Database Management Work Group Meeting Summary January 19, 2021 – 10 a.m.

Attendees:

Mike Hermanson, Amy Sumner – Spokane County Jeff Donovan – City of Spokane Dave Dilks – LimnoTech Brandee Era-Miller– Ecology Mike Anderson – City of Coeur d'Alene Ben Floyd – SRRTTF Facilitator

Summary:

The purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss two options for providing online access to SRRTTF PCB Data. Mike Hermanson provided an overview of the two approaches. The first was an ArcGIS Online web application. ArcGIS web applications can incorporate both spatial and numeric data but are best suited for spatial data. The application included a map of river monitoring locations. Clicking on a particular station brought up a call out box that included information related to the station and a small bar graph of total PCBs at that station. Attributes for each station, including concentrations by homolog could be accessed. Spokane County has an ArcGIS Online server that could host the site. The second was a Tableau Public web application. This application provides a map of sampling locations and a stacked bar chart by homolog of total PCBs for various combinations of sample stations and sample dates. The chart shows data from the stations selected on the map. Selection by sampling date was also possible through a list of sample dates provided to the side of the graph window. The Tableau application includes multiple windows through the selection of tabs, which facilitates the presentation of multiple data sets. Tableau Public is free to use for public and nonprofit uses, such as the SRRTTF, and they host data sets at no cost. The data visualization can be incorporated into websites such as the SRRTTF website or the Spokane River PCB free website.

The group concluded that the Tableau application presented the data in a more intuitive and useful way and recommended moving forward with making it publicly available. It was suggested that the data application be presented to the Education and Outreach Workgroup at their February 9th meeting to receive feedback on how the data is presented, any necessary supplementary material, and the best webpage(s) to locate the application. After consulting with the E&O workgroup a presentation to the full SRRTTF would be made at the February meeting to seek approval to make it available.

The group also provided input on specific aspects of the application. Additional datasets including discharger data collected as part of the SRRTTF synoptic surveys, and biofilm data were suggested. It was suggested to remove the Hangman sampling location from the Spokane River stations dataset and include it with other inputs to the river (i.e. dischargers). There was a discussion of ongoing maintenance of the application, and Mike Hermanson indicated that the County will be able to maintain the application in conjunction with the ongoing stewardship of the SRRTTF Access Database.