

Spokane River TMDL Collaboration

Steering Workgroup

January 11, 2005

Dale Arnold
Bonne Beavers (as observer)
Jim Bellatty
Sid Fredrickson
Wayne Frost
Jack Lynch
Todd Mielke
Bruce Rawls

Bill Ross
Ryan Orth
Mike Sharar
John Spencer

The Steering Workgroup convened a meeting to discuss an update on the status of Collaboration activities and the release of the Water Quality Trading Analysis.

1. Update on Status of Collaboration Activities

The Steering Workgroup discussed the recent cancellation of the January 12 Full Group meeting. Dave Peeler commented that while Ecology continues to move forward with the development of an outline for a draft Managed Implementation Plan (MIP), they did not yet have opportunity to gather sufficient feedback from the Attorney General's office and the Ecology Eastern Region. Instead of participating in a Full Group meeting, Ecology will conduct face-to-face consultations with the group of dischargers on January 12 and the Sierra Club on January 13. The Steering Workgroup anticipates the currently scheduled January 25 Full Group meeting will occur as planned and will now cover the entirety of topics addressed in Ecology's draft MIP. In addition to the consultations planned for this week, Ecology will strive to meet once more with both the group of dischargers and the Sierra Club to share its most recent developments and gather any feedback.

Todd Mielke spoke to his interest in sharing the details of a draft MIP with a broad array of elected officials across the region before a final agreement is written through the Collaboration. A regional meeting of elected officials would bring together the various jurisdictions for a presentation from a panel of experts on the Collaboration's objectives and details of the proposed MIP, followed by a question and answer session. The Steering Workgroup supported this approach and will address this and other public education efforts with the Full Group at the January 25 meeting. In the meantime, Todd Mielke, Jack Lynch, and Dick Denenny will coordinate to consider dates that could accommodate the schedules of various municipal officials. It may be that several meetings are held at different locations across the region and/or that meeting(s) may need to occur during an evening or weekend.

The Steering Workgroup discussed EPA's activities related to the Collaboration. EPA is meeting internally this week to discuss additional model runs applied to the Idaho dischargers. Ecology has not yet seen these results, but expects that EPA will want to share its findings with Ecology in the next two weeks. While coordination across the state line remains a challenge, it is expected that EPA will continue to endorse the Collaboration process and commit to re-examining the basis of their permitting decisions at the appropriate milestones, in-step with the Collaboration.

2. Update on Water Quality Trading Suitability Analysis

The Steering Workgroup was informed

that the Water Quality Trading Suitability Analysis performed by Rob Greenwood and Brewster Boyd was recently released. This report will be made available on the Collaboration website.

The Steering Workgroup adjourned its meeting at 9:00 a.m.