

Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force Meeting

DRAFT Meeting Notes

Facilitated by White Bluffs Consulting (Ben and Lara Floyd)

Wednesday, April 24, 2019 | 8:30 a.m. – 12:15 pm

Liberty Lake Sewer & Water District | 22510 E. Mission Avenue, Liberty Lake, WA

Meeting Documents: <http://srrttf.org/?p=10281>

Attendees:

Voting Members and Alternates (*Denotes Voting Member)

Tom Agnew*, BiJay Adams – Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District
Mike Anderson* – City of Coeur d'Alene
Galen Buterbaugh*(phone) – Lake Spokane Association
Doug Krapas*, Ben Carleton – Inland Empire Paper
Mike LaScuola*, Vikki Barthels (phone) – Spokane Regional Health District
Bud Leber* – Kaiser
Cadie Olsen*, Jeff Donovan – City of Spokane
Mike Zagar* – Kootenai Environmental Alliance
Chris Donley* – WA Department of Fish and Wildlife

Advisors

Karl Rains, Adriane Borgias, Bill Fees, Jim Ross, Sandra Treccani, Catherine Glick, Diana Washington, Jeremy Schmidt, Brook Beeler and Brandee Era Miller, Siana Wong (phone) – Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology)
Brian Nickel – Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Joel Breems –Avista

Interested Parties

Lisa Dally Wilson – Dally Environmental and Spokane River Stewardship Partners (SRSP)
Ken Windram – Hayden Area Regional Sewer Board
Craig Borrenpohl – City of Post Falls
Jim Kimball – JUB Engineering
Dave Dilks (phone) – LimnoTech
David Darling (phone) – American Coatings Association
Jay West (phone) – American Chemistry Council
Kris Holm (phone)
Amy Sumner – Spokane County
Chelsea Updegrove – Lands Council
Michael Ober – Titanium Dioxide Stewardship Council (TDSC)
Tammie Williams, Elsa Pond – WA state Department of Transportation

Introductions and Agenda Review: After introductions, Ben Floyd reviewed the agenda.

Meeting Summary Action: The Task Force (TF) approved the February 27, 2019 meeting notes with a minor change to Michael Ober's Company name to Titanium Dioxide Stewardship Council. Lara Floyd will post the approved meeting notes to the TF website after this change.

Project Management Update and Work Group Reports:

ACE Update: Bud Leber gave a summary of the commitment report, which is through the end of March. Payment from Ecology was received but this was not reflected in the report. ACE has about \$23,000 plus what is coming in from SRSP. ACE has an uncommitted balance of \$60,000 - \$70,000 moving forward.

Education and Outreach: Tonilee Hanson shared with Vikki Barthels that the PCB free website has been added to the Idaho Washington Aquifer Collaborative and the Waste Directory. Task Force members can add the website link to their webpages. The work group is working on getting education curriculum for students.

Fish Sampling: Brandee Era-Miller from Ecology will cover this update with her presentation.

Funding: Nothing to report except the legislative action and the possibility of codifying the Task Force, which will be discussed later.

Green Chemistry: Lauren Heine is working on assignments and they will be having a workgroup meeting soon to make sure things are progressing. Several tasks need to be completed by June 30. Bud, Ben and Karl will have a conversation to discuss and track work to see deliverables are completed by June 30.

Groundwater PCB Upgradient of Kaiser: No activity is expected until after the Data Synthesis Workshop in May.

Mass Balance: No activity to report.

Database Management: The work group will have a call on May 9. The County has had some data queries associated with the Ecology permitting process.

PMF: This will be covered with Dr. Lisa Rodenburg's presentation today.

Tech Track: This will be covered in the Data Synthesis Workshop update.

TSCA: Doug Krapas shared the group is working with Michael Ober from TDSC to design a study consistent with EPA method 1668 on inadvertent PCBs in titanium dioxide. The study will include developing a QAPP and will target potential products that could be impacting the Spokane River. The group is also working with American Coatings Association to scope a study on PCBs in silicone products, and with Ecology and EPA to see if any information exists on product testing of silicone. The work with EPA involves checking in on past products tested to avoid duplicating efforts, and to identify processes that produce inadvertent PCBs. The work group continues planning for a TSCA workshop focused on inks and pigments, with Lisa Dally Wilson taking the lead. Ken Zarker, Ecology, may have funding for the workshop. A planning call to discuss the workshop is being held on May 1. The workshop will be co-sponsored by the TF and Ecology and Lauren Heine, Northwest Green Chemistry, recently received some funding to help also. Lauren is working on the products database search also.

Technical Work Update — Biofilm and Sediment Study to Identify PCB Sources: Brandee Era-Miller and Siana Wong gave the presentation about the work done last summer in the Spokane

River looking at biofilm, sediment and invertebrates. They are pretty confident the data results are good, but the results are provisional until validated. The goal was to assess the presence of previously unidentified sources of PCBs in the Spokane River.

Questions/Comments:

- Do you have a sense of when you will hear back on re-evaluating the one sample from Subreach 3A? *We expect to have it by the synthesis workshop at the end of May.*
- Do you have an idea what application Aroclor 1260 was used in? *It was used in transformer oil but they would have to look back at the notes to verify.*
- What are the uses of Aroclor 1248? *Hydraulic fluid which may be from Kaiser?* Bud clarified that Kaiser's is actually tied to Aroclor 1242.
- Dr. Rodenburg's work will get the next level of detail on connecting sources to samples.
- Brian asked about the WA sediment standards and if they are per gram of sediment total or if they are normalized to total organic carbon (TOC)? *They are measured in parts per trillion, consistent with the standard used for the sediment clean up objective (SOC). They are not normalized to TOC in freshwater. They do have the organic carbon results and can normalize them if needed.*
- Doug asked about the sediment sample at Gonzaga and if it was an outlier again as it seemed like a significant increase. Is it worth doing another check or are they confident with this number? *They did a split of the sample and had it analyzed and the replicate was 89,000. What they found at the Gonzaga site in biofilm and sediment was a lot of variability between the replicates and they do not know what that means. It could be a depositional area and things depositing randomly; there seems to be a lot of fluctuation in that area. They are planning to follow up in 2019 with more biofilm samples, including in this area.*
- Dave asked about the split samples and if they took one and split it in two or did they do duplicates? *They did not do duplicates.* Dave suggested that it would be good to do situational variability vs. longitudinal variability.
- Often fish metabolizing PCBs start to lose a little bit of the homolog pattern.
- Dave asked if lipid content was getting measured and if lipid normalization changes? *Yes, it was measured and it did not really change.*
- Chris said it would be good to look at the different life stage timing for the insects analyzed. He guessed the insects were all the same age. *Brandee asked if what he was saying would involve a little more detail into what the difference would be between larvae and pupa and maturation? They have a PhD specialist they can talk to about this to see if more context could be provided on this point.*
- *They are working on the final report and may have it by late summer or early fall. They are a little behind due to some coordination challenges involving the data validator. They want to do follow up sampling in summer 2019 and redo stations done in 2018 and follow up on source areas such as SR3A. They would like to work with the work group again and figure out which locations to target.*
- Doug suggested part of the Data Synthesis Workshop be devoted to analysis and where to go from this. Does the TF want to do sediment or invertebrate sampling in these areas?

- Chris asked about having the fish work group look at a sampling strategy for 2019 and what the timing is for putting it together? *Probably in the next few months and they would not sample until August. They do not have to do a new QAPP but just an addendum. If there is extra money that becomes available, they could collect and analyze even more samples.*
- Bud suggested on the afternoon of May 29 they could do a field trip to go out and look with Brandee since she will be in town.
- Lisa shared that the biofilm study information will be combined with other information for the Data Synthesis Workshop, with the intent of identifying next steps and making recommendations for the Task Force to consider. The group that helped identify biofilm data collection study locations for the 2018 study was a subset of the fish work group.
- Chris added that maybe some from the Tech Track work group want to participate also in identifying 2019 sampling locations; they will be invited to participate.
- Ben asked about funding for a certain amount of sampling for 2019? *About \$38,000 is earmarked right now, which is enough for about 20 biofilm sites.*
- Are you also going to do sediment? *Not planning to at this point; just the biofilm sites.*
- Chris added that there are not many sediment depositional places in the river and money is better spent on biofilm.
- Joel asked if they looked at what potential sources the PCBs in sediment were from - from development in areas or from the river? *No, as you may have a lot of variability, but it could be worthy of more study. Planter's Ferry sediment collection site was not at the same location as where biofilm and synoptic survey data were taken. It was further downstream in a backwater area about ½ mile away, so it was not an exact location match. The congener did closely match what was found in biofilm.*
- Ken said his understanding is that the issue is primarily due to PCBs in fish and that if there is sediment with PCBs in front of Upriver dam, he would like to see if it is a source to fish upriver. *Back in 2013 was when the first sediment data collection work was done at upriver and nine mile and this sediment trap data has been sent to Dr. Rodenburg. She does not have biofilm data yet from Ecology, and something may come from it.*
- Mike L. asked about the GE site data and if it was above or below the rendering plant? It has been operating for a while and they have had spills and air quality problems in the past. *They were downstream of the County's discharge and upstream of the college. They can look into it and could see it on the field trip before the Data Synthesis Workshop.*
- Brandee asked about getting the data to Dr. Rodenburg soon so they can talk about it at the Database Management work group meeting. Dave would like the data asap to look at it for the workshop.

Data Synthesis Workshop update – Bud shared that the contract with LimnoTech for the workshop should be in place tomorrow. He wondered who was communicating with Dr. Rodenburg about her preparation work for the workshop? We need to get her under contract soon and need to know scope and budget for the contract. Probably it should be Mike Hermanson and the PMF work group that help develop her scope. Planned early actions has \$5,000 for Dr. Rodenburg for the workshop, and she may be able to do some of the Phase 2 work before the workshop. Dave Dilks is coordinating with her on the workshop also.

Lisa shared that those planning the workshop just found the venue for the workshop, which will be at the EWU Riverpoint campus location. Chelsea Updegrove from Lands Council is working with Lara on the food and social on Thursday night, along with the other logistics. Currently they are trying to pull all the information together on an agenda. Lisa asked if anyone knows what happened to the large maps used in the past for other meetings as they would like to use them again for the workshop? The workshop is May 30 and 31 and attendees need to RSVP to Lara. Dave has a draft QAPP put together for the analyses he is conducting in preparation for the workshop, which should be ready soon.

Education and Outreach Action – PCB flyer review: Vikki Barthels gave an update on the flyer. Toni Taylor from the County did most of the work on this and the work group has made revisions, and feels it is ready to start being used in communications. There is a plan for it to go to the public in the July utility billings, so that this communication does not overlap with the spring media campaign, which ends June 3rd. Task Force members with websites are encouraged to link to the spokaneriverpcbfree.org site on their websites.

Action: The Task Force approved the PCB flyer for distribution to the public.

SRRTTF 2019 Planned Early Actions Technical Work Action: Bud requested input on what Dr. Rodenburg has been asked to do. The Task Force has already approved the TSCA workshop for inadvertently produced PCBs in pigments and the PMF Phase 2 work but does not have a budget and scope yet for Dr. Rodenburg. ACE had a \$1,200 credit with AXYS, which was credited to other work. The Lands Council has picked up \$15,000 of the cost with their Ecology grant, and the contract with LimnoTech is being put in place. The TF needs to know about work with CDM Smith and how much is needed for the database. It was suggested the TF have a phone call in the future to approve additional budget if needed.

Action: The Task Force approved the \$3,000 for TSCA workshop planning and \$5,000, as needed for database management.

Technical Work Action – Positive Matrix Factorization (PMF) Blank Study Phase 1 Final Report: Dr. Lisa Rodenburg gave the presentation on her PMF study where she analyzed PCB data to determine fingerprints and related these to potential sources in the Spokane river. When they have the 2018 data from Ecology, then she will conduct additional analysis. The goal was to determine main sources of PCBs in the river by fingerprint or Aroclor. Blank contamination is a significant problem, and the PMF method helps with correcting data to make the results more accurate and reliable.

Amy Sumner from Spokane County shared that the project started in October 2017 when the TF authorized the project, but the study was delayed until the database was developed, which was completed in 2018. They worked with Dr. Rodenburg to give her the data needed and the PMF work group has recommended the report to the Task Force for approval.

Comments/Questions:

- Chris said October flow would be driven by C'DA lake with some rainwater.
- Doug said the biofilm study identified two aroclors (1248 and 1242) around SR7 similar to Dr. Rodenburg's report, and he asked where the 1248 is coming from? *Upstream of Kaiser possibly. Thirty percent of the PCBs identified were non aroclor in the blanks and in the water column only about 12% were non aroclor, and it was PCB 11.*
- Can any of these mystery factors be identified with greens, blues, etc.? *No, she did not see any of this. The PCB 11 has a lighter molecular structure and can slip through a wastewater treatment plant.*
- Mike A. asked Dr. Rodenburg to explain why by censoring are we not including PCBs in samples not in method blanks? *The concentrations sampled were lower than concentrations in blanks. We know that those PCBs are in method blanks by including censoring in the data and by not subtracting are we not including that data in the analysis? It is more of a problem for aroclor PCBs but for non aroclors it is clear that for all silicone factors they can go away with the mildest form of censoring. The TF has to decide what is the right approach.*
- Brian asked about PCB mass included and when there is 91% of mass included, does that mean there is 9% of total mass in other random things? *No, it is detected but do not think it is real and it is blank contamination so it was subtracted or taken away.*
- Jeremy asked if she could talk about clean up that may have happened in 2016 which was applied to Aroclor 1242? *Aroclor 1242 is not showing up much in the samples and she was not sure why and guesses that something happened previously to cause this.*
- Doug said it is believed that it is groundwater coming from Kaiser and groundwater changes as the seasons change.
- Jeremy shared that clean-up was done in this area in the summer of 2016. Concentrations were so high in the spring that it may have masked what happened in the fall? Does this definitively show a reduction of 1242 in the fall? *Yes, but do not know if it was due to flow change or clean up, etc. But there was a substantial clean-up effort completed in the spring 2016.*
- Data from 2018 may help answer this and it would be a good discussion topic for the Data Synthesis Workshop.

Action: The Task Force asked for more time to review the report before approval since it was just received. Comments may be given through May 17 to Mike Hermanson with cc's to Lara Floyd, and the TF will plan to approve the PMF Phase 1 report at the June 26 TF meeting.

Discussion - 2019 State Legislature Funding Request: Doug Krapas said the TF is currently in the Senate budget and has \$250,000 for each biennium. Currently the TF is not in the House of Representatives budget. The TF needs to do a better job in the future to provide more support in communications at the State Legislature. Things happen rapidly and may want to consider codifying the TF. In a little over a week the final budget will come out. Reaching out to representatives in the House by individual organizations is important over the next week.

Comments/Questions:

- Tom said Heather Bartlett testified for DOE against codification not because they oppose it but felt there were corrections that were needed to make it consistent with the TF MOA.
- Doug agreed the TF needs to work on the language.
- Chris asked Cadie if the City of Spokane is in support of this and if others are as well? *Cadie responded that the City is committed to the TF and pays substantially towards funding but the legislative work falls under the City Council and coordination can take additional time beyond what was available to respond. The question of codification is large and is it an amendment of the MOA? There are some questions to be answered.*
- Chris said the TF needs a more structured approach and there are a lot of questions around the process and the MOA.
- The TF needs to be better prepared for action in the future.

Task Force Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)/Concept for Codifying Task Force Discussion:

Comments/Questions:

- Ben asked if the TF wants to reopen the MOA?
- Karl asked if that is tied to codifying the TF and could it be done under the current MOA?
- Tom said that should be part of the duty of whoever takes on the MOA to also research and provide additional information on the pros and cons of codification, and how it would work. He suggested that WBC should create a work group to bring back suggestions to the entire TF. There could be some additions recommended such as including implementation and possible codification.
- Mike L. shared that he does not want it changed much but it could be updated and find a way to refer back to it for consistency.
- Doug agreed it was originally focused on the development of the TF Comprehensive Plan and now the TF is in the implementation phase. He agreed with WBC helping with this task and keeping lawyers out of it until review time.
- Karl asked if anything is in the MOA on how to update the MOA? *No*
- Bud said it was written to get through the end of the first 5-year permit cycle and now they have a better idea of where the TF is going with implementation which needs to be focused on.
- Brian said some changes are warranted and one amendment contemplated at the time it was put together is eventual amendment to accommodate Idaho dischargers which should now be considered as part of the review. EPA is no longer the permitting authority for these dischargers; it is now the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. EPA's role has changed.
- Diana helped put together the original document and would like to have the TF hang on to the idea of a group that has a commitment of working together. There is a need to keep the environmental folks, agencies, dischargers, etc. all working in the same direction.
- Cadie said there is great value in clarifying since the TF is in a different phase, and then we can also be creative such as having a charter that can become an addendum and perhaps easier to amend/update. Then the TF would not need to have everyone's executives or attorneys sign, which could be simpler. There is a need to identify where the MOA is holding the TF back and how to work to resolve certain issues. The skill set has changed

with having WBC on the job and the TF can find ways to have new members come on also. Also, the TF should enforce when members miss too many meetings, etc.

- Chris agreed they go hand in hand and asked if there are pieces to change or subtract? He would like to see the TF go through this process separate from the TF meetings.
- Mike Z and Mike A agreed with what had been said.
- Doug cautioned that the document has worked from the beginning and to just change certain areas.
- Chris asked how to reach out to elected officials on codification? The discussion would include codification.
- Adriane agreed the document is old but wants to make sure there is a strategy, time frame, etc. to consider and when is the best time to do this.
- Cadie said ok to let immediate needs and timing be a part of it but the TF needs something before the next legislative session. Find out issues, make small revisions and maybe it is just a charter?

ACTION: WBC will form a MOA work group, send out an email looking for volunteers with a goal to have something started by the end of the year. A variety of people from different interests will be invited to participate in the work group.

Information Update – Permitting Next Steps: Agreed Orders remain on the back burner until after the variance application deadline of April 30. Agreed Orders will be advanced in May.

Future Task Force Meeting Topics:

- Biofilm and sediment will move to October or December
- Pigments workshop planning details will be shared at the June meeting
- Biggest item at the next meeting in June will be results from the Data Synthesis Workshop
- Update on the state legislative budget and begin planning for the 2019-2021 biennium?
- Green Chemistry deliverables will need TF approval
- MOA follow up discussion
- June or August – frame up the measurable progress report with data from the previous report up through 2019, or it may help frame the context of the workshop? WBC will follow up with Lisa DW on this and the agenda for the workshop.

The next SRRTTF meeting is June 26, 2019 at Spokane County Water Resource Center, 8:30 am – noon