

# Spokane River TMDL Collaboration

## Steering Workgroup Meeting

November 4, 2005

### Attendees

Dale Arnold  
Dick Denenny  
Sid Fredrickson  
Wayne Frost  
Tim Larson  
Jack Lynch  
Todd Mielke  
Dave Peeler  
Bruce Rawls

Bill Ross  
Ryan Orth  
Mike Sharar

The Steering Workgroup met to discuss the status information gathering and dissemination as Full Group members continue to develop their scenarios. On October 28, a group including John Spencer, Dale Arnold, Dave Peeler, Jim Bellatty, Mike Sharar, Rick Eichsteadt, Tim Connor, Rachael Paschal-Osborn, and Bonne Beaver, along with Bill Ross and Ryan Orth, met to discuss “due diligence” relative to the technology data input to the Collaborative process. The meeting led to a productive exchange of information, including discussion of what could be a process for selecting and implementing technology-based solutions. The group discussed additional items such as non-point source control, conservation and re-use opportunities, PCBs, and general permitting approaches, including that for Spokane County’s new discharge. Overall, representatives from both the dischargers and Sierra Club had the opportunity to clarify their general scenario aspirations and found several areas of convergence.

Bill Ross relayed details from a recent conversation with John Spencer, where Mr. Spencer commented that a report with additional research and information on exemplary treatment plant operations would be available sometime before the submittal of scenarios. The Steering Workgroup agreed that any new technology-related information should move through the Technology Workgroup to the Full Group as an information-sharing exercise, not as a task for the Full Group to analyze. Therefore the report should be gotten to the Co-Chairs of the Technology Workgroup for distribution.

The Steering Workgroup discussed the overall schedule and next steps of the Collaboration. The deadline for submittal of scenarios is extended to November 15<sup>th</sup>. A Steering Workgroup meeting will be convened prior to the November 22 Full Group meeting to set the meeting agenda. At this point, it is anticipated that the Full Group meeting will focus on presentations by those who have submitted scenarios and discuss questions surrounding the sequence and timing of scenarios. The Full Group

will also likely have questions about Ecology's views, based on what has been offered in the scenarios and Ecology's responsibilities under the law.

Between the November 22 and December 16 Full Group meetings, Ecology will begin to formulate a concept of what could provide reasonable assurance for an outcome to the Collaboration process, including timing of implementation actions, the type of agreement, costs, etc. Ecology has reserved the December 7-9 timeframe to discuss these items with scenario developers and other individual Full Group members. The next steps after the December 16<sup>th</sup> Full Group meeting will depend on what Ecology receives in the scenarios and may lead to another Full Group meeting and/or further individual meetings between Ecology and Full Group members. The Steering Workgroup also discussed the potential need to understand phosphorous removal in the shoulder months through runs of the TMDL model. If this shoulder month question becomes critical for review of the scenarios before the December 16<sup>th</sup> Full Group meeting, it will be important to have any model question prepared in advance to avoid delays in the Collaboration process.

The Steering Workgroup discussed an upcoming policy coordination meeting between EPA Region 10, Ecology, and Idaho DEQ. Dave Peeler explained that the three agencies meet once a month to discuss policy-level matters. In a recent conversation with Tom Eaton at EPA, Mr. Peeler learned there will be discussion at this November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of technical issues resulting from different scenarios and model runs performed by EPA. EPA is beginning to scope their legal requirements as a permitting agency for Idaho dischargers and as a review agency for permits issued by Ecology for Washington dischargers. While EPA will share this draft information with Idaho DEQ and Ecology, it does not represent any attempt at generating a specific removal compliance target at this time. Sid Fredrickson raised his concern that EPA permit writers may be moving independent of the Collaboration process. Bill Ross will gather more information on the coordination of EPA processes and Collaboration process from Tom Eaton.

Bill Ross informed the Steering Workgroup that the Monitoring Workgroup will meet on November 14 and expects to have a final report to present to the Full Group on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The meeting concluded with a reminder that the public is beginning to get more interested and involved in the Collaboration process as dischargers are sharing information and answering questions from their respective elected officials. Full Group members are encouraged to actively communicate their Collaboration-related efforts with one another.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.