

SRRTTF
Tech Track Work Group Meeting
Monday, August 30, 2021; 10:30 am – 12:30 pm Pacific Time

Meeting Summary

Meeting Materials–

- **Powerpoint Presentation – Status on Mission Reach Projects, Status and Preliminary Results of PCB-11 Sources and Pathways Analysis. Dave Dilks, LimnoTech. Posted on SRRTTF website**

Note – Action Items in Red

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
Brent Downey, Kaiser
Brandee Era-Miller, WA Dept of Ecology

Jeff Donovan, City of Spokane
Logan Callen, City of Spokane
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
Monica Ott, Avista

Summary Notes

1. **Status/Update on Mission Reach Projects (Dave Dilks)**

Dave gave an update on the Mission Reach projects that are currently in the process of implementation. These include:

- Low flow grab sampling (water column) – see map in ppt presentation
- Sampling the artesian well discharge in Mission Reach
- Sampling bedded sediment (if pockets can be found)
- Deployment of a PCB-sniffing dog,
- Sub-bottom detection survey
- Feasibility assessment of temporary drive-point piezometers

All projects are addressed in the QAPP that is out for signature approval, scopes have been developed and contracts issued for subconsultants, much of the work will start the day after labor day, however the sub-bottom object detection survey may be postponed if river levels are too low to allow boat deployment. The PCB-sniffing dog is out in the field now and they hope to do the work with “Jasper” tomorrow, August 31. The area for the PCB detection by the dog is between Trent Bridge and Iron Bridge.

There was a suggestion to collect water column grab samples in the vicinity of Iron Bridge, or to replace the Mission Bridge samples with samples collected at Iron Bridge. After discussion the TTWG determined that sampling will stay consistent with that outlined in the current QAPP. The TTWG will reconsider locations when Gravity goes back out in 2022 to conduct the next round of long-term effectiveness monitoring.

2. Preliminary Results of PCB-11 Sources and Pathways Analysis (Dave Dilks)

Assessment of synoptic survey data collected in 2014, 2015, and 2018 indicate that PCB-11 was present at blank levels or low levels from Upriver Dam upstream to Lake Coeur d'Alene, while there were discernable concentrations of PCB-11 found from Greene Street down to 9-Mile Dam. The highest concentrations were detected between the USGS gage and Nine Mile Dam. These concentrations in the lower portion of the study area are at levels greater than can be explained by known loading sources. Unexplained loading ranges from 4 to 40 mg/day (2015, 2018 data).

The TTWG brainstormed potential explanations for the unknown load and suggest that Dave augment the results with an overview of: PCB-11 in biofilm, groundwater (data from Ecology/County study), and SPMD samples. Possible explanations could include septic density in the area¹, groundwater in this area which is primarily a gaining reach, drywells, or some other unknown influence. Brandee noted than older SPMD data from Ecology also shows higher PCB-11 at 9-Mile Dam. Further discussion on where to expect to see lower weight congeners in samples. SPMD results are corrected to account for favorable capture of higher weighted congeners, biofilm results are not.

Dave Dilks will update the reporting to include an overview of PCB-11 in groundwater, SPMD, and biofilm and provide the presentation to the TSCA workgroup this Wednesday, September 1 to get further input.

3. Path Forward on all other TTWG projects scoped as part of Biennial Workplan (All)

An overview of the other TTWG projects, both scoped and included in the Biennial Workplan to date, and unscoped/costed. Projects include:

1. Groundwater elevation monitoring (Mike Hermanson)
2. Trent Avenue Bridge Samples – NEXT STEPS
3. Selective low flow water column synoptic sampling
4. Long term effectiveness monitoring – water column and fish (2022-2023)
5. Not yet scoped/costed: (note these projects are on hold pending results of projects currently being implemented):
 - a. Temporary drive point piezometers for Mission Reach
 - b. Additional Biofilm sampling
 - c. High flow sampling to ID non-point sources

¹ Note from Mike Hermanson: I recall discussing septics but don't think they would be a source. Septics were mostly in the Spokane Valley, upgradient of Greene Street. Most have been removed in the Spokane Valley. If Septics were a source it would be evident upstream of Greene St. where the largest groundwater inflows the river occur.

(1) Groundwater elevation monitoring: Mike Hermanson provided status on the groundwater elevation monitoring project. Data loggers will be installed in 5 existing wells and a staff gage in river. 2 wells are located by the river, one is set back from the river (to help in understanding horizontal hydraulic gradients in this area), and there is a well pair located on the southern edge of the property close to the SVRPA/basalt interface and is screened at 20' and 80' to help in understanding vertical hydraulic gradients. Mike is working out access issues at this time.

(2) Trent Bridge Samples: Additional samples have been collected from the Trent Bridge construction. The current approved cost estimate did not include preparation of a QAPP or analysis of more than three samples. The middle piling was the only area where samples included some finer sediment. After TTWG discussion it was determined that **samples will be held until we determine whether Gravity is able to collect sediment during this September's field work. If they cannot collect sediment, then some of the Trent Bridge samples will be sent for analysis. If they can find and collect sediment, the TTWG recommends waiting to assess the Trent Avenue Bridge samples until PCB sediment sample results are provided by SGS-AXYS.**

(3) Low Flow Synoptic Sampling – **Will occur in August – September 2022**

(4) 2022-2023 Long Term Effectiveness Monitoring will include both fish and water column sampling. Will Ecology coordinate with the Task Force in their planned 2022 Fish Sampling Efforts? Can resources be combined in these efforts? Request for Keith Seiders to present to the TTWG as he begins to plan for 2022 fish sampling work on the Spokane River. **Will occur in 2022 -2023. Brandee Era-Miller will contact Keither Seiders and coordinate on having him join an upcoming TTWG meeting to discuss.**

4. Historical Assessment for Mission Reach – discussion and direction

TTWG members provided a number of references/data sources for LimnoTech's historical assessment of land uses in the Mission reach. LimnoTech was also referred to information provided in the chat of a previous SRRITF meeting. Karl Rains will provide Dave Dilks additional references as suggested by other Ecology staff.

5. Standardization of sample IDs (River Mile or other) - discussion

After TTWG discussion it was determined that there was not a need to standardize actual sample identification protocol, and that river mile and other sample identification attributes are available in specific data bases. (eg., the databases actually contain the protocol).

6. Other Project Planning

A request was made for additional project planning. The September Task Force meeting will include a discussion of other projects that could be taken on by the Task Force. The leads of the workgroups will be reconvened to identify additional projects. There was a suggestion made for the TTWG to revisit elements of the Comprehensive Plan ("from a TTWG lens"). **The next TTWG agenda will include a review of proposed projects in the**

comprehensive plan to determine whether additional projects could be recommended by the TTWG for Task Force approval.

7. The next meeting of the TTWG will be held in early October.