

Spokane River TMDL Collaboration

Steering Workgroup

December 14, 2005

Wayne Andresson
Dale Arnold
Tim Connor (as observer)
Sid Fredrickson
Jack Lynch
Todd Mielke
Dave Peeler
Bruce Rawls

Bill Ross
Ryan Orth
Mike Sharar
John Spencer

The Steering Workgroup held a meeting on December 14 to discuss the following agenda:

1. Monitoring Workgroup Report
2. Discuss Status of Workgroups for the Future
3. Discuss Development of Path Forward for an Agreement
4. December 16 Full Group Meeting— Confirm agenda and supporting materials

Bill Ross opened the session and with additions to the agenda from Steering Workgroup members, the agenda was reorganized in the following fashion: the discussion of the path forward was moved to the beginning of the agenda, to be followed by a discussion of the status of the workgroups and then the Monitoring Workgroup report, before establishing the agenda for the December 16 Full Group meeting.

1. Discuss Development of Path Forward for an Agreement

The Steering Workgroup discussed the Collaboration process for developing a substantive framework for an Implementation Plan and agreement and the importance of Ecology addressing its view of what could provide reasonable assurance. Dave Peeler commented that Ecology intends to review the scenarios submitted by the group of dischargers and the Sierra Club and identify the primary elements of a path forward for discussion at the December 16 Full Group meeting. Ecology expects that a series of questions and issues will remain after their review of submitted scenarios and discussion of the Ecology's response to the scenarios. Due to time constraints and to encourage a dialogue amongst the Full Group members, Ecology will not document this draft outline for distribution at this time, but will share the details of its response with the Full Group. As the draft outline of an Ecology

scenario is developed, Ecology will continue its conversations with various stakeholders participating in the Collaboration, track the contents of these conversations, and incorporate this feedback to ensure the development of a comprehensive scenario that will provide reasonable assurance and move the Collaboration towards an Implementation Plan and agreement. The Steering Workgroup discussed the need for two meetings of the Full Group in January to discuss and gather feedback on the Ecology scenario outline. Todd Mielke suggested the Full Group focus on the outline section-by-section at these January meetings as an expedient method of making progress on the Implementation Plan concepts. The Full Group will consider this approach at their December 16 meeting and, if in concurrence with this approach, identify the topics to discuss at each meeting.

2. Discuss Status of the Workgroups for the Future

The Steering Workgroup considered the current status of the Workgroups. It was noted that there is continued activity around treatment technology through reports, site visits, and workshops. The Steering Workgroup agreed that to the extent that any new information is developed through these activities, it may be incorporated by individual dischargers undergoing the process of selecting the best technology for their respective operations; however, for the purposes of gathering data to address the Fundamental Questions, the Technology Workgroup's duties are now complete. The Steering Workgroup suggested that the individual Workgroups may receive additional assignments in the future, at the discretion of the Full Group.

3. Monitoring Workgroup

The Steering Workgroup discussed the current status of the Monitoring Workgroup. The Monitoring Workgroup has made minor additions to its draft report and will complete its final written report by the December 16 Full Group meeting, at which point the report will be posted to the Collaboration website. The Monitoring workgroup is now in "standby" mode until it receives any further instruction from the Full Group.

4. December 16 Full Group Meeting— Confirm agenda and supporting materials

The Steering Workgroup discussed the agenda topics for the December 16 Full Group meeting. The morning session will focus on Ecology's response to the scenarios. A discussion of Workgroups' status will follow, and then an update on EPA's activities related to the Collaboration. After lunch, the Full Group will discuss public education and information activities before reviewing the next steps resulting from this meeting and the Collaboration's future schedule.

John Spencer raised the issue of modeling and whether or not this topic would be addressed at the Full Group meeting. Dave Peeler commented that given EPA's role in issuing permits for Idaho dischargers, any model runs should be conducted by the successors to the Monitoring Workgroup, combined with the EPA, Ecology, and Idaho DEQ technical team, to ensure that each model run is updated with the most current information. A discussion of modeling will be added to the Full Group conversation about the status of the Workgroups.

The meeting concluded at approx 8:30 a.m.