MEETING SUMMARY

Spokane River TMDL Collaboration

Non-Point Source Workgroup

Meeting Date 7/5

Member Attendance:

Here	*Name*	*Sponsor*	*e-mail*	*Phone*
	Edelen, Walt	Ecology	walt-edelen@sccd.org	(509) 535-7274
☺	Tim Connor	Ecology	tim.connor@sierraclub.org	
☺	Fink, Rick	Petitioners	Rick_Fink@iepco.com	(509) 924-1911
	Fredrickson, Sid	Petitioners	SidF@cdaid.org	(208) 769-2277
☺	Hendron, Lars	Petitioners	Lhendron@spokanecity.org	(509) 625-7929
	Kersten, Neil*	Petitioners	Nkersten@spokanevalley.org	(509) 921-1000
☺	Knight, Dave*	Ecology	dkni461@ecy.wa.gov	
	Mellish, Lee	Petitioners	Sewerdoc@aol.com	(509) 922-9016
☺	Petersen, Mike	Ecology	mpetersen@landscouncil.org	(509) 838-4912
	Rawls, Bruce	Petitioners	Brawls@spokanecounty.org	(509) 477-3604

*denotes Co-Chair

Audience Attendance Roster

Reanette Boese for Bruce Rawls
Gloria Mantz representing Spokane Valley
Jessica Pilgrim intern with City of Spokane

Meeting Summary:

During our meeting we continued to consider different sources of information to fill in the matrix that has been the focal point of the sub group. The group is trying to tackle the issue of how physical and biological systems remove or reduce phosphorus as it migrates through soils toward the aquifer, to the river, and as it ultimately moves down gradient toward long Lake.

There was lengthy debate over data gaps and uncertainty about SOD, etc. The group developed questions for Ken Merrill and Bob Cusimano to answer, regarding reconciling the NPS pounds "in" to the pounds reaching Long Lake, and whether there were areas or times of concern that sampling of P concentrations along the River could help us prioritize where to focus NPS reduction efforts first. In the end, the group settled on the following key questions for Bob and Ken to answer prior to the July 11th meeting:

1. Are aquifer contributions correctly modeled? Can we reconcile the issue of how much phosphorus from septic systems and fertilizer use actually reach the Spokane River?
2. How much phosphorus from nonpoint sources to Coeur d'Alene Lake, actually reaches the Spokane River, and how much of this is available for biological growth in Long Lake?
3. How does the model estimate sediment oxygen demand in the reservoir, and is this number accurate in the model?

During future meetings, we hope to prioritize nonpoint sources of phosphorus to the reservoir by their contribution, and the ability to reduce them through controls such as BMPs and or education.

We also feel that we need to get a better handle on the biggest sources of phosphorus in the Little Spokane and Hangman/Latah systems

Tim Connor, from the Sierra Club, noted that the Club has no issues with Ecology's modeling of non-point sources. But based on having heard the issues and questions raised by other members of the work group, he proposed that the work group could only move forward by focusing more closely on the following five questions.

1. What is the aquifer's contribution to
2. Little Spokane River
3. Hangman/Latah Creek
4. Lake Coeur d'Alene
5. Long Lake Septics and run-off

Notes on Status of Fundamental Questions:

1. What is the potential for the reduction of phosphorus from non-point sources using various source reduction methods and/or Best Management Practices (BMPs)? What is the seasonal (April through October) nature of the potential reduction?

2. What phosphorus reduction to the Spokane River can be attributed to source control measures such as a ban on phosphorus based dishwashing detergents, septic tank elimination and or a ban on phosphorus containing fertilizers for lawn and garden use.

Topics for Next Meeting:

Tim Connor of the Sierra Club suggested, with little disagreement from the group, that the "scorecard" method that the group has been pursuing for identifying non-point sources of phosphorus and quantifying their current contributions to phosphorus loading in the Spokane river has not produced information that is technically sound and therefore useful to the exercise.

There are too many data gaps to draw or forecast meaningful correlations between reductions in non-point sources of phosphorus and consequent reductions of phosphorous loading to the Spokane River.

At the July 11th meeting, the group will re-evaluate their current approach, and determine whether or not the continued development of the matrix of nonpoint sources of pollution to the river is an appropriate investment of effort, and whether or not it might be more appropriate to suggest areas that may require further study in order to gain the information that the larger group is looking for.

Next Meeting Time and Place:

July 11, 2005 @ 9:00 AM @ DOE (Large Conference room, first floor)