

Spokane River TMDL Collaboration

Steering Workgroup

January 20, 2005

Dale Arnold
Sid Fredrickson
Wayne Frost
Dave Peeler
Todd Mielke

Bill Ross
Ryan Orth
John Spencer

The Steering Workgroup convened to discuss an update on Ecology's development of an outline for a draft Managed Implementation Plan and set an agenda for the January 25 Full Group meeting.

1. Update on draft Managed Implementation Plan

Dave Peeler remarked that Ecology has added more detail to its draft Managed Implementation Plan (MIP) outline and will aim to distribute the document no later than Tuesday, January 24. Ecology will conduct consultations with the group of dischargers during the afternoon of January 24 and with the Sierra Club later that same week. Mr. Peeler will also consult with the Spokane Tribe via phone on January 23.

The Steering Workgroup discussed potential next steps after the January 25 Full Group meeting. Todd Mielke previously advocated sharing the details of a draft MIP with regional elected officials to ensure that the various entities are comfortable with moving forward before an agreement is written. Mr. Mielke commented that the timing of such a meeting will depend upon whether the Full Group identifies components that require further clarifications or edits. When appropriate, Mr. Mielke will coordinate with Jack Lynch and Dick Denenny to consider dates, with the goal of bringing as many elected officials together as possible. There is value in holding fewer meetings with greater attendance so participants' questions and comments can be shared with a wider audience, which could lead to a more productive conversation. Dave Peeler offered Ecology's participation in this meeting (or series of meetings). It is expected that the concepts developed in the draft MIP and fleshed-out at the January 25 Full Group meeting will lay a path for individual dischargers and their collective efforts towards an agreement. It will be a productive exercise for Ecology, the dischargers, and other stakeholders to continue their consultations as the Collaboration reaches-out to regional elected officials.

2. January 25 Full Group Meeting Agenda

The Steering Workgroup discussed the agenda for the January 25 Full Group meeting. The bulk of the meeting will be spent on a presentation and discussion of Ecology's draft MIP outline. Todd Mielke shared his belief that this discussion should focus on fleshing-out the concepts within the outline, and refrain from a focus on the specifics of the text. In addition, the Full Group will receive an update from EPA on their activities related to the Collaboration. Finally, the Full Group will discuss the next steps and future schedule of the Collaboration resulting from the events of the day. The Steering Workgroup determined that the Full Group should meet along its regular five-hour schedule. Bill Ross will contact Tom Eaton to ensure that he can provide an update to the Full Group on EPA's most recent Collaboration-related activities.

The Steering Workgroup adjourned its meeting at 11:30 a.m.