Spokane River DO TMDL Tracking/Monitoring Workgroup
Washington Department of Ecology
August 21st, 2012

Minutes

In Attendance: Adriane Borgias, Ecology; Ben Brattebo, Spokane County Utilities; Tom Agnew, Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District; Tim Pelton, City of Spokane; Doug Krapas, Inland Empire Paper; Dave Moss, Spokane County; Bart Milhailovich, River Keeper; Mike Petersen, Lands Council; Sarah Hubbard Gray, HGC; Rick Noll, Spokane Conservation District; Elaine Snouwaert, Ecology; Charlie Kessler, Stevens County Conservation District; Pat Hallinan, Ecology

On Phone: Brian Crossley, Spokane Tribe of Indians; Ken Windram, HARSB

Spokane River Forum Staff: Andy Dunau

All meeting materials, including those referenced in these minutes can be found on-line at www.spokaneriver.net/dotmdl.

Welcome and Introductions

Andy Dunau welcomed participants to the meeting, each of whom introduced themselves. Andy announced that due to changes in Ecology staff schedules, meeting dates and times for September and October would be changing.

Updates

PSU Spokane River Location Ratios Memo

Comments submitted by advisory committee members were reviewed. There is agreement that Spokane River locaction ratios are not needed for Static Equivalency Exchange, Alternate Season Limits and OrthoP tool box options. Dave Moore will be asked to confirm that it is not needed for possible Dynamic Equivalency Exchange and Bubble Permit options.

There are on-going questions about the need for mainstem location ratios for establishing stormwater reduction credit, septic credit and mainstem trading. Terms and definitions need to be clarified. These questions and the PSU document will be revisited when vigorous analysis of one or more of these tool box options commences.

BAP Research

Comments submitted by advisory committee members were reviewed. Dave Moss and others reiterated their interest in pursuing this research. Adriane Borgias noted Ecology

is interested in BAP research. Further consideration will be based on a broader state-wide and national discussion. There is no time line for when these broader discussions will take place or the advisory committee provided further information.

Non-Point Source Tracking

Elaine Snouwaert reviewed discussion from a July 16th ad-hoc meeting to consider needs and options for tracking/monitoring efforts to reduce phosphorus loading into the Spokane River from tributaries, primarily Hangman Creek and Little Spokane.

The committee agreed that monitoring stations at the confluence of each tributary and the river would be used to assess "outcomes," changes in loading over the ten year assessment period. Within a tributary, however, participants agree that geologic age of the system, annual changes in weather patterns, time for NPS reduction projects to become fully effective, and effects of upstream activities, e.g.—clear cutting, would make it impossible to associate one or more activities with reduced loading as measured at the confluence.

The committee does consider assessing "level of effort" within each tributary important. Elaine acknowledged that tracking level of effort and projects will help Ecology assess whether the modeled estimate of possible tributary loading reductions is fully achievable. If significant implementation has taken place but predicted reductions are not realized, future recalibration of the DO TMDL model may be needed. She also reiterated that predicted reductions in sediment loading are based on mitigation of human impacts.

Ben Brattebo reviewed the tool developed by the County NPS project to track NPS projects. The committee agreed that with minor adjustments this would be a valid way to assess effort and track projects over time.

One challenge is that projects are undertaken and tracked by a variety of entities. No single organization knows where all of the projects are. To help identify projects, the Hangman Creek Bi-State Group facilitated by Spokane Conservation District could be helpful. A second challenge is who will manage collection and input of data over time. The committee believes managing this effort is an Ecology responsibility.

Andy showed a web tool that can be used to show location of projects and summary data being collected by the tool Ben developed.

Information and input from the committee will be folded into tracking/monitoring work plan.

Developing 10 year assessment report

The committee reviewed comments to the Cusimano table of contents from the 2004 report summarizing the predicted water quality conditions in the Spokane River system under different loading conditions.

The committee has on-going questions regarding how much the 10 year assessment will focus on:

- updating (tuning/recalibrating) of the model
- specific water quality improvements within Lake Spokane
- outcomes of plant upgrades
- NPS loading from the tributaries
- additional research needs previously identified by SRSP

With these considerations, the next committee meeting will focus specifically on goals and objectives of tracking/monitoring for 10 year assessment.

Meeting Adjourned