

Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force Meeting

DRAFT Funding update conference call notes

Facilitated by White Bluffs Consulting (Ben and Lara Floyd)

Wednesday, March 27, 2019 | 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Documents: <http://srrttf.org/?p=10129>

Attendees:

Voting Members and Alternates (*Denotes Voting Member)

Tom Agnew* – Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District
Mike Anderson* – City of Coeur d'Alene
Doug Krapas* – Inland Empire Paper (IEP)
Mike LaScoula*, Vikki Barthels – Spokane Regional Health District
Bud Leber* – Kaiser
Cadie Olsen*, Jeff Donovan – City of Spokane
Mike Petersen* – Lands Council

Advisors

Karl Rains – Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology)

Interested Parties

David Darling – American Coatings Association
Melissa Gombowsky – IEP
Elizabeth Schoedel – City of Spokane

2019 State Legislative Funding hearing update:

Melissa said the hearing went well. Tom testified as well as Neil Beaver from the Lands Council and Heather Bartlett from Ecology. They talked about the good work the Task Force (TF) is doing and gave some examples of the TF work. Karl spoke with Melissa ahead of time about the language in the bill and what should be changed to be more consistent with the TF MOA. Melissa talked about what should be changed in the hearing. Unfortunately, there is no funding included in the house budget for the TF yet but Melissa has inquired to see if any might be included in the Senate budget, and we should see the Senate budget on Friday.

- Tom liked that the Department of Ecology was not opposed but had written a testimony and Heather Bartlett came to share it, and Melissa had already shared some of it in her testimony also.
- Lisa asked how to help with getting funding. It was suggested that emailing state legislators such as Tim Ormsby to support the amendment for funding for the SRRTTF in the house budget would be good, and it would need to be done soon if possible. Suggested wording could be to please include the funding for SRRTTF in the house budget of \$800,000.
- Mike P. shared about Neil Beaver attending and he also thought the hearing went well. He felt it was a long shot for the bill to pass. The bill was introduced after the policy cut off but it was nice to get a hearing to share information about the TF.
- Melissa has reached out to RiverKeeper to see the reasons why they are not in support of it but has received no response. Jerry signed in as opposing the bill.
- Karl had a brief discussion with Heather Bartlett from Ecology and she felt it went well also.

- **ACTION:** WBC will send email addresses for area Representatives Ormsby and Volz to the TF members. (complete)

ACE budget update:

Ecology signed the grant agreement amendment last Wednesday, March 20, and it is anticipated that ACE will be reimbursed from the accompanying pay request of \$155,000 in about a week. Ecology is trying to push it through asap due to the cash flow issue. Rob Lindsay shared that most of this funding is already committed.

Rob also prepared invoices yesterday to send out to the SRSP members that will bring in another \$125,000 to ACE over the next few weeks.

The Ecology reimbursement plus the funding from the SRSP members should improve the financial situation for ACE for now. Additionally, grant funding to be received by the Lands Council allows ACE funding to be used for other activities.

Bud shared that their board decided to ask SRSP for additional funding to bridge the gap and it was agreed to. The budget should be in good shape in the next couple of weeks.

Ben shared that ACE now has resources available and the TF can talk about how to move forward with 2019 work plan activities at the April meeting.

Public Participation Grants (PPG):

Mike Peterson from the Lands Council submitted a PPG amendment on March 11 to Lynn Gooding at Ecology. It included a task for \$15,000 for the data synthesis workshop and \$15,000 for the spring education and outreach campaign, plus a 10% grant management and overhead cost contribution for the Lands Council.

Mike checked with Lynn on March 15 to see if she had received it, and she said that it was going through an internal review and should be ready for his signature early next week. Mike has not heard back yet but it should go forward soon.

- Lisa said the date for the data synthesis workshop is the 30 and 31 of May.
- Ben said we will talk further about the funding at the next TF meeting.
- Karl talked about refining the language of the bill 2113 at future TF meetings to be consistent with the MOA, and also look at unintended consequences of codifying the TF if there are any.
- Chris asked Karl if their legislative representative, Denise Clifford, was going to reach out to the legislators also and if Denise and the WDFW legislative liaison could work together. *Yes, that can happen.*
- Tom said the testimony Heather gave was neither pro nor con but it was very clear that the revisions necessary could be made and therefore the Department of Ecology could support it in the future.

The next in-person TF meeting is April 24, 2019 at Liberty Lake Sewer & Water District, 8:30 am – noon