SRRTTF Fish work group meeting- August 26, 2019 Meeting Notes

List of attendees

In person

Chris Donley – WA Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Chris Moan – Avista
Joel Breems – Avista
Jeff Donovan – City of Spokane
Chuck Lee – WDFW
Mike Hermanson – Spokane County
Doug Krapas – Inland Empire Paper
Lisa Dally-Wilson – Dally Environmental
Karl Rains – WA Department of Ecology (DOE)
Bud Leber – Kaiser

On the phone

Dave Dilks – Limno Tech Ben Floyd - White Bluffs Consulting Siana Wong – DOE Dave McBride – WA Department of Health

The intent of the meeting was to discuss the need for developing a yardstick to measure progress based on implementation of the comprehensive plan Members of the group agreed that there is a need to develop some way to measure incremental change in PCB concentrations related to implementing the Comprehensive Plan. Members expressed a desire to explore how this yardstick could be developed and would like to implement next field season, if possible. Lisa Dally-Wilson supported this need based upon getting a baseline sample prior to permittee implementation of discharge improvements. Doug Krapas asked that whatever sampling occurred be analyzed using EPA method 1668 to ensure the data is analyzed in a standardized manner allowing it to be comparable across data sets and years.

DOE staff (Rains, Wong) were in attendance to clarify that the Ecology is not opposed to developing a yardstick that measures Comprehensive Plan progress but sampling should also supplement and not confound work that has been done in the past on fish tissue contaminants in the Spokane River (Keith Seiders (DOE work). DOE staff also added that developing this yardstick would only serve as one measure of success when evaluating the overall efficacy of Comprehensive Plan implementation. DOE staff asked that the workgroup coordinate study design with the freshwater fish contaminants work unit to develop an approved QAPP for fish sampling in the river that has clearly defined objectives and outcomes.

Chris Donley and other WDFW technical staff will review past work done by DOE and develop a draft study design. Chris will deliver the draft to the work group and DOE for comments and then organize a set of meetings/phone calls with DOE to ensure that the sampling strategy/study design meets DOE needs and requirements to support with legislative funding. This work will be accomplished over winter 2019/2020.