

Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force Meeting

DRAFT Meeting Notes

Facilitated by White Bluffs Consulting

Wednesday, January 22, 2020 | 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Meeting Documents: <http://srrttf.org/?p=10972>

Attendees:

Voting Members and Alternates (*Denotes Voting Member)

Tom Agnew*, BiJay Adams – Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District
Brent Downey* – Kaiser
Rob Lindsay*, Mike Hermanson – Spokane County
Cadie Olsen*, Jeff Donovan – City of Spokane
Amanda Parrish* – Lands Council
Galen Buterbaugh* - Lake Spokane Association
Mike LaScoula*, Vikki Barthels – Spokane Regional Health District
Mike Zagar* – Kootenai Environmental Alliance
Ben Carlson* – Inland Empire Paper (IEP)

Advisors

Karl Rains, Brandee Era-Miller – Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology)
Brian Nickel, Lucy Edmundson – Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Joel Breems – Avista

Interested Parties

Lisa Dally Wilson – Dally Environmental and Spokane River Stewardship Partners (SRSP)
Dave Dilks – LimnoTech
Ben and Lara Floyd – White Bluffs Consulting
Alyssa Gersdorf – City of Post Falls
Anna Montgomery – Northwest Green Chemistry (NWGC)
Jerry White – Riverkeeper
Melissa Gombosky – IEP attorney
Dean Weaver - WSDOT

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

Meeting Summary Action: The Task Force (TF) approved the December 5 meeting summary after some minor updates on page 3 to change TiO_2 to subscript and page 5 to clarify information on the MOA update. Lara Floyd will post the final notes to the website.

Draft 2019 Accomplishments Summary: Ben shared that the summary has been revised after input from Ecology, Avista and others, and is ready to approve.

Comments:

- Item 5.3.2 has some minor wording missing and White Bluffs Consulting (WBC) will update it.

ACTION: The Task Force approved the summary and the 2019 summary will be finalized and put on the website and provided to Ecology.

ACE Update: Rob L. shared that the ACE board has met recently. Jeff D. sent out invoices to SRSP members for additional funding and all have responded, so there is money in the ACE account. The Ecology contract draft was submitted to Ecology before the new year and Karl R. returned it with comments. The ACE board has looked at it and they are updating it to include the iPCB workshop and the period of the contract. They will get comments back to Karl within the next day, so it is moving forward. Within the next few weeks the Ecology contract will be in place.

Contracts are in place with LimnoTech and WBC. Currently ACE is finalizing a contract with NWGC and Anna Montgomery. ACE is also looking at continuing a contract with Anne Francis to support the Education and Outreach work group, but they are waiting for direction from Vikki B. and the work group.

Amendment one for task 3 and project tracking was received from WBC. Additional coordination with the work groups between meetings was addressed with this amendment of \$11,900, for 18 months of work (through June 30, 2021). The work description also includes June and December check ins with the Task Force on budget and work performed.

Jeff said ACE has \$176,000 in the bank, with additional funding coming from the Ecology contract. ACE contracts with LimnoTech and WBC add up to \$210,000 for the services to be performed over the next 18 months.

The Ecology agreement back dates to July 1, 2019, and once the contract is in place, ACE will seek money for the second half of 2019, including the iPCB workshop, and for the services planned through June 2021.

ACTION: The Task Force approved the WBC amendment and ACE will move forward with executing it.

Update on Task Force Codification and WA State Legislation: Ben shared that the TF received information that the bill introduced last year was reintroduced again in 2020 per standard procedures in the legislature, where bills that are not passed are automatically reintroduced the following year. There will be no action on this bill.

A summary of codification was sent out. Are there any updates from different entities on concerns with codification?

Comments:

- Will Senator Billig be briefing us on codification or is there any update? *It hasn't been established but we are targeting to invite him or another representative to come to the April TF meeting.*
- Ecology will not object to it as long as the bill language is consistent with the MOA (the bill last year was inconsistent). The language is not attached to funding but in the event a

codification bill is attached to funding not in the governor's budget, then Ecology would not be able to support the bill in that form either.

- The City of Spokane does not have enough of an understanding of what it would mean and what the impacts would be yet. The City would need a more thorough explanation with all of the impacts. Ben mentioned getting some questions ready for Senator Billig so he can be prepared to address those. He invited TF members to submit questions.

ACTION: Task Force members submit questions for Senator Billig to WBC by no later than February 19 for compilation to discuss at the February 26 TF meeting.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Application submission:

Anna Montgomery shared that Doug gave the background on this application and associated presentation at the last meeting.

Comments:

- Cadie said she would like to have the last sub bullet from page 6 removed which says "landfill, waste, to energy". Mike Z. questioned the edit, but it was mentioned that there are larger sources of PCBs to the environment and it is not useful to call out such a small source. Prioritization is one of the best ways to remove PCBs from the environment.
- The second bullet covers a lot of pathways and the 3rd bullet gets more specific and perhaps making it more general by deleting it allows those to be covered in other pathways?
- Anna said the point is to avoid confusion and she has no issue in removing it.
- Anna said next steps are to get it submitted on Friday and the written application will come back to the TF for revision and after final approval it will go on record to OECD. As soon as the presentation has been done and comments are received it will come back to the TF in a couple of weeks and may be ready by the February or March TF meeting.

ACTION: The Task Force approved the OECD workshop presentation, with the one edit noted above

Information Update: Karl R. gave a regularity update - Ecology is still going through the rule making process and evaluating applications submitted by dischargers for variances. They had workshops and based on feedback they will hold a future one in the evening for the working public. They were initially targeting the end of February but will push it back until March. They are in process of looking for a venue and meeting date. There will also be a statewide webinar a couple of days later with the same content. It will be a high-level overview of past workshops describing how they got to where they are now, decision making information and any new information since the last workshop.

Upcoming topics/Task Force meeting:

- Dave and Lisa will coordinate with the Tech Track on the fish work and long-term monitoring.
- The PMF work group will have a meeting to discuss the PMF Phase 2 scope on February 4.

- Chris D. has been doing some work and has a meeting with Ecology tomorrow and will coordinate on past fish sampling efforts, the associated QAPP for the work, and how this information fits with the QAPP outline he is preparing for future fish tissue sampling. They hope to have a fish work group meeting in February and share information at the February TF meeting.
- MOA revisions – working on finalizing a clean suggested revised MOA and should have it ready to send out to the MOA group before presenting it to the TF at the February meeting.
- TiO₂ QAPP approval being worked on by the TSCA work group, and WBC will check with Doug on it.
- Final report on 2018 sampling – Brandee said they will combine 2018 information with 2019 results in one external review process, with the draft report available in fall 2020. She hopes to be able to share validated data by the end of April or perhaps sooner. They received the first batch of data from the lab and the next few batches should be coming over the next few weeks. The Tech Track work group may also be able to look at unvalidated data.

ACTION: WBC will send out all appointments for TF meetings for 2020.

The next meeting of the SRRTTF is February 26, 2020 at Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District from 8:30 am – 12:00 pm.