journal article on PCBs. Dr. Heine would like to increase awareness of these issues in the scientific community.

- **C.** Brian Nickel reminded the group that Michelle Mullin (EPA) has a virtual intern doing similar work to this. He offered to connect this intern to the Green Chemistry group, since the intern may be available to support some of these efforts.
- **Q.** could the intern at EPA do some preliminary research to guide moving forward on Titanium Dioxide?

**ACTION ITEM:** Lauren Heine’s qualifications to be made available. (COMPLETE)

**ACTION ITEM:** Green Chemistry proposal to be considered for decision at the February Task Force meeting.

**ACTION ITEM:** Brian Nickel to connect EPA intern to Green Chemistry workgroup.

### **Product Testing:**

The Green Chemistry group considered options for product testing, noting the relationship between product testing and both green chemistry and education/outreach. While more samples improve confidence when talking to the public about the problem, product testing is expensive, which requires clear focus for testing. The Task Force needs to consider the cost/benefit of product testing and consider the exposure pathway to the river of potential products to test. The Green Chemistry group proposed testing deicers.

- C. The City of Spokane did quite a bit of testing on deicer, including five or six blends (20+ samples).
- C. Suggest testing products yearly to see what range of concentrations emerge.
- C. The report on Ecology's second round of product testing results rolls out this spring.
- C. The Comp Plan states that the Task Force will both provide feedback on Ecology's Product Testing report, and support Ecology's development of a clearinghouse.

**ACTION ITEM:** Task Force to discuss product testing options at the Tech Track Work Group (TTWG) meeting and bring comments/suggestions to the February Task Force meeting.

### **Positive Matrix Factorization (PMF) Analysis**

Rob Lindsay explained Dr. Lisa Rodenburg's approach (as proposed in May of 2016): data analysis can help identify PCB factors in the River toward identifying likely sources. The Task Force has collected enough data to conduct a watershed-wide PMF analysis (surface water, ground water, wastewater, stormwater, and treatment plant influent and effluent). Most of the work would wait until the fall 2018 low-flow sampling is completed, though some work can be done before then (data formatting to get past data ready for analysis).

- Q. Do we know whether we would learn much by doing PMF on the River? When Dr. Rodenburg did this work on the Duwamish, some issues arose due to the low concentrations. A. Yes, based on feedback for Dr. Rodenburg and based on the recent study that LimnoTech did on homologs.
- C. ACE can front-load the planning and work to prepare for the PMF analysis. They need to know what needs to be done prior to the analysis, to write it into the scope to use fiscal year 2018 funds.

**DECISION:** The Task Force approved the PMF Analysis work and gave Rob the go-ahead to work with ACE for on data preparation and a contract with Dr. Lisa Rodenburg (to begin work in fall 2018).

### **Education and Outreach Project Ideas:**

- PCB-free website: Toni Taylor is connecting with Ann from Spokane River Forum. The cost estimate to get it up and running is roughly \$500 to begin.
- Partner with the Spokane River Forum on their Spring Campaign to focus part it on PCBs. Vikki Barthels and Mike LaScuola to meet with Tonilee Hansen (Spokane River Forum) to get more specifics on cost.
- Robinson Research surveys: Add questions about PCBs to get a baseline of people's awareness.
- Update Public Guide on toxic chemicals and heavy metals in the Spokane River (Lee First at Riverkeeper) to include Low-Impact Development (LID) and low-PCB purchasing practices for business. Lee would develop handouts and go to 5-10 communities that LID would benefit, as LID is in the Comp Plan. Scope of work to be developed and brought to the February Task Force meeting.
- Host workshop with other agencies: inventory what everyone was doing (~\$750 for one day workshop)
- Interactive Kiosk: either purchase another Kiosk or update the already existing kiosk.

**DECISION:** The E&O workgroup to pull together a specific scope for the spring campaign, the website development, and the LID/Purchasing practices brochure development by Lee First.

**ACTION ITEM:** Jerry White and Lee First to draft scope of work with costs for the February meeting. (COMPLETE)

**ACTION ITEM:** The Education and Outreach (E&O) Workgroup to develop scope of work for the Spokane River Forum Spring Campaign for a Task Force decision at the February Task Force meeting. (COMPLETE)

### **MOA and Collaboration**

Chris Page recapped discussions from the last Task Force meeting on collaboration of the Task Force. Chris asked Task Force members from at the beginning to give perspective on the essence of the MOA as first put together.

- **C.** When the Task Force formed and the MOA written, they were trying to avoid blindsiding: no surprises, share things here first, and avoid rumors. They wanted to ensure members don't represent the views of others and are honest about what the Task Force is and what it is doing. Individuals should represent themselves (not the Task Force) when in public and talking about views of their specific organization.
- **C.** We were trying to memorialize groundrules to ensure continuation of trust. A workgroup put the MOA together and the Task Force approved it.
- **C.** The environmental community perspective on the Dissolved Oxygen (DO) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process was that it was a train wreck: every tool got used besides ones that would meet the standard. As next round of permits got written, they started to talk about a potential alternate path. The environmental community wanted to ensure there was no effort (in this room) to change the standards. Other things could be going on, but the group would focus on finding and reducing sources. The thing that is good about the Task Force is that they have managed to stay together and focus on the goals laid out in the beginning. Not representing the views of other about what the Task Force does. Any stuff outside of finding and reducing PCBs, individuals need to be able to take their own views.
- **C.** They spent a lot of time working through how communication would work, such as no fighting outside the room about what is going on in the room. They wanted to focus on the unified goals. Individual entities and their work outside the Task Force are not part of this MOA. They wrote the MOA on the premise that it would be revised when the new permits were completed, at which time the MOA would include new tasks.
- **C.** There are times we have hiccups, and times where we come together and deal with them. Finding and reducing sources is the goal together. At times outside things enter the conversation, but it is a matter of efficiency to focus on what everyone does agree on. The MOA contains what we need to address any issue.
- **C.** There are so many new people in the room. We need to check in periodically to assist in new folks joining the team. It is valuable to hear the history, as newcomers only have the MOA to go by.
- **C.** We have completed the tasks the MOA was crafted to address. There may be a need to amend the MOA for the new Tasks. **A.** The purpose of the Task Force continues though: ongoing characterization to find the sources of PCBs to the River and eliminate or reduce them.
- **C.** We have a lot to be pleased with. The specifics of the MOA include the implicit message that we all recognize that we are better served by a united effort. As we focus on common problems and understand others' perceptions, we can better understand each other and better address the problem. We need to honor and respect the relationships that have been built and continue to work on relationships.

The Task Force collectively affirmed that the group's operating protocols do not pertain to things outside the goals of the Task Force (e.g. views of individual entities, comments on related policies). Chris Page asked if the group wanted to amend its MOA. Brian Nickel explained that one of the things that led to the MOA revision workgroup was that some of the Idaho utilities had not signed the MOA, and some Task Force participants felt that it should be amended prior to the new round of Washington permits getting issued. Diana Washington said Ecology will work on the process for developing the permits this spring, and they may want to table discussions about MOA amendment until more is known. Ecology will recommend a process for the permits, once the

director gives approval, they will bring the process out to the public. The Task Force agreed that it would wait to consider amending its MOA when the permits are closer to being finalized.

**ACTION ITEM:** Ruckelshaus Center to draft an MOA orientation guide for new Task Force members.

### **Workgroup Leads and Meeting Prep**

The facilitator passed along a request for workgroup leads to provide the general courtesy of preparing agendas and meeting materials in advance of any meeting (for posting on the Task Force website). **C.** The Task Force may want to consider hiring someone who works directly for the Task Force for project management, communication, etc. Comment: we need someone who is dedicated to what the Task Force does on a full-time basis, who can bring technical skills, facilitation skills, project management, and more.

### **Comp Plan Implementation Review Summary**

Chris Page gave an overview of the Annual Implementation Review Summary (IRS) for 2017. The table includes a status of each of the tasks the Task Force identified to work on in 2017.

**ACTION ITEM:** Mike L. to send Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) PCB brochure. (COMPLETE)

**ACTION ITEM:** Ruckelshaus to add the brochure from SRHD and the link to their website. (COMPLETE)

**DECISION:** The Task Force approved the IRS, pending the minor addition of the SRHD information.

**ACTION ITEM:** Task Force to consider an addendum to the IRS: documentation of the accomplishments of the Task Force in 2017 (action items, decisions, facilitator summary, and work group summaries).

### **Phase 2 Funding for Fungi: “Emerging Stormwater Technologies”**

Amanda Parrish summarized comments received on the report for Phase 1. Phase 1 used vector waste, Phase 2 will study PCB breakdown in contaminated soils (from Kaiser). During Phase 1, a confounding factor emerged: the growing media was sawdust, and many of the fungi varieties would prefer the sawdust (over PCBs) as food. If we starve them of their preferred food source, they may focus on PCB breakdown. Phase 2 has already begun, with contaminated sediment collection from Kaiser. Proposal for the Task Force to provide funding for Phase 2: \$15,000 (The Lands Council has an additional \$5000 from another grant.)

- **Q.** Why test hydrocarbons in the next phase? **A.** The Lands Council thinks this would be beneficial, and the partnership with North Central High School provides the equipment to test the hydrocarbons.
- **Q.** Is there a quality assurance project plan (QAPP)? **A.** The \$15,000 will be paid by ACE but is not in the Ecology contract, so will not have the same State requirements. QAPP is recommended.
- **C.** The project is a good model for governmental/private coordination.

**DECISION:** The Task Force approved the funding request in support of Phase 2.

### **Outreach Funding and Events:**

- Bud Leber: The Society of Inland Northwest Environmental Scientists have asked Bud to come and talk about what the Task Force is doing. (To occur February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 at Luigi’s restaurant.)
- Ecology draft fiscal year (FY) 2018 funding list for water quality projects: there are some Spokane Watershed ones. With the Washington state capital budget approved, contracts are going out to those receiving funding. FY19 draft is online, with 69 projects approved (\$159 million). A comment period is open on funded (and non-funded) projects. Final list will be published on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

**ACTION ITEM:** Adriane to provide the Ecology funding list comment period ending date to the Task Force.

## Updates, Announcements, “Housekeeping” Items

- **PCB Chemical Action Plan (CAP):** Ann Knapp at Ecology is leading this. There is not currently an external review planned for the updated CAP, but Chris Page will ask Anne again about this possibility.
- **Update on NPDES Permits:** Ecology will meet with their executive team in late January to vet a new strategy and let everyone know next steps after that. Goal is to have something to share in February – the roadmap that they will take as they move forward.
- **American Coatings Association (ACA):** Doug Krapas provided context for his work with the ACA (related to state “color boxes” for allowable road paint). Mark Vincent (Dominion Colour) had alluded to Washington state’s potentially changing its color box to allow a lower-PCB formula. Doug has also developed a relationship with the Color Pigment Manufacturers (CPMA). ACA is aware of the PCB issues, and several manufacturers are developing non-diarylide yellow road paints. ACA emailed WSDOT: instead of doing a pilot project, DOT just needs to specify the use of a non-diarylide yellow in road paints. It is now in the hands of the Washington state Department of Enterprise Services (DES) to do a cost-benefit analysis. EPA is also involved. Every State has their own specs, and there are 38 color formulations, but ACA says they trim that down to maybe eight different blends—and thus reduce the cost to end users. Doug also met with CPMA and is going to ask pigment manufacturers to do a similar pilot of product development for a non-chlorinated product for printing applications. Doug would like another person to take over the work on the road paint, so he can focus on the inks.
  - **C.** Connect to Idaho Department of Transportation. Perhaps an Idaho representative could take the initiative to get this conversation started.

**ACTION ITEM:** Greg Lahti to contact Idaho Department of Transportation on working on the road paint issue.

- The City and the County purchase their own products (not sure if same specifications as WSDOT).
- Greg Lahti: bringing headquarters, traffic, procurement on board, actively in conversation with suppliers to add diarylide yellow as prohibited to their list.
- **Washington Department of Transportation (DOT):** New Task Force representative Tammie Williams
- **Review of Contractors:** there was a request with some support for a “review of contractors.” Ruckelshaus Center does not do this kind of work, they do situation assessments of collaborative processes.
  - The workload has shifted to project management (not really a service that Ruckelshaus provides).
  - Ruckelshaus could pull a scope of work together for a “situation assessment” if this is something that the Task Force would like.
  - **C.** This is a big topic, this requires engagement of everyone to have a good robust conversation. It will be important to have full participation in this discussion.

No Public Comment

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Next Task Force meeting February 28, 2018 at Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm.

Next Technical Track Work Group Meeting February 7, 2018 from 10 am to 12 pm at Ecology.