MEETING SUMMARY

Spokane River TMDL Collaboration

Steering Workgroup Meeting

May 18, 2005

ATTENDEES:
Dale Arnold
Dick Denenny
Wayne Frost
Todd Mielke
Dave Peeler
Bruce Rawls

Bill Ross
Ryan Orth
Mike Sharar
John Spencer

The Steering Workgroup (WG) held a meeting on May 18 to discuss the following agenda:

1. Title for the Spokane River TMDL Effort
2. Composition of the Steering Workgroup
3. Workgroup Start-Up and Status
4. Fundamental Questions
5. Steering Workgroup Future Directions

1. Title for the Spokane River TMDL Effort
Participants discussed the overall name of this Spokane River effort, seeking a clear title that would distinguish it from other Spokane River-related projects currently underway. The group agreed that the title "Spokane River TMDL Collaboration" fulfilled this purpose.

In addition, participants decided to change the name of the Steering and Policy Workgroup to simply "Steering Workgroup."

2. Composition of the Steering Workgroup
The group discussed the inclusion of an Idaho petitioner on the Steering Workgroup (WG). Participants felt that this perspective is important, as the decisions of the group may affect upstream river uses. The City of Coeur d'Alene has requested to sit on the Steering WG and John Spencer will invite Sid Fredrickson to the next Steering WG meeting.

3. Workgroup Start-Up and Status
Bill Ross informed the Steering WG that he, Mike Sharar, and John Spencer convened a meeting of all WG Co-Chairs, at which all four Workgroups were represented. Co-Chairs received "Start-Up Kits" (found in the "Resources" section of the website) that included submission instructions and templates for meeting announcements and summaries, as well as copies of the Fundamental Questions. WG

Co-Chairs embraced their charges and reported that most of their Workgroups had already met. Richard Koch and Dave Knight of the Department of Ecology-ERO were not in attendance. Len Bramble has arranged to meet with Mr. Koch and Mr. Knight to debrief on the Start-Up Kit information and Co-Chairs meeting proceedings.

While the Fundamental Questions have been distributed to the Workgroups, observations on certain of the questions might remain fluid during start-up. The Steering WG agreed that any revisions to Fundamental Questions by the Steering WG will be quickly brought to the attention of all Workgroups.

The Steering WG will develop language for the front page of the Spokane River TMDL Collaboration website. It is anticipated that groups participating in the Collaborative will post similar language on their websites. In addition to maintaining a section on the website highlighting recent postings, Ross & Associates will distribute a weekly email update to Steering WG members of the most recent postings to help them each stay up to speed on what's going on.

3. Fundamental Questions

The Steering WG discussed several matters relating to the assignment of Fundamental Questions to the various Workgroups:

Participants followed a discussion from the May 17 All Co-Chairs Meeting concerning the workflow of the Technology Workgroup. At that meeting, Co-Chairs agreed that it will be necessary for the reports of the Non-Point Source, Flows & Loadings, and Re-Use and Conservation Workgroups to feed into the Technology WG as they consider various scenarios.

The Steering WG considered options for the period when the Technology Workgroup's answers to Fundamental Questions are "ripe" to apply to a TMDL Implementation strategy. The discussion included the option of migrating the Co-Chairs of each WG to the membership of the Technology group as well as the option forming an entirely new Workgroup. Participants agreed that a new workgroup is not necessary and that a regular meeting of all Co-Chairs remains an option to keep key leaders across the effort in close contact with each other's issues.

Steering WG members acknowledged that there may be several scenarios of source treatment and non-point source control to consider and that the Steering WG can help to develop the criteria for ranges of scale and cost, reliability, and performance that the Technology WG will apply in developing and evaluating scenarios.

The Steering Group also considered the assignment of a question investigating the feasibility of lake aeration. Participants agreed that this was an appropriate question for the Flows & Loadings WG to consider. Bruce Rawls suggested that a panel of experts be convened for a workshop on the topic. All agreed that such a workshop would be beneficial in the mid-June timeframe to avoid any delays, but should be targeted in scope to simply determine whether aeration is a technology that the Technology WG should consider. The Flows & Loadings WG is directed to begin scoping objectives and logistics for a Lake Aeration Technology Workshop in mid-June.

John Spencer suggested that the Steering WG consider a re-assignment of the question of measures and loadings. While the Technology WG is currently tasked with the question, "What are the measures to be used for determining the phosphorus loading limits to the river; daily, weekly, monthly,

seasonally?", this could be moved to the Flows & Loadings WG to alleviate the Technology group's workload. Todd Mielke commented that the questions of compliance measurement and loadings measurement are distinct. During the conversation it was also noted that the intention of posing the measurements and loadings question to the Technology WG was because this is where most of the effort's modelers were gathered. The Steering WG agreed that the loadings measurement question should remain with the Technology WG but that any discussion of compliance measurements and water quality standards were a second-order issue that should be considered once the effort reaches the point of developing TMDL implementation scenarios.

4. Future directions

The Steering WG will meet on June 9th, from 8:30-9:30 a.m. and again on June 17th, from 7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m.

The Steering WG briefly discussed the next full group meeting, to take place on June 23rd. The group decided that the June meeting should be longer in duration than the May 11 meeting, and was tentatively scheduled from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Rather than catering a lunch, the Full Group will break for lunch on one's own and reconvene. Dale Arnold will coordinate with the Spokane Fire Deportment to secure the Fire Training Center location. The Full Group meeting agenda will be discussed further at the June 9 and 17 Steering WG meetings.