

Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force Zoom Meeting

DRAFT Meeting Notes

Facilitated by White Bluffs Consulting

March 25 & 26, 2020

Meeting Documents: <http://srrttf.org/?p=11127>

Attendees:

Voting Members and Alternates

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

Advisors

Karl Rains, Brandee Era-Miller, Adriane Borgias, Jeremy Schmidt, Sandy Treccani, Catherine Glick, Bill Fees, Jim Ross, Cheryl Niemi – Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology)
Brian Nickel – Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Joel Breems – Avista
Dan Redline – Idaho Dept. of Environmental Quality

Interested Parties

Lisa Dally Wilson – Dally Environmental and Spokane River Stewardship Partners (SRSP)
Dave Dilks – LimnoTech
Ben and Lara Floyd – White Bluffs Consulting
Craig Borrenpohl, Alyssa Gersdorf – City of Post Falls
Ken Windram – Hayden Area Regional Sewer Board
David Darling – American Coatings Association
Jay West – American Chemistry Council (ACC)
Robert Mott – Mott Consulting
Curtis Johnson

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

Meeting Summary Action: The Task Force (TF) approved the February 26 meeting summary, as presented. Lara Floyd will post the final notes to the website.

LimnoTech revised marketing document: Ben shared that the LimnoTech document has been revised after input from Ecology and EPA and is ready to approve.

ACTION: The Task Force approved LimnoTech's revised marketing document.

ACE Update: Rob L. shared that the contract with Ecology has been submitted and he is expecting it to be signed and returned soon. Jeff has been preparing the reimbursement request. Karl will be sending the fully executed contract soon, so ACE can get the invoice in shortly after that.

Data Management: Mike H. said at the Tech Track meeting they discussed the recommendation from the Data Synthesis Workshop about standardizing river reach descriptions and names in the database and for studies that will be included. They have a naming format that is being used in the database and it is available for those doing other studies to use, to help promote consistency in naming conventions.

Education and Outreach: Vikki said they are postponing the spring media campaign due to COVID-19 and they will get information out later as to when it will happen.

Fish Sampling: Covered under the Tech Track presentation

Funding: Covered under the MOA discussion

Green Chemistry: No update

PMF: Mike H. said he sent out Phase 2 scope of work from Dr. Rhodenburg and will have a work group meeting in the next week or two and bring back a recommendation at the next TF meeting.

Tech Track: Covered later in meeting

TSCA: Doug said they received the draft road paint white paper from Northwest Green Chemistry (NWGC) and they submitted a draft to the work group for comment. They hope to have a final draft for review and comment at the next TF meeting.

The last of the meetings from the iPCB workshop are coming up and TSCA work group will focus on next steps to carry on iPCB work. They will talk to Ken Zarker (Ecology) and Mike Peterson (Lands Council) about putting together a national outreach campaign. Mike P. said he is going to present at the river rally in May which will now be a zoom presentation, and they have a grant application submitted to the Columbia River Basin Toxics program, which if received, could further help outreach efforts.

Lauren Heine from NWGC will present at the March 31 Sustainable Packaging Coalition online conference. She will present a master class on reducing iPCBs in packaging.

Doug is also working on getting Marcus Riccelli (WA state representative) to speak at April 22 TF meeting on Codification.

Titanium Dioxide Stewardship Council (TDSC) TiO₂ QAPP presentation: Doug shared that TDSC volunteered to do study of products that will also be relevant to iPCBs in the Spokane River. The TSCA work group has been coordinating with Jay West (ACC) and Michael Ober (TDSC) on the QAPP they have been preparing for testing TiO₂ and inadvertent PCBs. The draft QAPP was first reviewed by the TSCA work group and has recently been provided to the Task Force for

comment. they expect to finalize it soon and will begin sampling TiO₂ products by as early as the end of March.

Jay West said that no comments have been received. The project is fully funded by industry members of TDSC. They have selected SJS as the clinical lab and they will be analyzing dry TiO₂ powder as it hits the bag coming off-line and they will be looking at grades in paints and coatings and paper. They will look to SJS to hold online training for those doing the sampling.

Comments:

- Robert Mott asked what PCB congeners will be considered? *Doug said 1668 will look at full congener spectrum and will have full analysis of all 209 congeners.* Is there any thought to look at hexachlorobenzene as well? *No, it is not part of the project.* Robert said years ago it came up with work they did in Canada.

Tech Track work presentation: Lisa shared that the work group has met three times in March, and they discussed working on long term monitoring and targeted monitoring projects. At the DSW a long list of potential projects were identified. At the Tech Track meeting in August they organized them by priority, and long-term effectiveness monitoring and targeted monitoring projects were high on the list. The group also talked about different priorities such as targeted high flow sampling and looking at one reach first to see if this approach could be viable, follow up investigations for multi-media data collections to identify hot spots, collective low flow water sampling, and PMF phase 2 work.

The Tech Track combined their efforts with the Fish work group and they will be ready to make a recommendation about long term monitoring at the April TF meeting, although they are proposing to wait on targeted higher flow monitoring projects and non-point source load for now, while they evaluate other technical approaches. There is not enough funding for all the methods being considered, and more time is needed for determining recommendations for moving forward.

(NOTE: Technical difficulties occurred at this point of the meeting; and the meeting was suspended. The meeting continued the next day, March 26, with a different meeting platform)

Dave Dilks gave the presentation about the long term monitoring program and at the Tech Track meetings they narrowed priorities down to two preliminary recommendations: Sampling of one year old rainbow trout consistent with the baseline monitoring currently proposed by Fish work group and passive water column sampling with an expected final recommendation at April TF meeting.

He shared the targeted high flow sampling approach at the March 11 Tech Track meeting, which was to sample at two reaches (Barker Rd. – Trent (Plante's Ferry) – Greene St.). The group is not recommending moving forward with the work at this time while discussions continue on the priority of this monitoring relative to other tasks.

MOA Revisions Update: Karl R. said at the last Task Force meeting the ad hoc MOA group shared a final draft version of MOA revisions for Task Force members to review. They only received comments from the SRSP minus the City of Spokane. The version provided for Task Force review (included in the meeting materials) is not a recommendation from the ad hoc MOA work group. Ecology does not support this latest version and has questions about the suggested revisions and comments. The ad hoc group has been focusing their MOA suggested updates on outdated information, ACE information, and addressing the Idaho dischargers and their role and how they function. Ecology has concerns that the comments from SRSP will result in significant revisions beyond what was intended to be primarily “need to have” changes.

Lisa said after the last TF meeting, they and others were asked to comment and there are minimal things of substance they requested. She asked to go through the changes:

- A more recent 303(d) water quality list is available than the referenced 2008 list (see page 5, paragraph 3 of Introduction section).
- A more significant change may be in the section about NPDES permit compliance - it was originally written following goals for the Comprehensive Plan and within 12 months it was outdated, so SRSP proposed changing it to be more relevant to current TF work but it could also be taken out.
- As far as membership, SRSP wanted to make sure they refer to all members similarly, including voting, non-voting and stakeholders. Under roles and responsibilities, the permittees in WA have to comply with permit conditions just as Idaho permittees and SRSP proposed making edits for consistency between states.
- Should there be work group lead requirements such as keeping up to date participant lists and providing timely meeting materials and notes?
- SRSP also wonders who is tasked with preparing the Work Plan mentioned in the last paragraph on page 18 regarding the Task Force Work Plan. It needs to be defined and who is in charge of it?

Comments:

- I do not support removing the background and on page 8 the comment about Lands Council not being a member needs clarification. With roles and responsibilities, removing some of the details is confusing and these should not be removed. *Lisa said there are a number of voting members and it's only the WA dischargers that have roles and responsibilities laid out in detail and it's not consistent with other members of TF. The intention was to make it consistent.*
- Mike P. said he would like to be included on the ad hoc work group.
- The background is outdated and not relevant, but there is not a problem with keeping it in. With roles and responsibilities, the same level of detail is not included in the NPDES permits, and that is why they changed that section.
- The addition of the work group requirement needs to maintain flexibility for the work groups and how they do things.
- The day to day activities of TF are falling at the work group level and it is important to maintain transparency for their work. The language was chosen to give work groups flexibility while still maintaining transparency. There needs to be some accountability at the work group level.
- The MOA isn't the place to have this agreement but at the TF level. Work groups should not have to have meeting materials and minutes out one week ahead.

- Something about it should be in the MOA. What type of flexibility and structure do we want? **It was agreed the way it is written is not problematic.**
- There may be a better way by doing a Charter which is flexible and can be quickly amended. The MOA is viewed as a regulatory tool since it is issued by Ecology.
- Lisa said she has the original MOA in front of her and it has simpler language about the work groups that could be used instead.
- Is the draft up to now minus the new comments acceptable? A lot of work has been done already and they are fine with sending it back to the MOA ad hoc work group. Keep moving forward and don't get lost in the weeds.
- The most recent 303d list hasn't been approved but the 2008 one has.
- Avista is not a member but an advisory stakeholder, which should also be clarified.
- The ad hoc work group will continue the discussion.

Information update: Karl shared an announcement that they rescheduled today's webinar on the NPDES Variance process and added a second webinar on April 8 with one from 10-12:30 am and the other from 6-8:30 pm. Jeremy mentioned the April 8 date coincides with the Kaiser meeting that evening. *The webinars on that day are the same so participation could happen in the morning.*

Upcoming topics/Task Force meeting:

- Long term monitoring approach update, which includes fish work group sampling and recommendations
- 2019 biofilm preliminary data findings
- Codification discussion with Marcus Roccelli
- Measurable progress move to later in year

The next meeting of the SRRTTF is a Zoom meeting on April 22, 2020 at 8:30 am