

SRRTTF
Tech Track Work Group Meeting
December 1, 2021; 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM Pacific Time
ZOOM

Meeting Summary

Meeting Materials–

1. Comprehensive Plan 2020 Implementation Summary Table of source control actions compiled by White Bluffs Consulting in January 2021
2. Powerpoint Presentation – Sources and Pathways of PCB-11: Unexplained Load - Possible scopes of work for Phase 2 and overview of blank correction impacts. Dave Dilks, LimnoTech.

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
Sandra Treccani, WA Dept of Ecology
Brent Downey, Kaiser
Brandee Era-Miller, WA Dept of Ecology
Cheryl Niemi, WA Dept of Ecology
Chris Moan, Avista
Holly Davies, Wa Dept of Health
Tom Agnew, Liberty Lake SWD
Vikki Barthels, Spokane Health District
Mike Anderson, City of Coeur d’Alene

Monica Ott, Avista
Jeff Donovan, City of Spokane
Rob Lindsay, Spokane County
Mike Hermanson, Spokane County
Bill Fees, WA Department of Ecology
Doug Krapas, IEP
Brian Nickel, US EPA
Kris Holm
Dave Darling, American Coatings Assoc.
Robert Mott
Ken Windram, HARSB
Ben Floyd, White Bluffs Consulting

Summary Notes

Follow-up Discussion on Historic Assessment Task – Next Steps for LimnoTech

Agreement reached that LimnoTech (LT) will do an “initial assessment” of the historic sources of PCB within the Mission Reach. LT will use discretionary funding to perform the work required for the initial phase and will develop a scope of work for TF funding for future phases of the work, if deemed appropriate. The initial scope will include a review of all Ecology Source Assessments and a review of the Sanborn maps assessment conducted by Siana Wong’s work at Ecology. The TTWG discussed and approved use of EDR to provide a database of sources in the Mission Reach (including Sanborn maps post 1953) in the 5-10K range. Karl Rains will approach EDR to get a

cost estimate. If the cost is 10K or less and there are no substantive issues regarding the proprietary nature of the EDR's Sanborn maps, the TTWG conditionally approves a request of the Task Force for an EDR contract for 10K. **Karl Rains to contact EDR to request cost estimate and understand proprietary issues re. the use of Sanborn Maps in a public process prior to the December 15th SRRTTF meeting.**

TTWG Focused Comprehensive Plan Elements

TTWG members walked through the SRRTTF Comprehensive Plan Implementation Summary Table of source control actions and the current status of those actions (as summarized by White Bluffs Consulting in January of 2020). The intent of the exercise was to identify any possible TTWG related actions that have yet to be implemented. There were no actions for which the TTWG is responsible that were not already in some stage of implementation. The TTWG Data Workshop to be conducted in January or February 2022 will identify next steps in implementation of these actions based on data gathered to date. It was noted that the 'Status; Column in the 2020 Implementation Summary had some errors. **Lisa Dally Wilson and Dave Dilks will send corrections to Ben Floyd.**

The following Control Actions in Mission Reach were explicitly discussed:

- Sediment: Control actions addressing sediment sources have commenced. Once lab results are received in mid-December that indicate PCB concentrations in sediment samples, confirmation monitoring may be conducted, including additional in-river and bank sampling, Canine PCB Detection work and Object Detection.
- Stormwater: Followup sampling of the small stormwater basins as indicated in the Canine PCB Detection Report (Outfalls include: Springfield Street Outfall, Trent Bridge Outfall, Spokane Falls Outfall and SW Gonzaga Outfall).
- Fish Tissue: Although water quality standards are focused on the water column concentrations of PCBs, there was discussion that further understanding of bioaccumulation in fish tissue would help in the prioritization of source reduction efforts. We now have PCB data for fish, water and biofilm. Could be used to better understand bioaccumulation in Redband Trout.
- Continued LT monitoring of quarterly Kaiser data from upgradient wells (covered by LT discretionary budget).

PCB-11 related studies

1. Unexplained Load – Artifact of Blank Correction?

Comparison of Dr. Rodenburg's PMF mass balance for PCB-11 to the results from the Phase I PCB Source Assessment work by LimnoTech indicated that the results indicating an unknown load of PCB-11 between Green Street and 9-Mile Dam are very sensitive to blank correction method. This is because PCB-11 is very prevalent in blank samples, hence it's more sensitive to blank correction methods. The Task Force uses a 3x censoring method, whereas the PMF work was using 1x method and also considered the subtraction method. Subtraction resulted in a smaller amount of unexplained load whereas the 3x censoring indicated a significant unexplained load (**See ppt presentation**). Overall, it can be said that BLANK CONTAMINATION IS CAUSING SIGNIFICANT UNCERTAINTY TO THE MASS BALANCE FOR PCB-11. The TTWG discussed whether, given this uncertainty, they should move forward with screening level analyses or nothing (and put on backburner until January 2023 when we have

the results of the 2022 Synoptic Survey). It was decided that this work should be put on hold until that time.

2. Scope and Budget for PCB-11 Activities

At the Nov 3 TTWG meeting, the TTWG requested that Dave Dilks develop detailed scopes and budgets for addressing possible causes of an observed increase in PCB-11 concentrations in the Spokane River as it passes through the City of Spokane. Potential sources include: stormwater loads via groundwater, atmospheric loading, PCBs in fertilizer, breakdown of higher level congeners and leaching from in-situ sources. Dave provided more detailed scopes/budgets to assess these source categories. However, given the current findings regarding the impacts of blank detection method on the results of the PCB-11 analysis, the TTWG decided to put Phase 2 of this project on hold until the results of the 2022 Synoptic Survey are available. Doug Krapas speaking for the TSCA workgroup where this project originated concurred with the decision and requested that the PCB-11 congener be included specifically in the synoptic survey results.

TTWG Focused 'Mini-Data Synthesis' workshop

After discussion it was determined that this workshop will provide a focused look at TTWG generated data with an expected outcome of recommendations to the TF in moving forward with additional new or follow-on projects. Target Management Questions will be developed to guide the workshop. **Dave Dilks, Lisa Dally Wilson and Karl Rains will develop a draft list of 'Target Management Questions/Concepts' for discussion and approval at the December 15 SRRTTF meeting.** Additional concepts discussed include:

- Late January or Early February date
- Schedule TTWG meeting ~ 2 weeks prior to workshop for full presentations on the final Biofilm Report by Brandee Era-Miller, and the PMF 'Holistic' Analysis by Dr. Lisa Rodenburg. These presentations will provide background for discussion at the workshop
- 1 Session on Mission Reach projects and data
- 1 Session on projects outside of Mission Reach
- Suggestion made to also consider addressing locations downstream of Nine Mile Dam, large tributary inputs, and other toxics
- Virtual or In-person? Vikki Barthels will look into requirements/guidance for conferences and larger meetings. Spokane County WRC is available for in-person with virtual capabilities. It may be difficult to convene an interactive workshop with so many data considerations in a virtual environment.

ZOOM Chat notes

11:24:57 From Holly Davies, WA DOH to Everyone:

Thanks for that clarification, Karl.

11:26:57 From Sandra Treccani to Everyone:

all good

11:27:20 From Brandee Era-Miller - Presenter to Everyone:

Pam Marti's Memo covered TCP sites

11:27:49 From DAVID DILKS to Everyone:

Thanks, Brandee. We have Pam's memo.

11:37:59 From Ben Floyd to Everyone:

that would be great to receive updates on TTWG related activities for the 2021 update from you, Lisa and Dave!

11:42:25 From Robert Mott; Mott Consulting, LLC to Everyone:

Does the State permit PCBs released through storm water systems or surface runoff?

11:46:46 From Robert Mott; Mott Consulting, LLC to Everyone:

For instance, the two Kaiser sites in Spokane surely warrant a surface water and storm water permit.

11:49:37 From Brent Downey to Everyone:

Trentwood has an NPDES permit. Our storm water is captured and treated through the existing treatment systems along with our process water.

11:51:14 From Ben Floyd to Everyone:

Thanks for doing this double-check Lisa and TTWG!

12:01:53 From Brandee Era-Miller - Presenter to Everyone:

Siana and I have also used 3xMB censoring

12:28:56 From Rob Lindsay to Everyone:

yes!

12:34:13 From Ken Windram HARSB to Lisa Dally Wilson(Direct Message):

It is in our permit to be in the task force. So the Permit would need to be changed for HARSB not to participated in Task Force.

12:38:22 From BNICKEL to Everyone:

Re: Karl's point about scope: Large tributaries may be worth a look.

12:44:06 From BNICKEL to Everyone:

Thanks!