

SRRTTF
Meeting Summary
Joint Tech Track/Fish Work Group
Thursday May 21, 2020: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm - ZOOM

Meeting Materials–

- PPT – Long-term Monitoring Program Schedule – 1 p.
- PPT – Hot Spot concepts
- PPT – Summary of Biofilm Results
- PPT – Historical Land Use information

Attendees:

Mike Hermanson, Spokane County

Bill Baker, WDFW

Jeff Donovan, City of Spokane

Doug Krapas, IEP

Jeremy Schmidt, WA Department of Ecology

Karl Rains, WA Department of Ecology

Ken Windram, HARSB

Lisa Dally Wilson, Dally Environmental, SRSP

Joel Breems, Avista

Dave Dilks, LimnoTech

Mike Anderson, City of Coeur d'Alene

Alyssa Gersdorff, City of Post Falls

Brandee Era-Miller, WA Dept of Ecology

Tom Agnew, LLSWD

Bill Fees, WA Department of Ecology

Sandy Treccani, WA Department of Ecology

Rob Lindsay, Spokane County

Brent Downey, Kaiser

Brian Nickel, USEPA

Expected Outcomes:

- Update on Long-Term Water Quality Monitoring project – QAPP, TTWG responsibilities, schedule.
- Update on Fish Monitoring Project, status of QAPP, schedule, roles and responsibilities – WDFW and Ecology
- Hot Spot ID – understand EPA project interest, assess biofilm data to help determine next steps, discuss next steps/brainstorm hot spot task

Long-Term Water Quality Monitoring (Dave Dilks, LimnoTech)

LimnoTech has been developing the QAPP for Water column monitoring with SPMDs. Will complete and submit to Ecology for review May 26-28th (once AXYS has provided costs). Specific contractor contracts have not, historically needed to go to the SRRTTF for approval. SRRTTF approves general scope of work and budget, but not detailed contracts. General scope and budget for this project was approved at the last SRRTTF meeting. Approved 67K for fish and 122K for Water Column.

A one page ppt slide shows the schedule for scoping, costing, preparing the QAPP and contracting with four separate contractors, in order to sample in late August. TTWG

members discussed responsibilities: QAPP review (Karl Rains - Ecology), contracting (Rob Lindsay -ACE)

At the June SRRTTF meeting:

- Dave Dilks and Lisa Dally Wilson provide and update on the Water Quality monitoring project, QAPP development and contracting.
- Karl Rains to provide update on Ecology review of QAPP

Fish Sampling Project (Bill Baker, WDFW)

Technical staff are working to complete the QAPP now. It will be available for review in July. WDFW is reaching out to Ecology staff for technical input on lab analysis (arranging a call with Brandee Era-Miller this week). Dave Dilks will send a copy of Water Quality QAPP to Bill Baker as an example.

Brandee Era-Miller is technical/analytical point of contact for Bill Baker (cc Karl Rains). Karl Rains is point of contact for Ecology review process of Fish Sampling QAPP.

Hot Spot Identification

1. EPA Project Update (Brian Nickel, EPA)
 - TetraTech is a contractor for EPA and EPA has some supplemental budget for use. Brian has encouraged that the budget be spent on Spokane River PCB issues. Brian originally suggested GE site and an analysis of PCB congeners in groundwater up and downstream of GE. However, TetraTech had a conflict of interest with GE. Brian has now suggested that an upgradient well analysis be done at Kaiser-Trentwood. This could entail looking at the groundwater signal contributing to the river water quality and biofilm on a congener level. Brian will not know until June whether EPA could fund that work. Several TTWG members mentioned that LimnoTech had a 2018 contract and a current contract to assess the wells upgradient of Kaiser. We will need to ensure coordination such that there is not duplication of effort. LimnoTech provided a similar analysis on a homolog level with respect to the water column but did not evaluate biofilm.

Ecology point of contact for Brian Nickel's work- Brandee Era-Miller coordinating with Eastern Region TCP.

2. Biofilm Data and implications for next steps in SRRTTF hot spot identification work (Brandee Era-Miller, Ecology) -See ppt
 - Brandee provided an overview of the preliminary results of her Biofilm study from 2018 and 2019. Discussion regarding hot spot identification focused on the "Mission Reach" including SR-3A (both right and left banks) in the vicinity of No-Li Brewery between Iron Bridge and Trent Bridge and the business park above East Trent. The reach begins just above Mission Park at Mission Bridge and ends downstream near Gonzaga. This lines up with what we see in fish tissue sampling. The reach is a losing reach which implies a localized source. Bricks and fill material are present along the reach. Some biofilm was collected from bricks.

- It was suggested to Brian Nickel that TetraTech focus their efforts identifying potential sources in this reach.
3. Hot Spot Task Update (Dave Dilks, LimnoTech) – See PPT
 - How do we define a hot spot from biofilm? <3200 ppb -not hot; >4800 ppb – hot. Will use geostatistics on Brandee’s data. Synoptic Sampling between Green Street and USGS gage implies a bottom oriented source or localized groundwater or seep. Could be bricks or fill.
 4. Historic Land Use Considerations (Joel Breems, Avista)
 - 1895-1909 – Historic Maps, but not much detail. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps beginning around 1910 are more helpful. Photos available from approximately 1905, and aerial photos from 1927. It was mentioned that the USGS has aerial photos too.

Group Discussion/Brainstorm

- Question regarding PCB signal in biofilm. In 2018 it appeared like Aroclor 1260, in 2019, not as much. It was mentioned that Dr. Rodenberg’s PMF analysis could tell us. Rodenberg’s PMF of 2019 data could detect any subtle differences.
- EPA has a list of organizations that store and/or transport PCBs. A few are near this reach. Brian will send a spreadsheet of these.
- How to determine potential in-river sources: test bricks and fill for PCBs from Iron Bridge to SR-3A (consider ELISA Immunoassay test of bricks, Aroclor analysis), survey without diving(walk), geophysical survey (~20K, only if source is affiliated with metal)
- Consider kilns from brick making factory that was located in the reach! Ecology TCP should be able to provide information on Former brick manufacturing facility.
- Consider Columbia River Grant to cover further exploration of in-river sources. Bricks and fill are widely applicable. Better able to fund. Focus work on Spokane River that can translate to toxics in other locations.
- Small Working group – Brandee Era-Miller, Dave Dilks, Joel Breems, Lisa Dally Wilson – to dive further into hot spots and historical data available. Consider adding one TCP representative.
- Address the source now versus doing additional sampling and identification
- They are replacing Trent Ave Bridge now and digging test pits and evaluating sediments. Consider sampling during footing installation (DOT and Ecology). Joel Breems will followup with Jeremy Schmidt regarding this opportunity.
- City of Spokane CSO near Union Gospel Mission is being disconnected from the river. Test pits were sampled and were not hot for Aroclors.