

Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force

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

DRAFT Meeting Summary

Wednesday, April 25, 2018 | 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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

Meeting Documents: <http://srrttf.org/?p=9149>

Attendees:

Voting Members and Alternatives (*Denotes Voting Members)

Tom Agnew—Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District

Mike Anderson—City of Coeur d'Alene

Sharon Bosley*, Mike Zager—Kootenai Environmental Alliance

Mike Coster*, Jeff Donovan—City of Spokane

Rick Eichstaedt* (phone)—Riverkeeper

Bud Leber*, Brent Downey—Kaiser Aluminum

Mike LaScuola*, Vikki Barthels, Bruce Williams—Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD)

Mike Petersen—The Lands Council

Doug Krapas—Inland Empire Paper

Monica Ott—City of Post Falls

Rob Lindsay, Mike Hermanson—Spokane County

Advisors

Adriane Borgias, Diana Washington, Jim Ross, Sandy Trecanni—WA Department of Ecology (Ecology)

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

Kevin Booth—Avista

Interested Parties

Lisa Dally Wilson—Dally Environmental

Dave Dilks (phone)—LimnoTech Ken Windram—Hayden Area Regional Sewer District

Paul Klatt—JUB Engineering

Gemma Puddy—Landon Group

Rao Sankarmanchi—CDM Smith

Tammie Williams—WA Department of Transportation (WSDOT)

Introductions and Agenda Review

After a round of introductions, Chris Page went over the agenda. Doug Krapas asked to add a discussion of some recent communication with the Spokesman Review.

Meeting Summary (March 28, 2018)

DECISION: The Task Force approved the March 28th, 2018 meeting notes.

ACTION ITEM: Kara Whitman to post the approved 3/28/18 meeting notes to Task Force website. (COMPLETE)

Project Management and Work Group Reports:

ACE Update: Bud Leber reported: \$179,318 in funds are currently committed, with \$40,393 uncommitted. Bud is working with Adriane to finalize the contract. Though there is no final scope for product testing or Positive Matrix Factorization (PMF) analysis, contracts are in place with the parties that will execute the tasks.

PCB Mass Balance: The sampling plan is complete. The Draft Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) is in progress, with Task Force approval needed by June 30, 2018. ACE will engage LimnoTech to get field sampling and analytical contracts in place, execute sampling event/s in accordance with the QAPP, and prepare the PCB mass balance report for acceptance by Task Force.

Groundwater PCB Upgradient of Kaiser: Bud said the on-site reconnaissance is completed (by Joyce Duncan at LimnoTech, as of 03/06/18). LimnoTech has compiled all area data from Kaiser and has begun collecting other area information (completion date 04/30/18). All Kaiser data is EPA Method 1668. Groundwater data has been transferred to LimnoTech for validation. Validation of all Kaiser on-site EPA Method 1668 groundwater data in progress (completion date 04/30/18) and preparation of the Technical Memorandums in progress. Dave Dilks explained that they have drafted the QAPP and sent it to Ecology for review.

Future Work:

- Determine if additional river data collection points for PCB mass balance would support this effort (they are waiting to determine if they will sample upstream);
- Evaluate, if appropriate, the efficacy of other proposed potential PCB flux rate determination methods; and
- Provide a recommendation to the Task Force on the need for additional efforts on PCB flux rate determinations.

Q&A/COMMENTS

- **C.** It is good that they are thinking about how the segments align with Plantes Ferry.
- **Q.** Are they looking for wells east of the Industrial Park? Group-A and Group-B water systems might have wells in the area. **A.** Joyce Duncan is going over all of this and has identified all drinking water supply wells; many have been decommissioned. They have not yet found any that remain in the industrial park.
- **C.** Data from wells in Sullivan Park (that Spokane County has been monitoring) can be shared. The County has been coordinating with Joyce on this.
- **C.** Dave Dilks noted they have validated the 1668 data and found a few J-flags, but no numbers will change.
- **Q.** Do you anticipate expanding the scope up beyond Plantes Ferry? **A.** Not sure; they will know more after fingerprinting. **Q.** Will this occur at the same time as mass balance? **A.** Yes. The QAPP is on hold. If nothing is added, it is ready. If they determine that they should go upgradient, LimnoTech will modify the QAPP.

Green Chemistry: Dr. Lauren Heine is working on the project, and planning to report to the Task Force in June.

Product Testing: Two months ago, the Task Force held a long discussion about what types of products would make sense to test. To make informed decisions, the Task Force needs to know what EPA, Ecology, and others have done and what those efforts found. EPA (Michelle Mullin as lead) and Ecology will get the status summary needed for the work group to meet and making suggestions for products to test. Kari Trumbull's series of reports come out soon from Ecology testing for the WA Department of Enterprise Services' state purchasing.

ACTION ITEM: Chris Page to email Lucy to check with Michelle; Lucy will check with Michelle. (COMPLETE)

ACTION ITEM: Adriane/Ecology to provide a status report on product testing at the May Task Force meeting.

Spokesman Review: Doug expressed concern over an article published in March by Becky Kramer, (in *The Spokesman-Review*) regarding Inland Empire Paper (IEP) discharge exceedances. Doug noted inaccuracies and misleading statements in the article. The reporter did not contact IEP or other Task Force members that have direct knowledge of this topic. Doug contacted the author to dispute some claims in the article, which he feels misrepresents what is going on in the community. Rick Eichstaedt said Riverkeeper was a bit disturbed by an

outside environmental group coming into the community and making these statements, without contacting local conservation groups. Adriane noted that the article referred to three days of exceedances, which IEP immediately reported. The article does not specify the relevance of the exceedances.

The article shows that the Task Force does not seem to be getting the message out about all the good work going on in the watershed. Becky Kramer not consulting a single Task Force member about this article prior to publishing shows how underappreciated the Task Force work is, but she may be willing to write an article about the ongoing positive work. The Spokane River Stewardship Partnership (SRSP) discussed this at their meeting, and thought it made sense to give the author a list of people she could interview, as diverse a list as possible: Ecology, dischargers, SRHD, Lands Council, and Riverkeeper all would like to be interviewed.

ACTION ITEM: Doug Krapas to follow up with Task Force members who agreed to be interviewed and provide the contacts to Ms. Kramer. Doug will also invite Ms. Kramer to come to a Task Force meeting. (COMPLETE)

Task Force Outreach Website: Toni Taylor reviewed SpokaneRiverPCBfree.org, the new Task Force outreach site. If the Task Force does not have a problem with the information as it is, and the site can go live, then the work group can then set goals for different pages moving forward. Most of the information came from previously-approved language, from the Task Force outreach posters and fact sheet.

DISCUSSION:

- Business: Local source control – Ecology (Elaine Snouwaert) is reinvigorating the Urban Waters program.
- For \$30 per year, the site can have RSS (Rich Site Summary, aka Really simple Syndication) aggregator that would select and post all articles about PCBs. This would need Task Force approval.
- Task Force member icons: what link would each member like the icon link to go to?
- Web page email: Someone will need to be the custodian of the email.
- Wastewater and Stormwater pages are currently hidden; ideas are needed for this content.
- The Task Force initially allocated \$1,000 dollars to Ann Francis to populate the website. Ann will put together tutorials for updated the website.
- Can Google Analytics be added? **A.** Yes.
- **C.** The site should avoid the complexities of PCBs and the chemistry; simplify the messages.
- **Q.** Can we highlight current projects moving forward? Can we make this interesting and outreach oriented?

DECISION: The Task Force approved the website to go live and authorized funding \$30/year for the RSS Feed.

ACTION ITEM: Toni Taylor to set up RSS feed, get website ready (with additional discussed items), and launch.

ACTION ITEM: Task Force members to provide a link to attach to their logos on the outreach web page.

Coordinated Task Force Public Messages:

- **Q.** For individual outreach funding proposals, the Task Force would decide case by case, but the Task Force can consider having criteria for making such decisions.
- **C.** These coordinated, approved joint messages could go on the outreach website.
- **C.** Add a link to the new website to message four: more information at spokaneriverpcbfree.org

Building demolition and renovation: Mike LaScuola provided an update on the work group: they are working on adapting building and renovation materials for public outreach and will have more at a future meeting.

Positive Matrix Factorization (PMF) Analysis: This project kicks off after low-flow River sampling in late summer. The draft scope is done, but the project is on hold until after sampling. It is still to be determined how the funding will work (money from the WA Legislature via Ecology, or SRSP-provided funds).

Request for Qualifications & Proposals (RFQP): The RFQP has gone out—the Ruckelshaus Center sent it to their list of practitioners. One entity (the Langdon Group) has shown interest. The RFQP may need to go to more folks to get more interest. The deadline may need to be extended. Other distribution outlets could include area universities (Washington State University, Eastern Washington, University of Idaho, Gonzaga, etc.).

ACTION ITEM: Ruckelshaus Center to resend RFQP email with due date extended to 06/01/18 and find university-based folks to send the RFQP to, i.e. Center for Environmental Research, Education, and Outreach (CEREO), Idaho Water Resources Research Institute (IWRRI), etc. (COMPLETE).

As Task Force members send it out, please let Bud Leber and Chris Page know who it went to. Task Force members to send all entities for distribution to Chris Page. Chris will send the RFQP out. (COMPLETE)

Note: Also need to ensure that conflicts of interest are addressed. (COMPLETE)

Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Work Group: Doug reported that this group (Doug, Adriane, Cadie, Lisa, Tom, Mike Petersen, Tammie Williams) met and currently has six tasks:

1. Road paint: WSDOT has a new policy to use only non-diarylide yellow road paint, in their master contract now. The TSCA work group meets 05/03/18 to consider a draft letter requesting use of only non-diarylide yellow road paint; the letter would go to Liberty Lake, City of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Department of Transportation, etc. The idea is to send it to all entities that utilize road paint. Who should be listed in the letter as a contact? A. ACE could be a point of contact. The next step is to elevate this discussion to the national level. Lucy Edmondson is looking into federal agencies best suited to address this. Coatings folks will need to take the ball and run with it. They need to lobby to make this happen.
2. Printing inks: Doug is in contact with ink manufacturers. There are no cost competitive organic blues. Doug is trying to move this forward, but it is still in the infant stages.
3. Resolving TSCA/water quality standards paradox. Lucy will review the document of options with Region 10.
4. PCB 11 risk assessment: EPA is doing an assessment on PCB 11 (c/o the National Toxicology Association). They are working on it, but we don't know what stage this is at.
5. Outreach: the TSCA work group is working with Lauren Heine on a paper.
6. Chris Hladick (EPA) requested a briefing from the Task Force. The TSCA work group drafted a letter; the Task Force will consider approval to send it on SRRTTF letterhead. The Ruckelshaus Center would then distribute it to appropriate entities. Rick Eichstaedt reported that the senior general counsel for Scott Pruitt was at the Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Region conference. Rick discussed this with her to make her aware of the disconnect between TSCA and the Clean Water Act. Rick followed up with her, and she is interested in looking into it. Rick will provide the name of the senior general counsel to the work group. (COMPLETE).

TSCA Work Group meeting 05/03/18, 10-11am. Full SRRTTF meeting (to decide on letter) to occur at the outset.
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ACTION ITEM: Kara Whitman to send announcement about TSCA/Task Force meeting (including meeting details and purpose with the letter to be approved). (COMPLETE)

Work Group Protocols: Chris Page reviewed the thought process behind a draft set of potential work group protocols. The protocols will be further discussed and up for a decision at the May 2018 Task Force meeting.

Database Tour: Rao Sankarmanchi of CDM Smith provided a real-time tour of the database and its capabilities. He reviewed the location explorer, groups (location, field parameters, etc.), loading electronic data deliverables (EDDs), setup including unit consistency and parameters, lookup tables (samples and sample matrices), etc.

Q&A/COMMENTS:

- **Q.** Does the database contain total PCBs? **A.** Not a parameter now, but the database can add them at user request.
- **C.** The database contains groups of locations: user can make as many groups as you want.
- **Q.** Does it account for co-eluding congeners? **A.** A flag tells us it is a co-elude. Ecology's Environmental Information Management (EIM) database has a separate analyte for co-eluders. This can be done in this database if you decide which ones to add to the parameters. Reporting of co-eluders differs depending on how it was requested. There is flexibility, just need to add the parameters to the database. Consistency will be important. Need a set protocol with lab reporting.
- **C.** Blank Correction: currently there is a button to click to assign each blank to the sample. You can correct against any or all the different blanks.
- **C.** Process: load chain-of-custody EDD files while trying to catch errors in datasets, missing information, etc. (to avoid having junk data in database). Mike and Rao are working on an EDD format to distribute, with the same process for lab data.
- **C.** AXYS is sending Rao all Task Force data plus relevant data for the County, Kaiser, City of Spokane, etc.
- **C.** Results possible:
 - Filter samples (location, date range, etc.)
 - Location summary – quick report of everything loaded.
 - Chain of custody summary
 - Blank correction tool by homolog – can change blank correction factor (many options to correct against, e.g. can do all blanks, or look at the maximum across blanks/uses for that correction)
 - Homolog-stacked bar charts, by location or by specified group
- **C.** Composite sample lacks a sample date since composites reflect several days of samples – need to consider how to address this in the database. i.e. 8-day composite (start date or end date).
- **C.** What about a summary of samples? **A.** This can be pulled into Excel.
- **Q.** If you load something, with the EDD format, ideally there should not be errors. If errors appear, it can be manually edited and loaded. Can always manually add a sample.
- **Q.** Can we use the database to demonstrate Measurable Progress? **A.** You can create graphs and data, e.g. to support new website.
- **C.** Add common names of congeners, as a new column to the "Properties" table.
- **C.** Add a header to top line of reports that tells what analysis was done (add a cell)
- **C.** On the homolog bar graph, the title is not complete. It needs to say location or group.

CDM Smith will have a draft database report by the May 23rd Task Force meeting. Rao will work with Mike Hermanson to get all the Task Force data and individual entity datasets. AXYS is working through some contractual issues to provide the data in the needed format.

Options for Data Access: Rao explained multiple options for database access and interaction:

1. Compiled reports
2. Downloadable Microsoft Access databases (Rao thinks this is the best option for now) – these need designated folks to upload data. They can be posted as you are working on them, so require nothing much for CDM to do (they can estimate number of hours).
3. SQL Server-based web application: this would be the most time (4-6 months), effort, and cost, a custom-built web application to do the same things as the database (this is always an option down the road).

4. Google Earth-based, point-and-click interface: in the database, “generate a kml file,” predefined sets of reports to bring into google earth/maps. 2-3 months to get this up and running.
5. Pre-processed ArcGIS map interface using preprocessed data by location. 4-6 months, phased approach.
6. Full-scale ArcGIS interface (6-9 months and most expensive)

Rob Lindsay said when Rao moves on, we will need technical support for maintaining the database, and Spokane County would serve as database coordinator and steward the database as an in-kind contribution. The most time-consuming task is when new data comes in. Mike Hermanson has been working with Brandee Era-Miller on fish tissue data, which will be important for permit management, Diana Washington can also provide some support for this. Some Task Force budget may be needed to engage CDM Smith on an annual basis for general on-call database support.

ACTION ITEM: CDM Smith to put together cost estimates for options 1-5 for the Task Force to consider.

Next Steps: Finish loading data, draft report, final report, determine data access option(s) to implement, determine database keeper, determine data reporting protocol.

Events and Announcements:

- H2O breakfast on May 9th at the Davenport.

No Public Comment.

Next SRRTF meeting May 23, 2018 – Liberty Lake Sewer & Water District, 8:30am-noon (note location change)