

**SRRTTF - Tech Track Work Group
February 16, 2022 Meeting Summary**

Meeting Materials–

1. Watershed-wide Candidate Studies from TTWG workshop
2. Mission Reach Candidate Studies from TTWG workshop
3. Powerpoint Presentation – Candidate studies – rationale and objectives

Note – Action Items in Red

Attendees

Alyssa Gersdorff, City of Post Falls
Amy Sumner, Spokane County
Ben Floyd, White Bluffs Consulting (9 – 9:30)
Bill Fees, WA Department of Ecology
Brandee Era-Miller, WA Dept of Ecology
Brian Nickel, US EPA
Cadie Olsen, City of Spokane
Cheryl Niemi, WA Dept of Ecology
Dave Dilks, LimnoTech
Doug Krapas, IEP
Gary Jones, United Printing Alliance
Gunnar Johnson, US EPA

Holly Davies, WA Dept of Ecology
Jeff Donovan, City of Spokane
Jeremy Schmidt, WA Dept of Ecology
Karl Rains, WA Dept of Ecology
Ken Windram, HARSB
Kris Holm
Lisa Dally Wilson, Dally Env., SRSP
Logan Callen, City of Spokane
Mike Anderson, City of Coeur d’Alene
Robert Mott, Mott Consulting
Sandra Treccani, Ecology
Vikki Barthels, Spokane Health District

Summary Notes

The purpose of this meeting is to confirm the candidate study choices from the TTWG workshop (Jan 31, Feb 1) and the ranking from the informal strawpoll of those studies, and also to further define the projects so everyone understands the objective of each study.

LDW walked through the two handouts of candidate studies and explained why some were merged and two were moved from the watershed-wide to Mission reach-specific list. She discussed the general ranking from the informal straw poll that was held at the workshop and said there would be opportunity to weigh in on priorities again today, prior to a small group convening to scoping and costing the projects.

Dave Dilks then walked through each candidate study that was ranked. Comments are listed below by Candidate Study.

One initial candidate study listed at the workshop was to consider collecting dry weather data below Nine Mile Dam. At the workshop there was discussion that the decision to expand the study area of the Task Force below Nine-Mile Dam should not be addressed by the Technical Work Group, but rather, by the full Task Force. There is currently a placeholder for this 'candidate study' on the list. Cadie Olsen stated that, in her opinion, given the regulatory aspect of the PCB TMDL, the decision to expand the research area resides with Ecology and not the Task Force. She also has concerns that the Task Force has no Tribal Representation, and yet the TF is talking about extending the boundary of the study area downstream towards a Tribal boundary.

Candidate Studies

I. Highest Ranked (no changes in ranking after discussion – TTWG agrees to move forward)

1) Landside surface/stormwater monitoring at Jasper-identified area in Mission Reach

Notes: May be difficult to sample stormwater at outfall assuming it will be under water, there is a manhole in the parking lot just upstream of the outfall that could be sampled. Sample catch-basins near and within the areas Jasper detected PCBs. After seeing results, may have Jasper back.

TTWG agreement that this remain a high priority in workplan

2) Further our understanding of groundwater hydrology

Notes: current deployment of transducers and water level measurement equipment at Hamilton Street Bridge is for 2 years. Can be renewed. Amy Sumner expects the first year of data will be processed this fall and be available to the TF. Dave Dilks mentioned that consulting with local experts can likely be done with discretionary funding. Other tasks need to be fleshed out and will require additional budget. Small group will provide further detail to proposed scope.

TTWG agreement that this remain a high priority in workplan

3) Mission Reach sediment (and groundwater) sampling

Notes: Sediment sampling is mentioned in several projects and may be merged. Suggested sediment sampling directly downstream and adjacent to subsurface objects detected with magnetometer. May also be used for future bioaccumulation assessment. TTWG agreement that this remain a high priority in workplan

II. Second Highest Ranked

4) Follow-up monitoring of artesian well PCB concentration

Notes: Easy to implement as part of other field efforts, costs only associated with laboratory analysis. Prior sample in 2021 is one of our only direct measurements of PCBs in groundwater in the Mission Reach. Prior sample is 10x higher than concentration in river water column. TTWG agreement that this remain a high priority in workplan.

5) More rigorous review of historical land use

Notes: Focus both on Mission Reach and SIP area near Mirabeau. Includes use of Sanborn maps that have already been approved for purchase by TF. TTWG agreement that this remain a high priority in workplan.

6) Follow-up on magnetometer anomalies

Notes: Request to extend the Object Detection Survey to downstream towards E Spokane Blvd by both Karl Rains and Brandee Era-Miller. Consider older report that identified a drum on the RHS of the river and use to determine downstream extent of survey. Merge this with sediment sampling (sample sediment immediately downstream of objects detected as a first step prior to recommending removal). Consider location of outfalls and compare with location of objects detected by shoreline. Appears that one detection may be in the vicinity of the Springfield outfall. TTWG agreement that this remain a high priority in workplan

7) Initial assessment of PCB loading from infiltrated dry well stormwater

Notes: Consider a literature review. Question raised – where are these ‘old school’ drywells? Response that individual entities permitted for stormwater have maps of these. Concern voiced by Cadie Olsen that the Department of Ecology Stormwater Program Regulator needs to let permittees know whether they want to explore this under permits. Ecology should talk to Ecology about this project; stormwater people should be asked if they want to expand their state program to include a watershed approach. Karl Rains and Brandee Era-Miller agreed, Ecology should talk to Ecology. **Karl Rains will convene the appropriate Ecology staff to discuss in the next month and will report back to the TTWG at their March meeting.** Several TTWG members (Karl, Brandee) mentioned that although there were concerns regarding this, that the project should move forward to identify the potential for PCBs draining from older drywells to reach the river as it is directly related to the TF mission to find and reduce PCBs in the River. Upon further query, no one expressed any disagreement that the initial phases of this project should remain a priority in the TF workplan.

8) Additional sampling at Mirabeau

Notes: Additional sampling at Mirabeau remains a high priority in the workplan as it will help to explain the biofilm homolog patterns suggesting a unique PCB source upstream of Kaiser. Candidate studies include Biofilm, grab sampling or deployment of SPMDs. Biofilm will likely provide a stronger signal. TTWG agreement that this remain a high priority in workplan

III. Third Highest

9) Explore historic land use at Spokane Industrial Park

Notes: Suggestion to use drywells from SIP as a pilot project. Jeremy said a lot of the drywells at SIP have been through a cleanup process. This information is available in their (Ecology TCP) files. Also remember that SIP is private property. TTWG agreement that this remain a priority in workplan.

10) Synoptic survey to support mass balance assessment downstream of USGS Gage

Notes: USGS Gage to Nine Mile is currently budgeted in 2021 – 2023 work plan. May want to add additional stations for greater spatial resolution. Suggestion that this be coupled with survey from Plante's Ferry to USGS gage, so overall synoptic survey from Plante's Ferry to 9 Mile Dam. A lot going on in the Plante's Ferry to USGS reach (includes the Mission Reach, and an area that previous synoptic survey has indicated a loss of higher weight congeners and gain of lower weight congeners). TTWG agreement that this remain a priority in workplan. No opposition to extending synoptic survey up to Plantes Ferry.

11) Additional biofilm monitoring

Notes: Biofilm monitoring with sufficient spatial resolution has been suggested for several candidate studies to identify source locations. Integrate biofilm monitoring into specific candidate studies. Consider new method for analyzing PCBs (Method 1628). TTWG agreement that this remain a high priority in workplan.

Doug Krapas asked a question regarding tracking of all projects, even if they are not yet ready for further scoping and implementation. Dave Dilks and LDW are keeping an excel file of all potential studies discussed at the TTWG level. Cadie Olsen requested a clear list of attendees and the entity they represent be included in all notes, indicating her intention was to protect the process so we don't taint the credibility of the good science that is happening.

Next Steps: LDW said a small group of TTWG members are meeting on February 24 from 9:00 – 10:30 am Pacific time to add detail to each candidate project so they can be fully scoped and budgeted. That small group consists of the following people who volunteered at the TTWG Data workshop: Jeff Donovan, Karl Rains, Dave Dilks, Brandee Era-Miller, Lisa Dally Wilson, and Bill Fees. If anyone else is interested in joining the group, please contact Lisa. LimnoTech will further develop scopes of work and budget for the projects. The budgets will determine whether all projects can be put forward in the 2021 – 2023 Biennial Workplan. This work will either be taken to the TTWG, or to the Task Force, depending on level of completeness and timing.

CHAT notes below:

Chat Notes:

09:05:09 From Catherine Olsen to Everyone:

What id Gary Jones affiliation/interest?

09:07:12 From Ben Floyd to Everyone:

PRINTING United Alliance

09:20:17 From Karl Rains to Lisa Dally Wilson(Direct Message):

Morning Lisa - I have to jump to my other meeting for one agenda item, but then I'll be back.

09:21:45 From BNICKEL to Everyone:

The proposed TMDL settlement agreement identifies the PCB-impaired assessment units that EPA is proposing to issue TMDLs. This is independent of the Task Force's study area.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2021-26085/p-8>

09:35:31 From Gunnar Johnson (EPA) to Everyone:

Just to be clear, I'm the only EPA employee helping with the TMDL who lives in Idaho. Everyone else is based in Washington.

09:37:20 From Gunnar Johnson (EPA) to Everyone:

I (EPA employee) did not vote.

09:39:15 From Robert Mott; Mott Consulting, LLC to Everyone:

Remember as well that all present did not necessarily vote.

09:57:02 From Bill Fees to Lisa Dally Wilson(Direct Message):

I have to go to another meeting. Thanks Lisa.

09:57:20 From Lisa Dally Wilson to Bill Fees(Direct Message):

thanks bill

09:57:45 From BNICKEL to Everyone:

Regulatory citation for freshwater sediment cleanup levels:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-204-563>

09:59:30 From Jeff Donovan to Everyone:

Thanks Brian!

10:08:08 From Jeff Donovan to Everyone:

my mistake on the upstream red dot detection - doesn't look like that's a known outfall.

Downstream one looks like it is likely the Springfield outfall

10:32:05 From Brandee Era-Miller - Presenter to Everyone:

Great idea! Dry-wells in SIP for pilot project

10:42:12 From BNICKEL to Everyone:

8082 can be used for tissue.

10:42:30 From BNICKEL to Everyone:

So can 1628.

10:43:52 From Karl Rains to Everyone:

Maybe cost initially at 1668, just to see the order of magnitude for discussion purposes

10:43:54 From Karl Rains to Everyone:

?

10:44:35 From Dave Dilks to Everyone:

I agree with Karl

10:45:36 From Brandee Era-Miller - Presenter to Everyone:

Ecology's Manchester Lab is also developing a PCB congener method similar to 1628. It should have the same coelutions as 1668. That method won't be ready for another year so though.

10:49:29 From Robert Mott; Mott Consulting, LLC to Everyone:

the universe of known dry wells, may include unregulated dry wells.

10:55:25 From Brandee Era-Miller - Presenter to Everyone:
9-10:30

10:56:02 From Karl Rains to Everyone:
Thanks all!