

# Spokane River TMDL Collaboration

## Steering Workgroup

March 3, 2006

Dale Arnold  
Jim Bellatty  
Dick Denenny  
Sid Fredrickson

Wayne Frost

Jack Lynch

Todd Mielke

Rachael Paschal Osborn (as observer)

Dave Peeler

Bruce Rawls

Stan Shore

Bill Ross

Ryan Orth

Mike Sharar

John Spencer

The Steering Workgroup held a meeting on March 3 to discuss the following agenda:

1. Update on the Status of Comments Submitted for Ecology's Draft Managed Implementation Plan
2. Discuss Path Forward for Collaboration Activities
3. Discuss Timing for Future Full Group Meetings

### *1. Update on the Status of Comments Submitted for Ecology's Draft Managed Implementation Plan*

March 3 is the deadline for the submittal of comments to Ecology on the draft Managed Implementation Plan (MIP). Dave Peeler announced that Ecology had received several comments and were expecting several more submissions by the close of business. In addition to a summary of their comments, the City of Spokane and Spokane County both included a redline version of the full MIP document. As discussed at the January 25 Full Group meeting, all comments will be posted to the Collaboration website.

### *2. Discuss Path Forward for Collaboration Activities*

The Steering Workgroup discussed the Collaboration's path toward reaching an agreement and instituting a Managed Implementation Plan. Ecology's immediate next step is to review all comments submitted for the draft MIP document. Ecology will then conduct another round of consultations with the dischargers and other Collaboration participants, as well as a series of internal briefings. Feedback from the written comments, face-face consultations, and internal briefings will be used to make appropriate revisions to the draft MIP document prior to the next Full Group meeting.

The Steering Workgroup revisited a discussion from the January 25 Full Group meeting addressing outreach to local elected officials with the details of the agreement and MIP. The Full Group previously discussed a basic approach of first coming to consensus on the foundational concepts of an agreement before conducting outreach sessions. At this point, several details around the protocol

and timing for elements such as program design, facility plan adjustments, inter-local agreements, and permits are not yet fully articulated. Given that some of these elements will take a considerable amount of time to establish, the Steering Workgroup considered the level of detail needed before local officials could be briefed on the contents of an agreement. Dave Peeler suggested that the Collaboration move forward with a two-phase approach, whereas the generalities of the agreement are documented into a higher-level memorandum of understanding (MOU). Within such a document, parties would agree to establish these outstanding elements in the future, such as inter-local agreements. The document would provide sufficient detail on outstanding elements and a schedule to convey the timing of completing products/decisions. This phased approach would allow the Collaboration to conduct outreach to local elected officials in a timely manner and for Ecology to move forward with amending the current draft TMDL with the finalized MIP document and the MOU as appendices. Ecology's target timeframe for a revision of the draft TMDL is Spring/Summer 2006, to be followed by a public comment period. The Full Group will consider the approach to an agreement and outreach to local elected officials at its next Full Group meeting.

### *3. Discuss Timing for Future Full Group Meetings*

The Steering Workgroup discussed the timing for its next Full Group meeting. Based on Ecology's next steps, discussed above, Dave Peeler suggested that at least six weeks are needed to review the draft MIP comments, conduct follow-up consultations with individual dischargers and other Collaboration participants, provide internal briefings, and complete document refinements. The Steering Workgroup agreed that the next Full Group meeting should occur in the mid-April timeframe.

The meeting concluded at approx 8:45 a.m.