

PMF Work Group call summary
March 30, 2020

Attendees:

Mike Hermanson – Spokane County
Dave Dilks – LimnoTech
Brandee Era-Miller – Ecology
Joel Breems – Avista
Ben Floyd – White Bluffs Consulting
Lisa Rodenburg – Rutgers University/consultant
Mike Anderson – City of Coeur d’Alene
Lisa Dally-Wilson – SRSP
Jeff Donovan – City of Spokane
Amy Sumner – Spokane County

Call purpose:

Review and discuss the proposed PMF Phase II scope of work and develop a recommendation for the SRRTTF.

Call summary:

Lisa Rodenburg advised the group at the beginning of the call that due to the City of Spokane-Monsanto litigation, she is limited in what she can provide as deliverables until the case is finished. She indicated that she could continue working on data analysis but would not be able to provide written reports.

Lisa provided an overview of the scope of work. To date she has analyzed a significant amount of data related to PCBs in the Spokane River watershed. Some of it has been analyzed with Positive Matrix Factorization (PMF) and some with Multiple Linear Regression (MLR). One data set not analyzed is that of Liberty Lake, Post Fall, Hayden, and Coeur d’Alene WWTPs. Also, Liberty Lake and Coeur d’Alene both have data collected before and after the addition of tertiary membranes. The scope of work includes two components: 1) conduct PMF analysis of the four WWTPs described above, potentially evaluating differences between before and after treatment upgrades, and 2) a wholistic analysis of all PCB fingerprinting analysis that has been conducted on data related to the Spokane River Watershed.

Lisa indicated that she could conduct the analysis and provide deliverables for the WWTP analysis, but deliverables for the wholistic analysis could not be provided until the litigation comes to a resolution. There is no firm date on resolution of the litigation. She indicated that the City of Spokane data would likely not be able to be included in the WWTP analysis. The group discussed that it would be difficult for the SRRTTF to commit to a scope of work without a timeline. Lisa said she would consult with the law firm handling the litigation and confirm what she would be able to deliver to the SRRTTF. The group also discussed the potential addition of new data such as the 2019 biofilm data that should be available in the next few months. At the end of the discussion the group determined that once Lisa has a better understanding of what portions of the scope she could provide clear timelines for the workgroup will meet to discuss a recommendation for the SRRTTF.