

Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force Meeting

DRAFT Meeting Notes

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

Wednesday, May 23, 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://srtrtf.org/?p=9153>

Attendees:

Voting Members and Alternatives (*Denotes Voting Members)

BiJay Adams, Tom Agnew –Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District

Mike Anderson* –City of Coeur d’Alene

Doug Krapas* –Inland Empire Paper

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

Bud Leber* –Kaiser Aluminum

Rob Lindsay*, Ben Brattebo –Spokane County

Lydia Newell* –Riverkeeper

Cadie Olsen* –City of Spokane

Monica Ott* –City of Post Falls

Mike Petersen* –Lands Council

Dave McBride* (phone) – WA State Department of Health

Advisors

Adriane Borgias, Cathleen Glick, Bill Fees, Jeremy Schmidt –WA Department of Ecology

Kevin Booth –Avista

Brian Nickel –Environmental Protection Agency

Elsa Pond (phone) –WA Department of Transportation

Interested Parties

Dave Dilks (phone) –LimnoTech

Andy Dunau, Tonilee Hanson –Spokane River Forum

Dave Livesay, John Porcello –GSI Water Solutions

Gemma Puddy –Langdon Group

Jim Kimball –J-U-B Engineering

Ken Windram (phone) –Hayden Area Regional Sewer Board

Introductions and Agenda Review: After a round of introductions, Chris Page went over the agenda. Added an item on following up on the *Spokesman Review* article by Becky Kramer.

April 25, 2018 meeting summary notes review:

DECISION: The Task Force accepted the April 25, 2018 notes with minor edits (page 3, change outreach website address from .com to .org; and 4, remove second “currently” from TSCA work group opening paragraph).

ACTION ITEM: Kara Whitman to post the revised Final notes to the Task Force website. (COMPLETE)

Collaboration: No issues raised.

Work Group Protocols: Chris Page walked the group through suggested draft work group protocols, highlighted the areas presenting different options for moving forward. Bud Leber noted, “one size does not fit all” work groups since each work group function is different. The Task Force needs to be transparent yet efficient at completing tasks. Each work groups task has different needs: some do not require frequent meetings. There are no meeting agendas or notes to post for some work groups (the PCB mass balance, the groundwater PCB

upgradient of Kaiser work groups operate in this way). For these groups, regular updates from the work group lead to the Task Force provide accountability.

Adriane Borgias asked the Task Force to maintain transparency, and make sure those who want to participate in a work group have the information they need to do so. Larger, more structured work groups need operating standards that provide transparency and inclusion for each meeting: announcement(s), materials, summaries, notification on the website, and email blast. From a functional perspective, agendas are essential. Meeting summaries are part of a transparent structure. Sufficient advance notices for meetings should be provided, and summaries posted after each meeting.

Q&A/COMMENTS

- **C.** Work Group leaders need to provide updates at Task Force meetings. Those who want to be involved bear some responsibility to talk to the work group leader. The more protocols get added in, the less people want to be involved from a workload perspective.
- **Q.** Can we make these structures recommended, but not required? Doug Krapas (Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Work Group lead) prefers agendas. Each work group leader needs to convey any notable progress in the interim time between Task Force meetings. These regular status updates, captured in the Task Force meeting notes, could serve as work group meeting notes perhaps.
- **C.** Vikki Barthels explained that she tries to make a list of updates from the Task Force meetings to share with the work group, and vice versa.
- **C.** Need a webpage for all work group activities for updates and meeting materials. Work group leads need to send information (agendas, notes, etc.) to the website coordinator (currently Kara Whitman until the end of June 2018) for posting.
- **Q.** Are the communications guidelines identical to those in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)? If so, let's say each work group is to follow the MOA guidelines for meeting notices and communications protocols. If a work group schedules a meeting, it is recommended to post a meeting announcement and email blast the Task Force, and provide meeting documents five days prior to the meeting. If you attend the meeting, you agree to abide by the communication protocols in the MOA.

ACTION ITEM: Email blast work group rosters and revised protocols to Task Force for review and comment. (COMPLETE)

ACTION ITEM: Kara Whitman to set up a page for work group summaries. (COMPLETE – page created, for use from July 2018 onward http://srrtff.org/?page_id=9302)

Project Management and Work Group Reports:

ACE: At the end of April 2018, the Task Force has \$195,000. \$155,000 is committed, for all tasks except synoptic sampling (AXYS and SVL and Gravity); the contracts are in place. Currently \$40,000 in uncommitted funds, though ACE is waiting on a scope for the synoptic sampling from Ecology.

Update on PCB Mass Balance and Groundwater: Bud reported that LimnoTech is currently completing Task 4 of 5 in the current contract. Joyce Duncan (LimnoTech) has completed some field work and has sent a draft report now under review by the work group. Next steps include validating Kaiser data using the Task Force protocol and analyzing the data for onsite impacts. Bud (work group lead) will have LimnoTech review the work done and the conclusions with the work group. LimnoTech will provide a technical memo for Task Force review and look at next steps to best determine/quantify the groundwater contribution.

PCB Mass Balance: Bud said Ecology has reviewed the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and provided comments. Information on sampling locations were decided through discussion with Brandee Era-Miller

(Ecology), informed by her biofilm study. Dave Dilks said they are wrapping up the technological analysis and will present to the groundwater group, when they will decide whether to add another monitoring point upstream. **Q.** What's the cost for another sampling point? **(A.** Likely under \$8,000.) Rob Lindsay reminded the group that the County has an agreement with USGS to provide flow measurements as needed for a variety of stations.

Green Chemistry: Adriane reported that the Green Chemistry work group met to regroup and figure out a path forward. They consulted the Comprehensive Plan. Another study is underway, and Kari Trumbull will present its findings the Task Force in July 2018 when the report will be available for comment. There is an Ecology "Clearing house" database of PCB product studies. The group also discussed other data available. EPA has a building materials website and can provide articles on other products containing PCBs (cabinets etc.). The group discussed other ideas (fats, oils and grease, dust palliatives, titanium dioxide). The group is going to wait until after June before they reconvene and discuss what they heard and how to move forward. Kari Trumbull also has a study coming out on farmed hatchery fish.

Titanium Dioxide is in many self-care products that may be worth testing. PCBs-in-the-home webpage is live (Spokane Regional Health District), and could dovetail into this. As more information is collected, it can be added to the outreach materials and efforts to bring more awareness and momentum. How information is presented will be important—Mike LaScuola (Regional Health District) can provide guidance on presenting it.

Positive Matrix Factorization (PMF) Analysis: Mike Hermanson, Ben Brattebo, and Rob Lindsay would welcome others. They spoke to Dr. Rodenburg to refine the scope, and touched on the issue of blank correction and how inconsistently it has been done in the watershed. Dr. Rodenburg gave Rob a proposal to study blank correction methods from all the PCB sampling connected to the Spokane River Watershed. Rob proposed putting this on the June agenda. The blank correction work could start right away (about \$13,000). Dr. Rodenburg can look at the blank corrections used, and then do PMF analysis to identify what blank corrections make sense for different uses. Adriane suggested that an Ecology representative join this work group (Brandee Era-Miller). Dave thinks this is important study because there is not a definitive method. At a minimum it is worthwhile to run PMF analysis using different blank correction methods to see if you get different answers. The outcome should be that these results are robust regardless of blank correction or they are not as robust using different blank correction methods.

ACTION ITEM: Add blank correction study discussion to June 2018 agenda (COMPLETE) and see if Dr. Rodenburg can discuss the purpose of the proposed study.

RFQP Update: Chris Page reported six declarations of intent to submit proposals (due by June 1st, 2018). The proposals and a scoring sheet will go out to the RFQP work group, which meets on June 6th. Top proposers will be invited to present at the June 2018 Task Force meeting. **Q.** Does the Task Force want to have a subgroup go through the proposals by June 6th, when they will meet to choose a short list (2 or 3 top contenders) to come to the Task Force meeting on 6/27/18 for a final decision?

DECISION: The RFQP work group to should go through all bids and score and rank them: Bud Leber, Monica Ott, Rob Lindsay, Adriane Borgias, Jerry White or, Mike Petersen (if Jerry can't make it).

ACTION ITEM: Ruckelshaus Center to send out a meeting announcement for the RFQP meeting and post bid packages when they are received. The work group will rank bid packages using scoring criteria. RFQP to meet from 10am to 12noon. (COMPLETE) Then the Task Force will hold a conference call to agree on the shortlist to be able to have the top 2 or 3 presents in June 2018.

ACTION ITEM: Kara Whitman to email full Task Force explaining the timeline for the following: June 6th, 2018 10am to 12pm – RFQP meeting at Ecology, facilitated by Ruckelshaus Center. June 13th, 2018 10am to 12pm–

Conference Call for Task Force voting members plus Ecology and EPA to approve the top 2-3 proposers to invite to the June 27th, 2018 Task Force meeting. (COMPLETE)

TSCA Work Group: Doug Krapas (lead) said the work group put together a letter to state and local governments regarding exclusion of diarylide yellow pigments in road paint. The letter has been reviewed and posted for full Task Force review. Doug Krapas is to be the point of contact. Monica Ott noted the Post Falls street department uses a paint without diarylide yellow (it is easier on the equipment). There is some disagreement as to whether Yellow 65 has diarylide yellow. Elsa Pond (WSDOT) also noted that standards specifications for paint will have this prohibition as of August 2018.

DECISION: The letter to state and local governments on diarylide yellow pigments in road paint was approved.

ACTION ITEM: The Ruckelshaus Center to send out the letter to the entities specified on the letter. (COMPLETE)

Fish Sampling Work Group: Bud reported that the work group recently met. Brandee Era-Miller is doing a study on biofilm and is finalizing sediment sampling sites for this summer. The group walked through the sampling locations and historic sampling sites. Most samples are in the Green Street to Spokane Reach, where consistent high levels in fish have been found. This is also the area with a gaining reach that showed a source of PCBs. The biofilm collection sites are to be aligned with the synoptic sampling sites: Plantes Ferry bend and a turn in the River by Gonzaga (where sediment collects). The study is set for late summer 2018 (end of August/first of September). **Q.** What about funding and labs? **A.** Brandee is totaling up the samples and determining whether the Ecology budget would cover the analytics – they may need to request some funding from the Task Force. All sample sites have been added to a GIS map as a way for Brandee to publish the information. She is updating the QAPP based on this feedback.

Outreach:

Tonilee Hanson and Andy Dunau (Spokane River Forum, or SRF)

- Media Campaign update: Started April 11th, 2018 and will continue until June 3rd, 2018. Presentation posted at <http://srrtf.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/SRF-Media-Outreach-SRRTTF-5.23.18-.pdf>.

SRF Social Media Outreach Proposal:

- This will leverage resources, contacts and messages
- Nothing ever happens without a publishing schedule. Import to have the Public Information Officers (PIOs) of Task Force participant agencies participate in those schedules.
- July 1st - December 31st, SRF will issue weekly messages integrated into Facebook and Instagram.
- Hold ½ day social media workshop for PIOs in July 2018. This is essential for getting the leverage. Follow-up workshops in September and November
- Outreach to Clubs and Organizations
- Report Results
- Budget: SRF is doing a dollar for dollar match. Task Force funding request is for \$6,050.

ACTION ITEM: Tonilee send links to videos mentioned for posting on Task Force outreach website. (COMPLETE)

Q&A/Discussion

- **C.** SRF Waste directory is one of the most successful efforts on source control.
- **Q.** Does this proposal accomplish the goal of helping to remove PCBs from the Spokane River? **A.** Encouraging people to be more prudent with waste disposal activities will hopefully reduce the nonpoint source burden of PCBs to the river.
- **C.** Could the Forum work with the outreach work group to develop messaging? Also, it would be nice to have the Task Force mentioned in some spots.

- **C.** Reaching homeowners is a challenge and the Waste Directory has been very successful in this. This is value-added, professional, and quantifiable.
- **C.** It would be nice to measure the Task Force funding for different types of outreach and the effectiveness of each.
- **C.** Local Source Control Program – focus on apartment complexes, they give out stacks of the “Got Waste” magnets.

DECISION: The Task Force agreed to provide \$6,050 for the SRF Waste Directory Social media campaign.

PCB Website: the website (<http://spokaneriverpcbfree.org/>) is up and running. Please provide any feedback or additions to Vikki Barthels.

Building and Demolition Work Group: Mike LaScuola has worked with the SRHD to develop a PCB Best Management Practices (BMPs) sheet for building and demolition, based off BMPs from other places (i.e. San Francisco Estuary Institute, or SFEI). Note: SFEI has not implemented these BMPs due to the concrete recycling.

ACTION ITEM: Kara Whitman to send out the Building and Demolition BMPs sheet and send comments. Comments by to Mike LaScuola. (COMPLETE)

Becky Kramer and Spokesman Review Article: Doug Krapas had a follow up call with Becky Kramer. Doug will invite Becky to attend the June Task Force meeting. Becky will contact the agencies first to verify that there have been improvements to water quality. She will follow up with others after that.

Anne Knapp and the PCB Chemical Action Plan Update: Anne reviewed the basics of the plan as part of WAC 17333. CAPs are established, not rulemaking but recommendations. They have advisory committees for the CAPs: a mix of citizens, industry, and special interest groups. To develop CAPs, they coordinate with pretreatment programs. Ecology does not regulate all the water treatment plants. This is a complicated issue; coordinating with both a federal agency and local programs is difficult. Ecology tries to keep up with product testing to make sure they are identifying options to replace the old chemicals (don’t want regrettable substitutes). The current CAP being drafted is on PFAS. Ann provided a brief overview of the PCB CAP 2017 update and asked if the Task Force could provide some feedback on actions for inadvertent PCB production. Next Steps: working on Internal Ecology budget decision package to implement CAP recommendations, which could include some SRRTTF support.

Q&A/COMMENTS:

- **Q.** The California State biomonitoring study (cited in the CAP) is 12 years old. Are there results from this study available? Follow up?
- **Q.** Who should the Task Force talk to if there is interest? **A.** Ken Zarker.

Events, Funding, and other Announcements:

- Conflict of Interest Notice was sent for LimnoTech’s legal witness role. No conflict of interest identified.

No Public Comment

*Next SRRTTF meeting is June 27 , 2018 – **Liberty Lake Sewer & Water District**, 8:30am-noon*