

Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force

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

Conference Call DRAFT Notes

Wednesday, June 13, 2018 | 10:00 am – 11:00 am

Attendees: * denotes voting member

Tom Agnew* –Liberty Lake Sewer & Water District
Mike Anderson* –City of Coeur d’Alene
Adriane Borgias –WA Dept. of Ecology (Ecology)
Galen Buterbaugh* –Lake Spokane Association
Bud Leber* –Kaiser Aluminum

Rob Lindsay* –Spokane County
Dave McBride* –WA Department of Health
Cadie Olsen*, Jeff Donovan –City of Spokane
Jerry White* and Lydia Newell –Riverkeeper
Lisa Dally Wilson –Dally Environmental

Introductions and Agenda Review: After a round of introductions and establishment of a quorum of voting members, no changes were made to the agenda.

Discussion of Work Group Process: Bud Leber provided an overview of the process that the RFQP work group used to narrow the contractors’ proposals down to two: nine Task Force members reviewed the proposals and assigned numeric scores on several criteria using a matrix. After going through all the proposals on their own before the meeting, each reviewer brought their scores and thoughts on each proposal to the meeting. The group compiled a collective a ratings grid, based on their evaluation of the criteria listed in the RFQP package. In a meeting on June 6th, work group members together spent 2.5 hours going over the proposals and working to come to a consensus. Lisa emphasized that a quick glance at the proposals does not reveal some key factors—you have to dive deeper. For example, looking at the “boots on the ground” in Spokane, the facilitators and project managers proposed did not necessarily match the full scope of the company.

The work group recommends the Task Force interview White Bluffs Consulting (White Bluffs) and George Schneider Associates (GSA). Both have facilitation and management strengths. For GSA, the project manager and facilitator is the same person and has 20 years’ experience in water at city and county level. White Bluffs has an environmental planner as a partner, proposed to provide project and process management. One of White Bluffs’ references said he would hire them in a minute, though they might be challenged due to a large work load; working with partner may be a way to address this. Both have technical experience. Neither are local firms. GSA provided a different cost for travel. The costs per hour for both are reasonable.

The group discussed potential conflicts of interests. It will be very hard to find any group that does not have some professional connection to a Task Force-affiliated party in some way. In light of that factor, it would help to focus on whether a connection could bias the work that they would do for the Task Force.

DECISION: The Task Force agreed to invite the two firms, White Bluffs Consulting and George Schneider & Associates, to the June 27, 2018 Task Force meeting to present their proposals. Task Force members that have concerns about any conflict of interests will make some calls and be ready to ask questions of the two contractors at the meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Bud Leber to provide some criteria for interviewing the two consultants, pulled from prior interview processes used to select the technical advisors, sampling consultants, etc. Task Force members should note questions they have for each contractor and areas of proposals for which they’d like further clarification.