MEETING SUMMARY

Spokane River TMDL Collaboration

Steering Workgroup Meeting

July 15, 2005

ATTENDEES:

Dale Arnold
Jim Bellatty
Kevin Cooke (for Bruce Rawls)
Tim Connor, Observer
Dick Denenny
Sid Fredrickson
Wayne Frost
Jack Lynch
Todd Mielke
Dave Peeler
Bill Ross
Ryan Orth
Mike Sharar
John Spencer

The Steering Workgroup held a meeting on July15 to discuss the following agenda:

1. Workgroups—Status Reports
    a. Flows & Loadings
    b. Re-Use & Conservation
    c. Technology
    d. Non-Point Source

2. July 22 Full Group Meeting—Confirm Agenda and Supporting Materials

1. Workgroup Status Reports

John Spencer and Mike Sharar provided updates on the status of each of the workgroups. The following topics were discussed in detail:

Flows & Loadings Workgroup

The Flows & Loadings Workgroup has nearly assembled their projected flows and loadings and will present their findings at the July 22 Full Group Meeting. The Flows & Loadings Workgroup is researching the removal of pounds of phosphorus from the Spokane River via industrial and commercial sources and found helpful examples from work done in Minneapolis, MN. John Spencer indicated that he can provide contacts to the Minneapolis Metropolitan Council, which has taken significant phosphorus removal measures.

In response to the Fundamental Question addressing aeration/oxygenation, the Flows & Loadings Workgroup has developed a matrix that describes outcomes and costs specific to various aeration/oxygenation goals. In addition, each goal will be described by its aeration methodology and probability of success. Mark Butell and Barry Moore of Washington State University have begun to scope the costs of studying sediment oxygen demand at Long Lake. Butell and Moore propose sampling for comparison to the TMDL model before moving to a larger study.

Re-Use & Conservation Workgroup
The Re-Use and Conservation Workgroup is staying focused on their Fundamental Questions and will make their main report on findings, to date, of re-use opportunities, their locations, and their seasonality characteristics. The potential land application of re-use water in Idaho will be included in the Flows & Loadings Workgroups' data. The Re-Use & Conservation Workgroup will also report on its progress in identifying conservation opportunities. The Workgroup is considering a Conservation Workshop with contributions from around the Pacific Northwest. The Spokane Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers has offered to assist with the development of such a Workshop. The Re-Use & Conservation Workgroup has encountered several questions around both re-use and conservation that will be addressed at the Full Group meeting, including the range of flows reductions and their effect on phosphorus levels, aquifer recharge, water potability, water rights, and program funding. The Re-Use and Conservation Workgroup will need up to 60 minutes at the Full Group meeting for their report.

Technology Workgroup
The Technology Workgroup is working very well and making many points of contact to populate their matrix, which lists over 100 dischargers and the various technologies they employ to reduce phosphorus levels, among other characteristics. The Workgroup is still in a data-gathering stage and will not have detailed results to present at the Full Group meeting. Wayne Frost and Inland Empire Paper hosted the Technology Workgroup's meeting this week to view Inland Empire's technology pilot. The manufacturer pool is limited and some manufacturers have emerged as key to meeting phosphorus reduction goals. The Workgroup and/or Inland Empire staff will report on their pilot at the Full Group Meeting. This pilot will not be completed until July 29, so no conclusionary statements can be made, only preliminary observations from the data gathered thus far.

Non-Point Source Workgroup
The Non-Point Source Workgroup continues their search for pounds from non-point sources but seem to agree that the search among these sources is quite complex and that the pounds reduced from non-point sources are relatively small. There is an effort underway to re-energize the non-point source workgroup around the goal of making the search for pounds as tangible as possible through a work plan that will produce meaningful data. While the aggregate non-point source contribution is not large, its significance increases greatly after we look at the pounds reduced through other methods and the remaining delta. The reductions of non-point source phosphorus contributions may also be significant for the long-term, overall health of Long Lake by altering sediment oxygen demand and dissolved phosphorus levels. The Full Group should provide direction to the Non-Point Source Workgroup to assure that they will place these small but significant non-point source pounds in context.

Given that their task is so difficult, John Spencer spoke with Co-Chair Neil Kersten about options to provide direction to the Non-Point Source Workgroup. The Workgroup would benefit from group facilitation and a clear methodology for producing significant data. The data-gathering effort will require significant resources to locate local data and reference projects that can establish ranges of possibility for various non-point sources. Mike Sharar has produced a draft non-point source matrix based on the framework given by Rob Greenwood and Brewster Boyd. The matrix established a common set of terms based on the lexicon from EPA's water quality trading guidance, and will improve workgroup communication. It will also help in communications with EPA and to discern where it is most cost effective to reduce pounds of phosphorus. The matrix displays for each non-point source: location on the river, the methods could be employed to gain reductions, estimates of likely

reductions, probability of reductions due to distance, seasonality factors, and a discount/probability factor. The Non-Point Source Workgroup has embraced this draft matrix and will present their approach and timeframe for data gathering under this new framework to the Full Group and get their feedback. The Workgroup will likely not meet the August meeting date to complete its data gathering efforts and may require further technical assistance to meet its new timeframe.

The Non-Point Source Co-Chairs, Neil Kersten and Dave Knight will not be in attendance at the July 22 meeting. John Spencer and Mike Sharar will speak with alternates Lars Hendron and Jim Bellatty to coordinate communications with the Non-Point Source Workgroup members.

Todd Mielke asked about workgroup progress on the question of septic tanks and their contribution of phosphorus to the river. Mike Sharar responded that the workgroup has considered septic tanks as a non-point source of phosphorous, but faces several complex questions, including how to determine what percentage of septic effluent reaches the river as well as the nature of non-soluble phosphorous and its movement. The Workgroup continues to investigate sources of local data and comparative studies to draw from to address these questions. Of particular interest is the Clark Fork, MT study performed by HDR.

Wayne Frost asked about the Non-Point Source Workgroup's consideration of the Spokane River tributaries: Latah Creek, Hangman Creek, and the Little Spokane River. The Workgroup is getting a sense of these contributions and will be able to apply more rigor as the TMDLs for these tributaries become available. Dave Peeler indicated that the draft TMDL for the Spokane River included background reductions from Hangman Creek and the Little Spokane River.

3. July 22 Full Group Meeting—Confirm Agenda and Supporting Materials

The Steering Workgroup formulated an agenda for the July 22 Full Group meeting, which is to be posted to the Collaboration website. The agenda consists of the following items:

- 30-60 minutes will be allotted to each Workgroup to present findings and updates
- 30 minutes will be reserved for discussing project trajectory and next steps for August 24 meeting

Bill Ross explained that the Full Group will begin to crosswalk the Workgroup findings at the August Full Group meeting. The Workgroups should be able to describe the influential parameters of their research geographically, temporally, and within the matrix, so the Full Group can begin to consider the delta of pounds and think about what a negotiation could look like. Mike, John, and Bill will work with each of the Co-Chairs to develop this rolled-up information.

The question was raised as to whether data from the Workgroups was going to fit into one matrix. Bill Ross responded that Rob Greenwood and he were coordinating to ensure workgroup matrixes are feeding meaningful information to a larger analysis.

Any media inquiries may be directed to the Collaboration website or to Bill Ross for discussion of the Collaboration process. There is no prohibition on speaking with the media so long as members are not attempting to characterize someone else's views or the outcomes of the group.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 AM.