



SRRTTF
Tech Track Work Group Meeting
Wednesday May 19, 2021; 1:00 – 3:00 pm Pacific Time

Meeting Summary

Meeting Materials–

- **Powerpoint Presentation – Overview of Pathways and Categories Under Consideration for Mission Reach Source Assessment projects. Dave Dilks, LimnoTech. Posted on SRRTTF website**
- **City of Spokane GIS property ownership map with groundwater wells and biofilm results. Posted on SRRTTF website.**
- **TTWG Project Status and Survey results. Posted on SRRTTF website**

Attendees

Jeremy Schmidt, WA Department of Ecology
Karl Rains, WA Department of Ecology
Lisa Dally Wilson, Dally Environmental, SRSP
Dave Dilks, LimnoTech
Alyssa Gersdorff, City of Post Falls
Ben Floyd, White Bluffs
Lara Floyd, White Bluffs
Brent Downey, Kaiser
Brandee Era-Miller, WA Dept of Ecology
Gary Jones
Monica Ott, Avista
Shawn Heinz, Gravity
Kris Holms, Interested party

Jeff Donovan, City of Spokane
Logan Callen, City of Spokane
Tom Agnew, LLSWD
Mike Anderson, City of Coeur d’Alene
Rob Lindsay, Spokane County
Mike Hermanson, Spokane County
Sandy Treccani, WA Department of Ecology
Bill Fees, WA Department of Ecology
Doug Krapas, IEP
Ken Windram, HARSB
Jeff Wilson, Gravity
Brian Nickel, USEPA

Summary Notes

1. Welcome, Introductions, Purpose of Meeting, Expected Outcomes
2. SRRTTF Work Planning Overview (LDW and DD)
 - Current Projects up for SRRTTF consideration
 - Water Column Sampling Mission Reach
 - Sub-bottom Object Detection
 - Groundwater elevation monitoring
 - Drywell contribution – phase I of study
 - Additional Projects for consideration
 - Bottom Sediment
 - PCB Sniffing Dog

- Assessment of PCB concentrations in groundwater at the near-bank during times where Mission Reach is gaining (temporary drive-point piezometers)
- Results from Artificial Fill Sampling in Mission Reach

Dave Dilks provided an overview of Projects under Consideration to identify potential sources in the Mission Reach. He discussed both direct and indirect methods of assessment of pathways for contamination. He also noted that although historical monitoring for PCBs in the Spokane River has not focused on bedded sediments, that Gravity observed the presence of multiple bedded sediment deposits while sampling Mission Reach and suggested that sampling of sediment PCB may help identify presence of a non- water column source. Generally, Dave provided information to support the location for additional water column monitoring and rationale for sediment sampling. Brandee suggested that although the larger bricks and concrete were not “hot” perhaps bank sand or dirt was a source.

Rob Lindsey asked to add an additional project to the work plan that involves evaluation of methods and materials for municipal and other WWTPs to remove PCBs. The TTWG was in general agreement. Brian Nickel suggested that biofilm results may implicate stormwater as a source of PCBs and asked to keep Stormwater Tracing on a list of potential projects. Brandee Era-Miller agreed and suggested consideration of private stormwater outfalls. The City of Spokane has done some tracing. Will keep additional biofilm samples on the project list for future use. Biofilm transects could help to locate sources in the Mission Reach as the Task Force hones in.

Brian Nickel suggested use of historical aerial satellite imagery from USGS to identify specific areas for sampling. Suggestion to look at previous reports on sources, historic landuse, historic sediment sampling, etc. as part of the Mission Reach sampling and assessment. Brandee reminded TTWG members of the Sanborn Maps (she has these), Urban Waters/Ecology sampled sediments in 2013 (including in the Mission Reach upstream of Gonzaga), and Ecology-EAP sampled sediment near Gonzaga in 2018. Jeff Donovan produced a GIS map (see meeting materials) showing land ownership, groundwater monitoring wells and biofilm results in the Mission Reach. It was suggested that more maps of this type should be produced to help steer sampling.

3. Object or Geophysical Anomaly Detection Survey Opportunities (Jeff Wilson, Gravity)

Gravity presentation addressed different methods of Anomaly Detection including (!) Side Scan Sonar surveys, (2) Ground Penetrating Radar, (3) Magnetic Anomaly Surveys and (4) Sub-bottom profiling acoustic surveys. They can apply a number of these surveys in one site visit. Gravity recommended use of the Magnetometer, followed by side scan sonar survey.

TTWG discussion regarding zeroing in on potential source(s) in Mission Reach. It was suggested the arochlor signature implies transformers/mechanical equipment. Shawn Heinz from gravity said he was surprised how much sediment was present in pockets in the vicinity of the rocks and bricks they collected for sampling.

4. Identification of Mission Reach Sources, Alternative Approaches to ID potential PCB sources with the intention of remedial activities (All)

- Some concerns that TF may work to ID a source, but would have difficulty with actual remediation. Does the Task Force have the authority to remediate. Karl Rains stated Ecology would like to ID sources, despite the concerns ,and set up for remediation. Bill Fees stated

that Cleanup is TCP's primary focus. They have agreements in place with closed sites and would need compelling evidence to ask the court to re-open agreements. If the source is a "new source" (eg., has not been through a cleanup process), TCP can being a process to go through investigation and remediation.

- Projects
 - PCB Monitoring Package - Water Column Sampling (Mission), Bottom Sediment (Mission), Artesian Well (Mission), Low Flow Synoptic Sampling (USGS gage – 9 Mile)
 - Sub-bottom Object Detection
 - Groundwater elevation monitoring - ID wells for data loggers
 - Assessment of PCB concentrations in groundwater at the near-bank during times where Mission Reach is gaining (temporary drive-point piezometers)
 - PCB Sniffing Dog - Jasper

- Tasks on Hold - Circle back on other projects awaiting results from recent sampling
 - High flow synoptic survey to estimate non-point contribution
 - ~~Deeper dive into the nature of artificial fill~~ (note – recent sampling results indicate that rocks and bricks collected did not have high PCB concentrations; however, sediment pockets observed during that sampling event suggest a potential medium the TF has not sampled.

5. Next Steps

Given the critical timeline to get the biennial workplanning completed and implement low flow sampling, the TTWG authorized the formation of a small, Mission Reach subgroup to further coordinate on scope development for these projects. Dave Dilks, Lisa Dally wsilon, Mike Hermanson, Jeff Donovan and Brandee Era-Miller, Sandy Treccani, and Karl Rains will meeting to finalize scoping, timing , QAPP development and identify who will prepare all of the scope of work for contracting.