



GEORGE SCHNEIDER
& Associates
Facilitating Resolutions to Water Conflicts

Chris Page
William D. Ruckelshaus Center
901 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2900
Seattle, WA 98164

May 30, 2018

Dear Chris,

I am very pleased to submit this proposal from George Schneider & Associates (GSA) in response to your RFQ/P *Support Services for the Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force (Task Force)*. I trust that you will find our team to be uniquely qualified and prepared to provide the Task Force with the highest level of service.

I understand that the Task Force is committed to a collaborative approach to improving water quality in the Spokane River. Clearly, this is a high stakes, high visibility, and highly complex undertaking. With the completion of the Comprehensive Plan, the Task Force is transitioning from planning activities to implementation of the action plan. Our team has extensive experience in facilitating, and focusing collaborative groups, and we will bring this experience to bear for you throughout and beyond this transition. We also have deep knowledge of water and natural resource management and the policy, science, and regulatory frameworks that are involved. Finally, we have extensive experience in managing complex projects and programs, most often in the public arena, from planning through full implementation.

I will be the managing consultant and your primary contact to the Task Force. I build upon over 40 years of experience as a water resource professional to help people reach solutions to their problems, and to see projects and visions come to fruition. I have participated in or led many stakeholder processes, in the varying roles of negotiator, facilitator, mediator and technical expert. Prior to starting my own business, I led several western water utility engineering and operations groups, in the areas of water supply, stormwater, wastewater, and fisheries management. I combine a deep understanding of the technical and policy aspects of water management, with the tools and techniques to facilitate creative and effective collaborations. My direct management experience covers small to large projects and programs.

My associates for this project are Mark Ryan and Jamie Petitto. Mark is an attorney who spent 24 years as one of EPA's leading Clean Water Act experts and chief trial attorneys. He was the lead attorney for the federal government in the Spokane River TMDL litigation. Mark's role on the team will be to provide, on an as-needed and as-requested basis, independent legal and regulatory advice to the Task Force. He will assist in developing strategies involving regulatory issues, and he would be available to review documents related to regulatory or legal matters. Jamie is a talented web designer who builds and maintains websites for many businesses and organizations. She has demonstrated success

creating beautiful websites that increase subject matter awareness while maximizing audience engagement.

We believe that your success relies on effective management of the processes, clearly defined goals and metrics, and rigorous management and oversight of the project or Control Action level activities. This suggest a facilitator/manager that is (1) neutral, independent and experienced; (2) conversant in the work that the Task Force participants do in the areas of policy, science, outreach, and resource management, and; (3) capable of managing and coordinating a complex program being executed by diverse entities. With the GSA team, you will have these attributes in service to the Task Force.

The contents of our proposal will provide you with the information you need to assess our experience, commitment, and capability. I hope that some of our key attributes stand out:

- Broad experience in water resources, particularly in the Pacific Northwest
- Understanding and managing the complexities of consensus-based decision making
- Expertise in facilitation and making processes streamlined and efficient
- Solid experience in managing and overseeing complex projects and programs
- In depth technical and policy understanding of water, stormwater, and wastewater utility operations, and relevant regulatory knowledge
- Small and efficient team focused on water issues in the Columbia basin
- Expertise in developing meaningful metrics to assess progress and communicate to non-technical people

Though not given emphasis in the proposal, we also are skilled in the "optional tasks" identified in the RFQ/P - grant writing and reporting, and outreach and communications. More information on those areas can be provided if you would like.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to present our qualifications and proposal. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "George Schneider".

George Schneider, PE
George Schneider & Associates