

**Tech Track meeting conference call
June 18, 2019**

Attendees:

Bud Leber, Kaiser
Joel Breems, Avista
Tom Agnew, Liberty Lake Sewer & Water
Chris Donley, WDFW
Cadie Olsen, Jeff Donovan, City of Spokane
Doug Krapas, Inland Empire Paper
Alyssa Gersdorf, City of Post Falls
Mike Hermanson, Spokane County
Dave Dilks, LimnoTech
Karl Rains, Bill Fees, Jim Ross, Jeremy Schmidt and Sandy Treccani – WA State Department of Ecology
Kris Holm
Ben and Lara Floyd – White Bluffs Consulting

Bud Leber shared that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss EAP sampling in the river being done the first part of August. Dave Dilks looked at things that came up during the Data Synthesis workshop and what other sampling or data gathering should be coordinated with biofilm sampling this year. Dave put together a write up of activities that make sense to consider. There are seven items to consider:

1. Project Planning and Preparation of Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPP)
2. Financial support to Ecology's EAP to expand scope of planned biofilm monitoring
3. Water quality monitoring
4. Groundwater seep monitoring
5. Sediment sampling
6. Water quality monitoring for mass balance (added during meeting)
7. Data processing and reporting

Ben asked if anything needed to be added or deleted before bringing the recommendation to the TF?

Questions/Comments:

- Joel asked about the bioconcentration work and if there are other sites that need this done? Dave said they could grab water at each of the biofilm stations, but it is expensive. They at least want to see if biofilm concentrations are the same as in the past.
- Is taking additional biofilm samples going to give us additional information or do we do less and look into bioconcentration? Dave said they saw only occasional spikey concentrations in the water, so looking at water concentration samples is sufficient.
- Brandee said the goal for biofilm samples for 2019 is to look at source identification and where sources are coming from and not focusing on bioconcentration. They could collect additional biofilm if TF wants to though.
- Mike H. asked if it would be possible to add the Nine Mile site to the water quality monitoring? He thought the TF could recreate mass balance for that location since identified potential sources at Spokane Gage to Nine Mile and the TF only has one mass balance for this lower reach. Dave

thought we could have up to 5 samples at Gage by adding two more and have from 0-5 at the Nine Mile station which would be an additional \$5,000 - \$7,000 for Gravity to do.

- Jeremy asked about the intent not to have an additional synoptic sampling this year. Ben said it is to supplement work already being done by Brandee and Siana in August. A July 31 Tech Track meeting is being proposed to talk about other sampling to do later and longer-term effort.
- Doug asked about added costs to the TF. The costs add up to \$75,000 and additional \$10,000 for additional work (later updated to total of \$115,000) and would come out of new biennium funding.
- Bud mentioned getting the contract in place quickly and what the budget and scope needs to look like. Bud will have an ACE meeting shortly after TF approval.
- The work group hopes to do an agreement with additional tasks by July 1 with Ecology then do an amendment later after more Tech Track discussion.
- Mike H. asked a question on the scope of groundwater seep monitoring and if there is enough groundwater seep at the GE site? Brandee said on the left bank she saw a few places where water was flowing in and assumed it was groundwater seeping in. They will need to figure out how to sample it and see if it is different from surface water. Mike asked if they had thought about driving something into the ground? Brandee said it is more involved and they would need to get permission, but it is a possibility.
- There was a discussion about how Ecology was going to secure a lab to process their biofilm samples.
- Brandee asked about biofilm samples from 2018 and concentrations did not change a lot downstream of Spokane Gage or not much change in homolog pattern, so they are curious about mass balance and the increase in PCBs at Nine Mile. Would it be a function of flow? Is there really a significant source coming in? Dave said the TF does not want to rely on one synoptic. Brandee asked if more water of biofilm samples will be taken there? The mass balance implies there is a load coming in somewhere in there. Dave thinks doing mass balance one more time is the answer and if it is seen again it could help determine sampling going forward.
- Mike H. asked if the TF could do another synoptic sample at the old USGS Gage site between current USGS Gage and Nine Mile? Dave replied it would cost an additional \$10,000 for Gravity to do it but Dave felt it could be beneficial. What was the load from 2018? 66.1 mg/day. The Tech Track group agreed to add it on.
- Joels Breems asked if we need to include sampling for the City of Spokane outfall? Dave said yes, and it will be another \$5,000.
- Cadie asked to have a budget attached for the next work plan with sources of funding.
- Dave will add this as one lump task as mass balance from USGS Gage down to Nine Mile with one intermediate station.
- Dave will update the proposal and include it at the TF meeting with a \$100,000 (later updated to \$115,000) funding request. The grant agreement will then be worked on with Ecology.

July 31 will be the next Tech Track meeting as a half day workshop and WBC will send out an appointment after confirming with Ecology.