

Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force

Wednesday, February 28, 2018 | 8:30am—12:00pm

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

Facilitated by The William D. Ruckelshaus Center (Chris Page and Kara Whitman)

Meeting Documents: <http://srtrtf.org/?p=8930>

Attendees:

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

BiJay Adams* –Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District

Vikki Barthels, Bruce Williams –Spokane Regional Health District

Sharon Bosley*, Mike Zager –Kootenai Environmental Alliance

Chris Donley* –WA Department of Fish and Wildlife

Doug Krapas –Inland Empire Paper

Bud Leber* –Kaiser

Jerry White*, Lee First –Riverkeeper

Cadie Olsen*, Jeff Donovan, Mike Coster –City of Spokane

Rob Lindsay, Ben Brattebo –Spokane County

Mike Anderson*, Don Keil --City of Coeur d'Alene

Advisors

Karin Baldwin, Bill Fees, Jim Ross, Jeremy Schmidt –Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology)

Lucy Edmondson, Brian Nickel (phone) –U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Kevin Booth –Avista

Interested Parties

Lisa Dally Wilson –Dally Environmental

Dave Dilks (phone) –LimnoTech

Lauren Heine (phone) –Northwest Green Chemistry

Monica Ott –City of Post Falls

Ken Windram –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.

DECISION: The January 24, 2018 meeting summary was accepted with the minor edits as noted at the meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Kara Whitman to make the minor edits noted at the meeting to the January 24, 2018 meeting summary and post them to the Task Force website. (COMPLETE)

Task Force Collaboration: The City of Spokane's representative asked Riverkeeper to let the City (or other fellow Task Force members) know of planned social media posts that mention them.

TTWG Report and PCB Control Projects

ACE commitment Report: As of the end of January ACE balance was \$265,000 (with \$230K of that committed). ACE will need to watch the cash flow, as they cannot get reimbursed on a contract until the work is done.

ACE-Ecology Contract: Ecology and ACE are amending the contract to update some completion dates. This provides an opportunity to adjust the budget initially allotted to some tasks that, after more specific scoping, need different amounts than those initially allocated across the two fiscal years. Karin Baldwin explained that after the Task Force makes decisions on projects, she will work with Bud to make the corresponding contract changes.

Contract Task 1 (Project ID # 5.14-GWUK2017AE1, Study Groundwater (GW) Upgradient of Kaiser at Industrial Park): Contract in place, LimnoTech (Joyce Duncan) has begun work on data mining.

Contract Task 2 (# 5.14-GWUK-MB2017AE2, PCB Mass Balance (Plantes Ferry Park to Nine Mile): Contract in place; LimnoTech has started work and plans to use the same basic approach as in 2014 and 2015, but with the geographic scope of Trent to Nine Mile (adding a new sampling location by Upriver Dam).

Contract Task 3 (# 5.8-PT2017AE3, Product Testing): The Technical Track Work Group (TTWG) discussed this, thinking to focus on wastewater treatment plan (WWTP) influent and effluent products (flushable stuff, detergents, etc). Karin asked for help from Task Force to lead this workgroup. Lisa Dally Wilson reported that the Spokane River Stewardship Partnership (SRSP) discussed this topic and identified the need to compile previous PCBs-in-products testing (and results) to inform future testing. A suggestion arose to have a representative from EPA lead this effort. Brian Nickel said he can talk to Michelle Mullin about prior EPA testing. EPA has a “virtual intern” doing a lit review, on PCB green chemistry (which industrial processes likely generate PCBs), but there may be some overlap. Ecology’s product testing reports (from Kari Trumbull) will go out for review in the spring of 2018; this may provide more direction.

- **Q.** is there a list of the types of products that go into WWTPs? **A.** City of Spokane has done some testing of influent. February TTWG meeting notes also list some items.
- **C.** The Task Force should think about how to present the results from Ecology’s product testing.
- **C.** Karin requested the Task Force identify a workgroup specific to product testing or add a WWTP representative to the Green Chemistry workgroup if the Task Force wants that workgroup to also lead on product testing. Rob Lindsay agreed to participate in the Green Chemistry workgroup. EPA representative will be Michelle Mullin. (Green Chemistry/Product Testing workgroup roster: Doug Greenland, Kara Whitman, Karin Baldwin, Michelle Mullin, Saskia Van Bergen, Rob Lindsay, Vikki Barthels.)
- **C.** Focus on products suspected to have PCBs (1000’s of products go through WWTPs). Inventory prior testing by both Ecology and EPA.
- **C.** We need to consider what level products are tested at (pg/L?) and consider a screening test for products using Test Method 8082. We should also pick product families that we can do something about.

Contract Task 4 (# 5.7-GC2017AE4, Green Chemistry): Karin explained that the focus is on inadvertent PCBs for pigments for newsprint and packaging materials, with the workgroup eying a two-pronged approach to both newsprint and packaging.

1. Literature search and white paper (for \$5,000)
2. Develop a plan for a pilot project to implement potential ultra-low-PCB solutions (\$5,000 each for newsprint and packaging)

Dr. Lauren Heine said her organization (NW Green Chemistry) has talked with the sustainable packaging coalition (SPC) and an organization called GreenBlue to raise awareness of the issue and being encouraging them to develop education materials. SPC and GreenBlue, are influential in their industries, and are interested in potentially creating a design guide for their members. Dr. Heine is coordinating with Michelle Mullin at EPA. For each of the above initiatives, the workgroup plans a phased approach with Phase 1 (for each) consisting of research and development of workplans. The workgroup would spend \$15,000 before June 30th, 2018.

Questions/Comments/Discussion:

- **C.** It appears that the work done in the first fiscal year (FY) is the research and white paper, and scope for the next FY. A Task Force member suggested the SRRTTF wait to approve Phase 2 until Phase 1 is complete.

- **Q.** Is \$5000 enough to dig deep for the white paper, so that it is a valuable product? **A.** The paper will focus on people in the industry who are not knowledgeable on this. Doug Krapas has provided many materials published already on this topic. In conversations with SPC, they are not aware of these issues and their significance. This paper will be used to education different audiences.
- **C.** Doug said the Regulatory Reform / Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) workgroup is working with Dominion Colour on low-PCB printing inks. (Dominion has expressed interest in this, and Lumen Bioscience has created a blue pigment using algae.) Doug is working with some publishers interested in piloting these alternative inks. Doug wants to build a coalition for this; he will connect with Lauren Heine and the SPC.
- **C.** Keep narrow focus on newsprint and packaging, following Doug's model from the work on road paint. NWGC has a lot of contacts that can help. Dr. Heine will work with Doug to bridge contacts with Doug.

DECISION: The Task Force approved Phase 1 (work from now until June 30th, 2018) of the Green Chemistry proposal, funding \$15,000. The Task Force will wait until this work is completed before making a decision on funding for phase two.

Contract Task 5 (# 5.12.2-E&O2017AE-WG, Education and Outreach (E&O) projects)

Outreach Project 1: Low Impact Development (LID) presentation. Lee First (Riverkeeper) described presentations in several communities (Liberty Lake, Cheney, Post Falls, Couer d'Alene, Tekoa) at venues such as Neighborhood Council and community/nonprofit meetings. Lee will explain issues related to stormwater and explain the difference between stormwater and wastewater. The presentation will describe modern stormwater management and how it slows down and filters stormwater. The slides can be tailored to each community, using local examples. Will talk about the goals of LID, including research showing how simply filtering stormwater through soil removes metals from stormwater and enables salmon to survive the impacts of stormwater.

Questions/Comments/Discussion

- **C.** Connect stormwater to fish and the food chain— people don't see impact until they see a connection to the food we eat. Sewage pipe image may need adjusting (change name on "sewer pipe" or move it).
- **C.** Ground-truth slides to local conditions, e.g. sole-source aquifer, where infiltration is good and not good. Coordinate with other regional messages. **A.** Jerry explained that they want the branding to be consistent with what is going on with the community. Imagery will be specific to this region.
- **C.** Note the difference between outfalls and catch basins. Make sure slides show this region's uniqueness.
- **C.** It makes sense to start with cities, town, neighborhoods, but consider developers as a potential audience.
- **C.** Add a slide about who owns swales and how ownership and responsibility for maintenance works.
- **C.** This should be part of telling the story of what the Task Force is doing.
- **C.** Need to include all regional groups to coordinate messages, e.g. Idaho-Washington Aquifer Commission (IWAC), Spokane Joint Aquifer Board (SJAB), to make sure outreach is not contrary to work being done.
- **C.** The E&O work group has frequently discussed what approach works best – individual entities with similar messages or taking the time to make sure they all speak with the exact same message.

ACTION ITEM: Jerry and Lee to share slides with all Task Force members after making suggested edits (so they may can get routed to appropriate persons in each entity/organization for review).

ACTION ITEM: Lee to make suggested edits and send to Ruckelshaus Center for review by individual entities; with the goal to have comments all submitted by March 22nd, 2018.

DECISION: The Task Force conditionally funded the LID project with the caveat that it go through a round of review by Task Force member entities before being made public.

Outreach Project 2 – Website: Goal to have in place for Task Force review at March SRRTTF meeting. The E&O workgroup requests \$1000 to fund Anne Francis to finish putting the website together.

DECISION: The Task Force approved \$1000 for Anne Francis to get the initial website up and running. The website will be presented to the Task Force for review and comment/revision before going live.

Outreach Project 3 – Spring Campaign: Vikki Barthels explained the scope of the Spring Campaign (by the Spokane River Forum, related to the Waste Directory), which will include messaging specific to PCBs. They will also do a fall campaign.

Questions/Comments/Discussions

- **Q.** How effective are these campaigns? Google analytics shows their impact. Can we invite Tonilee Hansen and Andy Dunau to next Task Force meeting to talk about the Spring Campaign and outreach? **C.** Rob Lindsay said Tonilee is well-connected, does a lot of work in the basin, and could benefit the Task Force.
- **C.** Could the spring campaign include fish?
- **Q.** What will the Task Force gain from this? **A.** The Waste Directory has been effective in the community. Defining a specific Task Force benefit may be difficult, but it benefits the whole basin.
- **Q.** How are we integrating these messages with other outreach efforts?

ACTION ITEM: The Funding decision on this will be tabled until the March 2018 Task Force meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Vikki Barthels to communicate with Tonilee Hanson about how PCBs will be incorporated in the Spring Campaign. (Initial email sent, waiting on reply)

Contract Task 6: Watershed-wide Positive Matrix Factorization (PMF) Analysis. The rough scope of work is ready, just waiting on fall sampling results. Funding can be moved to fall when the bulk of the work will be done.

Annual Implementation Review Summary (IRS) Addendum:

Chris Page reminded the Task Force it had approved the IRS as required by the Comp Plan for 2017 and explained that the **addendum** contains summaries from action items, decisions, consultant overviews, facilitator's summary, and workgroup activities. **C.** To put together the IRS, someone has to pull these (Comp Plan requirements) together. The Task Force needs to consider this before the next IRS is due at the end of 2018.

ACTION ITEM: Ruckelshaus Center to send to the Task Force for full review, comment, and a Decision at the March 2018 Task Force meeting. Include the approved IRS. (COMPLETE)

Events, Funding, other Announcements

- **EPA Education Grant:** Chris Page gave an overview of the EPA Education grant, which may not be appropriate for a full Task Force proposal, but an entity on the Task Force may want to apply.
- **Ecology Water Quality Funding:** Final list for 2018 out, with 33 projects in the Spokane basin proposed. Of those, 24 projects were funded, for a total of \$55.7 million dollars. For fiscal year 2019, Ecology received six project proposals from the Spokane basin; of the six, the agency plans to fund five.
- **Policy 1-11 Revisions:** Ecology has posted the revisions online. There is a public review period, and two webinars today (1:30 and 6:00pm) Karin can send links to sign up, let her know. There will be a public meeting on March 7th (Center Place, 1pm, likely two hours) to focus on Policy 1-11 revisions.
- **TTWG Meeting:** Does the TTWG need to meet each month? The timeslot will be held on calendars for TTWG or Project Management meetings as needed. Susan Braley (Ecology's lead for Policy 1-11 Revisions) can attend the March 7th TTWG if the Task Force would like. If so, Susan would like guidance on what topics would be of interest for a session from 10 am to 11am.

Questions/Comments/Discussion:

- **Q.** What is the purpose of the meeting? **A.** Information-only, on how the policy changed based on public feedback. The morning meeting would not substitute for attending the afternoon meeting.
- **C.** Karin can relay Task Force questions to Susan so she can prepare to discuss them.

- **C.** The Task Force, during the Policy 1-1 public comment period, did not submit comments as a Task Force, because there was disagreement. This is a topic on which the Task Force does not have a united position.
- **C.** Susan Braley has expressed that this is for information sharing; not providing more opportunity for comment on the policy. She wants to clarify and have open dialogue, not invite lobbying or positioning. Suggest that the group take advantage of Susan being available to have this discussion.

Topics for discussion at the meeting:

- Spokane-centric topics – anything that would impact the work being done in this watershed.
- Would she show PCB-specific fish calculation, as a sample based on what the draft rule says?
- What in the Policy 1-11 revisions would interest local entities, related to work being done in the basin?
- How can category 4b address the Task Force’s innovative approach (promote or hinder the work)?
- Attainment of human health criteria – what does this mean to the Task Force?
- Trophic level is irrelevant for Category 5—what does this mean? (This pertains to the work of the Fish Sampling Work Group)

ACTION ITEM: The Task Force will hold March 7, 2018 TTWG meeting; Susan Braley to attend 10-11am.

ACTION ITEM: Karin to send list the questions for Susan Braley to Ruckelshaus Center for Task Force dissemination and review. (COMPLETE)

Ecology Water Quality Assessment: The past Task Force (ACE-Ecology) contract required data suitable for entry into Ecology’s Environmental Information Management (EIM) system. EIM submittal is not a condition of the new contract. **C.** Brandee Era-Miller has been working on this. Ecology looks at all data in EIM and EPA’s “store it” system. The data for 2015 Groundwater sampling, 2014 confidence testing, 2014 and 2015 synoptic sampling data, and soon the 2016 monthly monitoring data will all be in EIM. If data is in EIM, then it gets evaluated as part of the listing process. Ecology is looking for data that may not already be in EIM that would be useful (things outside of Ecology funding sources). Spokane County is conducting sampling and submitting hard copy reports to Ecology. **Q.** Does this data need to be submitted? **A.** Not sure (this could be a question for Susan).

TSCA Work Group: Doug Krapas gave an update on the TSCA work group. (see handout at <http://srrttf.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/2018-Plan-of-Activities.pdf>) Doug would like someone to lead and was hoping for EPA to take this on, as he shifts his attention to low-PCB printing inks. A multi-pronged approach is needed to deal with the disconnect between the 50ppm “inadvertent” PCB allowance and the ultra-low water quality standard. Doug plans a follow-up meeting with the interested parties to hand off leadership on this.

Structure of Task Force Meetings: Chris Page reminded the group that Comp Plan implementation may cause the Task Force to change how often it meets, and the TTWG recommends it meet only when technical issues arise that need discussion. The current SRRTTF work involves project leads working with ACE to get contracts in place and do the work; these project leads will play a significant role to keep tasks moving, report on deliverables etc. **Q.** What larger structure will best help the Task Force keep implementation moving forward?

ONGOING ACTION ITEM: TTWG to meet on an Ad-Hoc basis, the timeslot will be held in the calendars.

Announcement: Ecology will be hosting a meeting at Liberty Lake March 14th at 6 pm to talk about their plan for Spokane River NPDES permits. Eastern Region folks from Ecology will be there. **C.** May want to consider getting headquarters at the meeting. (Karin will check on this, but this may not be possible for this meeting.)

Executive Session: Chris Page explained that the Ruckelshaus Center approach is not to be a permanent fixture with a group. The Task Force has reached agreement on a plan and has moved into implementation and project management, so should consider how best to move forward without the Center (after June 30th, 2018).

The group discussed what it would need after July 1, i.e. meeting facilitation, note-taking, communication, and project management with some technical expertise. **Q.** If the SRRTTF decides to hire a person, can the Ruckelshaus Center work on a month-to-month basis until the hire is complete? **A.** The Center should be able to make that work.

Idea: Form a Hiring Committee to lead this, involving ACE representatives and a few other folks? Draft job description. Some options:

- Hire an independent facilitator
- Agency office position
- ACE hire a coordinator to make sure everything gets done and serve as the face of the Task Force.

ACTION ITEM: Ruckelshaus Center to list tasks they do, and how much time each takes, and consider the other resources they bring (conference call lines, video conferences etc.); would all these be needed? (COMPLETE)

Potential hiring committee group: Suggestions - Rob Lindsay, Tom Agnew? Rick Eichstaedt? Lisa Dally Wilson, Karin/Adriane, Elizabeth Schoedel? Mike Petersen?

ACTION ITEM: Hiring Committee discuss Task Force needs at the March 7th, 2018 TTWG meeting.

No Public Comment