

# Spokane River TMDL Collaboration

## Steering Workgroup

June 2, 2006

Dale Arnold

Rick Eichstaedt (as observer)

Dick Denenny

Sid Fredrickson

Wayne Frost

Jack Lynch

Todd Mielke

Dave Peeler

Bruce Rawls

Bill Ross

Ryan Orth

Mike Sharar

John Spencer

The Steering Workgroup met to discuss the following agenda:

1. Status of Ecology's next version of the draft Managed Implementation Plan
2. Discuss Ecology's upcoming visits to Spokane
3. Discuss timing for the next Collaboration Full Group Meeting

1. *Status of Ecology's next version of the draft Managed Implementation Plan*

Dave Peeler provided an update on the status of Ecology's draft Managed Implementation Plan (MIP). Ecology is currently working on the next draft of the MIP document and will be reviewing it with EPA early next week. The MIP document will remain in draft status pending another round of consultations with several of the collaboration participants. The MIP document will be distributed to the Collaboration via email and posted to the Collaboration website before the next Full Group meeting.

2. *Discuss Ecology's upcoming visits to Spokane*

The contents of the latest draft MIP document will be the subject of individual consultations between Ecology and several of the collaboration participants during the week of June 12th. Ecology has met with Spokane County on June 1 and will establish a schedule to meet with the City of Spokane, City of Spokane Valley, Liberty Lake Sewer & Water District, Inland Empire Paper, and Sierra Club. Ecology will also contact a number of other Collaboration participants, including the Spokane Tribe of Indians, Lands Council, Avista, and Idaho DEQ. These discussions may result in further refinement of the MIP document.

3. *Discuss timing for the next Collaboration Full Group Meeting*

The Steering Workgroup discussed the timing around a final Full Group meeting. Todd Mielke reported that the City of Spokane and Spokane County had met in the last week and agreed that the Collaboration process should move forward quickly. The County will be meeting separately over the next few weeks with the Cities of Spokane and Spokane Valley to further discuss the

Collaboration and an Agreement in Principle. The Steering Workgroup suggested that another round of individual consultations after the week of the 12th will not be necessary and that the Full Group should meet on the proposed June 29th date. The June 29 Full Group meeting would focus on a review of the final MIP document, then to serve as an Agreement in Principle between the dischargers and Ecology. At the June 29 meeting, Full Group representatives will be able to speak to their ability to support the details of this document. After June 29, Ecology and the dischargers will make a determination of how they will move forward with gaining approval from the various entities who will sign the Agreement in Principle, which will then direct the next steps for establishing a series of legally-enforceable actions, such as the issuance of NPDES permits, or other agreements with Ecology, as appropriate.

The Steering Workgroup also discussed convening a meeting of regional elected officials after June 29 to discuss the contents of the MIP/Agreement in Principle. This informational briefing would be targeted for mid-July and would involve a section-by-section overview of the document. Ecology would be in attendance at this meeting.

Before adjourning, Dave Peeler provided an update to the Steering Workgroup on a June 22 Ecology press event in Spokane to announce the release of three reports focused on toxics in the Spokane River: a PCB draft TMDL technical document, a Statewide Toxics Report focused on fish tissue sampling, and a technical report of 2005 toxics sampling data in the Spokane area focused on PDBE, in part. Dave Peeler commented that the purpose of the press release event is to announce the availability of the reports and to address the process for moving forward on these toxics issues. Mr. Peeler is prepared to speak to the general relationship of the draft PCB TMDL to the DO TMDL for the Spokane River.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.