

**Spokane River DO TMDL Implementation Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Spokane Regional Health District**  
**June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**Minutes**

**In Attendance:** Adriane Borgias, Ecology; Galen Buterbaugh, Lake Spokane Association; Ben Brattebo, Spokane County Utilities; Bud Leber, Kaiser; Sarah Hubbard Gray, HGC; Lee Mellish, Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District; Elizabeth Schoedel, City of Spokane; Meghan Lunney, Avista; Doug Krapas, Inland Empire Paper; Lynn Schmidt, City of Spokane; Tom Agnew, Liberty Lake Water and Sewer District; Dan Redline, IDEQ; Dave Moss, Spokane County; Elaine Snowaert, Ecology; Don Martin, US EPA; Dave Moore, Ecology.

**On Phone:** Brian Crossley, Spokane Tribe of Indians; Mike Petersen, Lands Council

**Spokane River Forum Staff:** Andy Dunau, Cami Haveman.

All meeting materials, including those referenced in these minutes can be found online at [www.spokaneriver.net/dotmdl](http://www.spokaneriver.net/dotmdl).

**Welcome and Introductions**

Andy Dunau welcomed participants to the meeting, each of whom introduced themselves.

Monthly meetings will be held the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 2:00 pm. Meeting locations to be announced. Meetings will rotate between Tool Box issues, Tracking/Monitoring issues and full group advisory meetings.

Participants requested that an updated advisory committee listed be posted on the web site and sent out.

**DO TMDL Tool Box**

Resources on web: Resources requested at the previous work group meeting have been added to the web site. They include: Permitting and Reporting Information System (PARIS), Ambient Water Quality Data, The Environmental Information Management (EIM) Database, Quality Assurance Project Plan: Lake Spokane Nutrient Monitoring, Spokane River and Lake Spokane (Long Lake) Pollutant Loading Assessment for Protecting Dissolved Oxygen, and SRSP 2009 Modeling Memo. Descriptions of each resource and access to them can be found under the Resources link in the green, left column tool bar at [www.spokaneriver.net/dotmdl](http://www.spokaneriver.net/dotmdl).

Path Forward Based on Outcomes of March 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting: Adriane Borgias handed out and reviewed two documents: *DO TMDL Toolbox Implementation Schedule and Spokane River DO TMDL Compliance Toolbox Manual Format*. Collectively, they provide a timeline for the order in which to work on tools, when they may become available, and the steps needed for Ecology to provide approval for use. Dialog resulted in the following clarifications:

- More than one tool can be worked on at a time. However, Ecology wishes to prioritize what tools will be worked on to assure that available resources can be properly targeted and tools most desired available in a timely manner.
- Sarah Hubbard Gray and Doug Krapas will complete drafts for Equivalency Exchange and Bio/Ortho P definitions. This will include distinguishing between static and dynamic equivalency.
- There is concern among permit holders that BioP/OrthoP work will be delayed because it does not show in the time line until 2014. Beyond definitions, Ecology will be working with permit holders to establish expectations and what is necessary to move forward. See BAP review update notes below for more information. When reviews are complete, the chart will be updated if necessary.
- Consensus that the Bubble Permit tool first requires completion of Equivalency Exchange.
- Committee recommended that chart be renamed “Toolbox Development Schedule.”

PSU Modeling Update: Dave Moore explained that with remaining dollars in contract, PSU is nearing completion on a framework by which point source location ratios could be assigned on the mainstem. Who, and at what cost, would be able to run the model using location ratio framework is not determined at this time. The memo is expected to be available for distribution at the end of June and will be further reviewed/discussed at July DO TMDL meeting. [Posted on web site June 26<sup>th</sup>] Committee members were asked to receive input from their technical consultants regarding possible framework uses, needs or limitations before July meeting. Committee members also asked if PSU would be available to answer questions. Ecology will check.

BAP Review Update: Adriane provided a PowerPoint reviewing the history and status of BAP work.

Adriane reminded the committee that “no matter who decides to pursue BAP, modeling with modified BAP inputs has to be consistent with the TMDL model and cannot negatively affect Avista’s DO responsibility found in Table 7 of the TMDL.”

Ecology senior staff asked her to complete a “line by line” review of activity to date and respond to the following questions:

- Did original study meet the goals of the QAPP?
- Were the comments submitted by Ecology and EPA adequately addressed?
- Have Ecology’s requests for data been met?

Permit holders expressed a clear desire to move forward with a QAPP to fund further BAP studies. At the same time, permit holders acknowledge that a QAPP needs to yield a potential product that Ecology would use to support possible inclusion of BioP/OrthoP in the tool box. Ecology does not feel it can do this, or commit to further study, before the “line by line” review of previous work, results and possible gaps is complete.

The Ecology memo will be released at the beginning of July and reviewed at the July meeting.

July 23 Meeting Agenda: Based on meeting discussion, it was agreed the agenda would include definition review for Equivalency Exchange and BioP/OrthoP; review of Ecology BAP memo; and review of PSU Modeling memo.

### **Tracking/Monitoring**

Cusimano Report: Adriane reviewed Ecology’s intent to use the Table of Contents from the Cusimano report “Spokane River and Lake Spokane (Long Lake) Pollutant Loading Assessment for Protecting Dissolved Oxygen” as the outline for developing the 10 year assessment report. Ecology and the committee agree that changes in circumstance, modeling and knowledge will require changes to the table of contents.

Dave Moore affirmed that the model does drive the assessment; however, there is a need to get a whole picture which requires collection of data and studies. Questions regarding how the report will be used within the context of the permit cycle will be added to a future agenda.

Participants shared ideas about using this framework to show what’s possible in Lake Spokane, clarify goals and objectives for assessment process, and desires for “trending” vs. “snapshot” data. Ecology asked that participants work with their technical advisors to provide comments to Ecology on how the 10 year assessment will be used in the permit cycle by August 1. Adriane will synthesize these comments in preparation for August 21 meeting.

### **Web Based Non-point Source Tracking Tool**

Andy noted that the Forum has a web based application that would allow non-point source data to be collected and reported using a mapping tool. As part of completing Spokane County NPS project, a spreadsheet tool for collecting information that would be displayed on the web was developed at the end of 2011. Elaine Snowaert with Ecology noted that for Hangman they have been collecting data and considering options on how to report.

Beyond the technology itself, a number of issues were identified that include:

- Who is the “consumer” of this information, and what are their needs for information/reporting;
- Their needs to be a central party who can collect and validate data for consistency before posting;
- Spokane County no longer has funding to continue NPS work. What agency will step-up and can manage data needs?
- How will it be used to support 10 year assessment report?

Andy agreed to meet with Ben, Elaine, and others to work through these questions and report back at August meeting.

### **Update: Avista Water Quality Attainment Plan**

Meghan Lunney reported that Avista submitted its water quality attainment plan for reducing dissolved oxygen in Lake Spokane at the end of May. Avista is required to incorporate comments and submit to FERC by September, 2012.

Carp reduction and aquatic weed harvesting are the most prominent actions expected. Other actions include acquiring wetlands and conservation properties, and educating property owners about native plants, fertilizer reduction and septic tanks. Although FERC approval of the plan is not expected until sometime in 2013, early action steps are being taken. Galen asked if reduction of largescale suckers could be used as well as carp because a WDFW study showed a similar level of bio-mass. Meghan said they'd investigate.

In addition, Avista is continuing the nutrient monitoring program in Lake Spokane that was started with Ecology during 2010 and 2011 at six lake stations.

Discussion ensued regarding how Avista's actions, monitoring and modeling will integrate with Ecology TMDL implementation as it is two different regulatory processes. Avista will actively participate in DO TMDL Advisory Group and work with Ecology and participants to integrate data. Avista will also continue to provide the committee regular updates on their activities.

### **Next Steps**

Per committee request, Andy will update advisory committee list and post on web site (done).

PSU Modeling Framework to be posted on DO TMDL web site by end of June (done). Committee members were asked to receive input from their technical consultants regarding possible framework uses, needs or limitations before July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Doug and Sarah will draft definitions for static equivalency, dynamic equivalency, Ortho-P and BAP (done). This will be an agenda item for July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Ecology BAP Review memo will be posted beginning of July (postponed to mid-July). BAP definitions and memo review will be an agenda item for July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Cusmiano Table of Contents will be used as the outline for developing the 10 year assessment report. By August 1 Ecology asked that participants work with their technical advisors to provide comments on a) revisions recommended to Table of Contents, and b) how the 10 year assessment can best support the permit cycle.

Andy agreed to meet with Ben, Elaine, and others to work through non-point source reporting questions and report back at August meeting (in process).

**Meeting Adjourned**