Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force Meeting

DRAFT Meeting Notes
Facilitated by White Bluffs Consulting
Wednesday, February 26, 2020 | 8:30 am – 12:00 pm
Liberty Lake Sewer & Water District |, Spokane, WA
Meeting Documents: http://srrttf.org/?p=11040

Attendees:

Voting Members and Alternates

BiJay Adams – Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District
Mike Anderson – City of Coeur d'Alene (CDA)
Doug Krapas – Inland Empire Paper (IEP)
Brent Downey – Kaiser Aluminum
Rob Lindsay, Mike Hermanson – Spokane County
Cadie Olsen, Jeff Donovan – City of Spokane
Mike Peterson – Lands Council
Chris Donley – WA Department of Fish & Wildlife
Mike LaScoula, Vikki Barthels – Spokane Regional Health District
Galen Buterbaugh (phone) – Lake Spokane Association
Mike Zagar (phone) – Kootenai Environmental Alliance

Advisors

Karl Rains, Bill Fees, Adriane Borgias, Jim Ross, Brook Beeler, Jeremy Schmidt, Brandee Era-Miller (phone) – Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology - DOE)
Lucy Edmondson – Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Joel Breems – Avista
Dan Redline (phone) – Idaho Dept. of Environmental Quality

Interested Parties

Lisa Dally Wilson – Dally Environmental and Spokane River Stewardship Partners (SRSP)
Dave Dilks (phone) – LimnoTech
Craig Borrenpohl, Alyssa Gersdorf – City of Post Falls
Bruce Williams – Spokane Regional Health District
Jim Kimball – Sustainable Engineering
Andy Dunau – Spokane River Forum
John Haney – Hart Crowser
Kris Holm (phone)
Robert Mott (phone) – Mott Consulting

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

Meeting Summary Action: The Task Force (TF) approved the January 22 conference call meeting summary and Lara Floyd will post the final notes to the website after changing Melissa Gombosky's title to IEP lobbyist.

Project Management Update and Work Group Reports:

ACE: Rob Lindsay gave an update and said ACE is caught up on contracts. They are issuing a no cost contract extension for Anne Francis. Jeff Donovan said they have $175,000 in bank and $233,000 in uncommitted funds but no reimbursement for state funds yet, but they should be coming in soon. The Ecology and ACE contract is almost done and just needs to be signed.

Database Management: Mike said they are working with CDM Smith on updates to the database.

Question: Are the data that are in CDM database only Task Force data from synoptic sampling? *It is TF data plus other data was put in. Dischargers provided own data at outset of database development, but data has not been uploaded into the database. No influent data.*

PMF: Mike said at the Data Synthesis workshop PMF data sets were identified and after the workshop they were going to scope the next phase of work by Dr. Lisa Rodenburg. As scoping for work began, Dr. Rodenburg noted that the work was similar to analysis she was conducting as part of ongoing litigation. The PMF group decided to wait to see the results from that effort before continuing with scoping the PMF Phase 2 work. Dr. Rodenburg provided the report to the PMF work group in January 2020, and the group began discussing the scope of work for PMF phase 2 to be focused on data sets that had not yet been analyzed. This included data sets such as those for Liberty Lake Sewer & Water, City of Post Falls, Hayden Area Regional Sewer Board and City of C'DA. They have a draft scope the work group will discuss in the next month or so, and Mike thought the group would be providing a recommendation to the TF for discussion at the April meeting.

Education and Outreach: See information below on the spring media campaign.

Fish Sampling: Chris said they sent out a draft QAPP to the work group and Tech Track group for review and comment. They will talk about it at the March Tech Track meeting. He will need help from Lisa or Dave on cost estimates for certain activities identified in the QAPP. They hope to have the QAPP done by early spring and WDFW have staff that can help with the field work that would be conducted later in 2020.

Comments:

What environmental factors went into the length of each sampling area? *Connectivity and trying to match what sampling had occurred from Ecology in the past so it will supplement and set the baseline appropriate for rainbow trout to see if there are differences in tissue concentrations in rainbow trout compared to fish that are older. They talked to ECY about where to sample and will discuss this topic further at the Tech Track meeting.*

Funding: Updates provided under other agenda topics as provided below.

Green Chemistry: Adriane said she participated in a recent EPA-sponsored CompTox database seminar. It is a curated database of chemical, structural, toxicity, and environmental effects that links all sources of scientific information. It is a way of navigating a lot of information regarding chemicals. It is a "Green Chemistry oriented" database and she asked if the database had

information about diarylide yellow pigment and information on PCBs, but this information was not in the database. Ecology provided this information to EPA. The database is incomplete regarding all the things the TF does but there may be some ways the TF can use it.

Tech Track: Lisa gave an update. There will be a meeting March 3 and the intent is to go over two of the work products LimnoTech has just completed for long term monitoring and for a study that would look at non-point sources that might be recognized in the river at higher flows. They will also talk about the Fish work group QAPP/baseline study, as it goes along with long term monitoring work.

Dave Dilks gave a presentation about the long-term monitoring and high flow sampling which were identified tasks from the Data Synthesis Workshop. With long term monitoring, the work consists of reviewing several methods and making recommendations. With targeted high flow sampling, the overall objectives is determining if nonpoint PCB loads during non-low flow conditions are a significant source.

Questions/Comments:

- Chris asked about criteria for selection of potential long-term monitoring methods and said this list of criteria would be important to remember in selecting a course of action. These should help sort out a long-term monitoring program. It may not be cost effective to do all of it. How do we develop the best long-term monitoring options? There will be decisions to make as a TF on how to pay for it and what long-term monitoring elements are most important to include.
- Lisa said we should be able to make progress on high flow but may need a 2nd meeting to discuss the other Tech Track meeting topics. Dave said these criteria are not carved in stone and everything is open for discussion. Chris said this will help keep us focused on what the TF can achieve.
- The TF should not spend all its funding on monitoring. Monitoring is important but some of this work Ecology already does. We need to make sure we have money for real improvement in the watershed in reducing PCBs also.

TSCA: Doug said they will have a draft by March 4 of the road paint white paper being prepared by NWGC. The TSCA work group will review it and bring it to the TF for consideration at a future meeting.

Lauren Heine (NWGC) and Doug presented the "Recycling of Paper Products Containing PCBs in Inks and Pigments" via zoom for the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) meeting in Paris, France and delegates from 120 different countries participated. They were one of 8 case studies discussed and it was the only one from the US. Three delegates weighed in from other countries. Promotion of alternative products was discussed. They will develop a report based on case studies and will publish on the OECD website.

They have been doing a collaborative TiO_2 study and have just released the draft QAPP. The work group has the QAPP and it has been distributed for review and comment. Comments need to be back by March 4 and then it will be revised and distributed to the TF for further comment and consideration. It will be put on the TF agenda for approval at the March meeting.

Rob said he went to Denmark last year with Cadie and Mike to view infrastructure related to wastewater treatment. They looked at a wastewater treatment facility on an island off the coast of Denmark and their clean up target for PCBs, which is much higher than the US standard. Their solution - they said they don't harvest any fish over 4 kilos to keep human health risk low. They were aware of PCBs and the fish harvest limit is their solution.

Spring Media Campaign Recommendation: At the last Education and Outreach meeting two proposals were considered**,** one from I Heart Radio and the other from Blue Sky Marketing. The work group recommended using I Heart Radio. Andy shared a power point regarding the last spring media campaign and how much increase in web traffic has been seen for the Waste Directory. Vikki says the recommendation is for $15,000 (as previously approved by the Task Force) with an additional $2,000 also recommended for approval, to cover some potential additional expenses that might be necessary for completing the campaign.
Questions/Comments:

- What do you perceive the ads and videos will look like? *Similar to what we have used before like our magnets – "Got waste, put it in the right place." The videos will have nice pictures of the Spokane River with a similar message. The River Forum will also make sure the video is on target.*
- Given growth of site have you considered migrating towards an app and how many repeat people are coming to the site? *Very few and we don't feel we need an app yet and it is expensive. But we will keep this suggestion in mind for the future.*
- Cadie mentioned integrating solid and liquid waste which moves to clean materials management. The county and city have done reports and need help with messaging and sharing information with legislators and the public. They want the best outreach people involved and getting Andy and Doug involved would be good. Consider having a conversation on this topic at the next Education and Outreach meeting.
- Goal of the TF is to identify and reduce PCBs and we see this as something that will help human behavior, but how do we quantify what type of reductions can be made? Maybe these statistics can be used towards measurable progress? *Yes, they can.*

ACTION: The TF approved the recommendation including the additional $2,000 if needed to support the spring media campaign.

EPA P2 Grant Opportunity: Karl said this grant opportunity was identified by the TSCA work group. Discussions were held with The Lands Council, NWGC and TSCA and Funding work group but roadblocks on being eligible to apply and partnering and March 31 led to a decision not to pursue. Non-profits were not able to apply.
Comments:

- We need to develop a process for being able to pursue these opportunities and we are limited right now.
- It also comes down to how the TF prioritizes projects so when a funding opportunity comes up, we are ready.
- Maybe we should seek some local university partnerships? Could also apply to the database? Talk about these opportunities with the Funding work group.

MOA Revisions Update: Karl gave an overview and status. The ad hoc MOA group has spent a lot of time looking at what revisions should be done. Priorities were addressing the Idaho dischargers and a few other places with outdated implementation language. There are a few sections where they had to completely rewrite the sections. Ideally all should take a look at it and review.

Questions/Comments:

- Take it home, read it and talk about the process more than looking at what the changes are.
- Karl said in the original MOA regarding voting rights and NPDES permit holders, when new members come in and sign the MOA it wasn't clear what elements were required for voting. Determined NPDES permit holders should not be required to be voted in, but a voting member should probably sign the MOA.
- Craig, Lisa and Karl worked on most recent revisions. The TF should look at process for adding and recognizing new members at a minimum because WDFW, City of C'DA and Kootenai Environmental Alliance have never been memorialized in an amendment to the MOA.
- Distribute it to TF, ask for review and comment by members.
- Why is Spokane Tribe removed? *Karl reached out to both Tribes and C'DA Tribe said although they don't participate, they appreciate being left in and Spokane Tribe said they are looking at TMDL as preferred alternative. They removed Spokane Tribe with EPA's suggestion, but the entities can participate in the future if they see fit.*
- The TF needs to settle on a draft version to hand over to attorneys. It can go out to the TF with the intent on providing comments or changes within one week or two of next meeting.
- Encourage attorneys to only look at small changes that have been made.
- We need to let all TF members look at it since only a few were on the ad hoc group when discussing the changes.
- Comments from TF members between now and next TF meeting. Due on March 13 to Karl and Lisa. Update at the March meeting and then have version which can be given out for legal review. WBC will send out word version tomorrow with the summary and due dates.
- If TF members have issues with it then participate on the ad hoc MOA group to discuss and help modify it – be part of developing the solution to issues being raised.

Amended Agreed Orders with Kaiser and Clean-Up Plan: Brent Downey gave a presentation on Kaiser's agreed order No. 2692 clean-up plan which involves excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soil in multiple locations throughout the Site.

Comments/Questions:

- What percentage of flow is potable water? *Pulling every bit from a dedicated groundwater well and have separate systems at Kaiser. This well was designed specifically for this application. Right now, it is 100% groundwater but not potable water.*
- What's the disposal for the walnut shells when the media is spent? *They will be taken to landfill.*
- Jeremy said the ultimate compliance network has not been defined. We can adjust the compliance monitoring that is necessary later.

- When increasing discharge pipe size, what quantity of water*? Designing to go to 6 inch or 4 inch pipe. Once they model or know flow rate it will be tested over time to see how it works in achieving the lever of river protection being targeted. With the two sizes can go anywhere from 200 gallons /minute on up; they looked at two different sizes for flexibility.*
- How many kilowatts per gallon treated? *Don't know yet but what are optimum operating requirements on UVA bulb? Jeremy said if UVA is too costly will fall back to walnut shells.*
- Would the UVA replace the walnut shell? *They would run together initially but eventually phase out walnut shell if possible.*
- What is the groundwater flow rate through plume? *300-350 million gallons per day*. How do you prescribe the clean up? *Part of the modeling is to identify highest concentration areas to pull from to capture most amount of PCBs and least amount of water. Jeremy said If we can bump up extraction, hopefully we can protect river more.*
- How do you remove the algae? *With a membrane filter.*
- Dan asked what's the concentration of PCBs in groundwater plume trying to treat? *We have seen over 100 nanograms/liter up to 2,000 depending on time of year.*
- About 10 years ago Kaiser did soil remediation. How long do you anticipate cleaning this groundwater*? It will take a while.*

Jeremy Schmidt (Ecology) gave an update on existing amendment taking 18 months for phase one of putting in the new pipe. After 18 months Ecology and Kaiser will determine best available technology and have 12 months for Kaiser to develop the technology. There is a public review period going on now through March 24. Once complete Ecology will sign order documents and Kaiser already has signed them.

- How are you ensuring things are integrated between groundwater and surface water protections? *Ecology has not written decision document, but they would establish by using wells by river to ensure protection of surface water of upgradient contamination sources. Within the plume upgradient Ecology has worked with Kaiser to identify screening levels in scope of work and schedule.*

Codification: Ben shared the questions from different TF members to consider for when a legislator visits a Task Force meeting.

Comments/Questions:

- I think we need to clarify what 501(c)3 organization we are talking about. We need to define as legislators won't know. *It is ACE.*
- Add an organization overview for the legislators.
- Will we be competing with ourselves for funding? Individual entities against the TF? We don't want to play one source against the others.
- WBC will give through March 13 as a last call for questions.
- Adriane suggested an introduction for the legislators. It may be good to have a per capita discussion for funding.

LimnoTech Marketing Document:
Comments/Questions:

- AG should review language around TMDL and purpose of this group and Adriane will take it to them.
- Adriane asked if Dave would consider changing the picture as they hold the copyright for it? *Yes*
- Lucy said she will share it with EPA attorneys also.
- WBC will get Lucy and Adriane a word version of LimnoTech document for review, and Ecology and EPA will provide one consolidated set of edits on the document.

White Bluffs Marketing Document:

- City of Spokane said to be safe they won't support at this time, but the rest of the TF approved it under the consensus minus one provision in the MOA.

Information Update – Permitting next steps: Karl said Ecology is still working through rule making and there is a "save the date" going out soon for an evening public workshop on March 24 at Spokane Community College from 5-8 pm to talk about comments from the past workshop. They will have a high-level discussion for 30-45 minutes and then 6-8 poster type presentations around the room where people can ask detailed questions of Ecology staff in an open house format. They will follow up with a state-wide webinar sharing the same content. They anticipate there will be some information on decision making around how the rule making will go for the dischargers. Notices will go out soon.

Upcoming Task Force Meetings:

- PMF phase 2 scope will move to April
- Data review findings and targeted sampling plan may move to April? Depending on March 3 Tech Track meeting.
- Get rid of media campaign update in March
- Push measurable progress to April
- MOA comments discussion at March meeting

Review of PNCWA (Pacific NW Clean Water Association) Abstract Submittal: Rob said PNCWA coming to Spokane in September of this year and activities of the TF are of interest to organizers of the conference. Lisa and Rob put together an abstract talking about SRSP.
Comments/Questions:

- Why is this on the agenda? *To tell the TF this was submitted by SRSP.* Rob and Lisa will update the abstract to remove the TMDL language like Ecology suggested in the LimnoTech marketing materials discussion earlier in the meeting. Ecology and EPA can coordinate to provide what phrasing they want people to use.
- Dan asked if one or two sentences can be added about Spokane River crossing state boundaries? *Yes*
- Marsha Davis from City of Spokane is organizing field trips for the conference.

EPA Notice: Lucy Edmondson from EPA and Ecology have been working together on the Kaiser-Mead site. EPA conducted assessment of the site and have found PCBs and other issues there. They have sent letters to owners such as Kaiser, Spokane recycling and they are willing to sit down and talk.

Comments/Questions:

- Is it soil or groundwater contamination? *The siding of the building is an issue. Spokane recycling owns an old facility and is an above ground potential source but we don't have details yet.*
- What is status of water quality criteria for PCBs? *On November 15, 2016, EPA partially disapproved certain human health criteria that the Washington Department of Ecology had submitted to the Agency for review and promulgated federal water quality standards in their place. In response to a February 21, 2017 petition from several entities and upon reconsideration, on May 10, 2019, EPA reversed the Agency's partial disapproval of certain HHC (excluding arsenic) and approved those criteria under its Clean Water Act section 303(c) authority. On August 6, 2019, EPA published the proposal to withdraw certain federally promulgated human health criteria applicable to waters in Washington for a 60-day public comment period, and EPA met with a number of tribes during this period to discuss their concerns. EPA anticipates finalizing the federal rule in 2020.*

The next SRRTF meeting is March 25, 2020 from 8:30 am – 12:00 pm at Spokane County Water Resource Center