

Agenda April 22, 2019 (Earth-Day)

Intro: Joe, Jay, Matt, Eleanor, Mindy

Business

- RI/FS update (Joe)
 - BERA/Sediment toxicity phase 3
 - DQO - comments sent March; Teck came back with the first version of sediment sampling and they increased the number of samples from 15 to 20 – we asked for 30 samples in each area of interest to improve precision which is also what EPA wanted. They also wanted to identify slag by Zinc level alone and we suggested using another method in addition (e.g., optical or electron microscopy). They also left open other types of porewater sampling, but Joe thinks that the trident probe is likely the best.
 - Macroinvert/Benthic Tissue – final report is done and Mindy will summarize this in the July newsletter
 - Data management plan – isn't back yet. EPA still has three comments not yet addressed.
 - Wildlife TRV – final EPA comments went to Teck. We asked for a copy of the comments but haven't gotten them yet.
 - Fish – final report will issue April 24; we are waiting for a copy.
 - USGS phase 2 sediment data not accepted by Teck (was found to be toxic).
 - COPC draft final comments went in – when porewater and plant data are available EPA will need to go back and look at this; they may need to revisit.
 - TIE – still ongoing. Teck is going ahead with longer-term toxicity study.
 - Background soil – soil approach comments just went to Teck from EPA. Nothing is happening with the rest of the document.
 - HHRA river and upland portions – comments on HHRA river portion was sent a few months ago and the upland portion comments are due May 24. On the March 27th EPA call, Joe brought up some comments and one of his concerns is about the tables from the original draft – lead level risks were determined using average values of 139 ppm for beach exposure risk. Marc said that the HHRA would address this and use actual measured values when available. Matt and Joe both think that this lead level sounds low. Joe wonders if this is the bioavailable level.
 - Plants – comments due May 20 (split sample memo).
 - Soil amendment/technology (SATES) – we had a call about this study and Joe asked Kira if XRF data would be posted for the homogenization and she said that she would ask Teck. They are working on a draft of the bench scale testing being performed at Ohio State.
 - Aerial delineation – Still no date for EPA and Teck meeting with the higher ups to resolve issues with this study.
 - Tribal use – comments sent April 15 and EPA responded to them on the March call. Mindy mentions that Monica/EPA has been discussing our comments lately on these calls which allows us to ask follow-up questions and get clarification. For blood levels, a child is defined by EPA as less than age 6 years.

- Recreational use – We asked again for zip code analysis, and Marc said no because the residential soil study will capture risk to residents. On a positive note, SRC will use response data from “outliers” who reported spending 16 hours on the beach.
- Sediment transport – still on the list of studies to be completed.
- Northern Pike (NP) DSR – the final report will issue by the end of April. Matt saw something online by UCUT talking about netting NP soon, down to Lake Roosevelt. We are not sure how far down the river NP are found. Carol thinks Inchelium.
- Bossburg – nothing new
- Skeo news (Joe) – Status quo. Information flow much better. Skeo is a private consulting firm and contract company that handles the technical assistance program where Joe is housed now. Discussed. One concern is that Joe used to be able to look at the actual data when reviewing summary reports. Now the database is not up until the report issues so unless they give you a spread sheet with the data, you can’t evaluate use and interpretation of the data. Joe has major concerns about that but doesn’t appear to be anything to be done. We will bring this up on the next call.
- Website (Hil) – Hil already set up a website also so Jamie duplicated some of those efforts. May need a new email to be the administrator. Will straighten this out with Jamie. Also a facebook group site and blog have been set up.
- Epidemiologic study - Discussed population in Northport area and potential people affected by contamination. Also, no information from the second study using hair and toenail samples. Josh never shared data. Mindy and Jamie will contact Josh.
- Air monitoring (Cliff per Bob, Joe) – Mindy, Joe and Jamie plan to meet with Bob soon to develop an action plan. Considering a public meeting about this as well
- Columbia River Treaty update (Jay) – tentative date to meet with DR Michel May 24 at Kettle Falls Historical Center; 5:30 pm. Spoke with David. Hope to get some representation from the Spokane tribe to update us on phase 1 study results. Potential topics being solicited. Invited are board members of CCC and Steve Shot with Kettle Falls Historical Society. CCC will host the food – pizza and attendees can bring snacks. Fee is by donation. Carol mentions that we would fit in the kitchen. Hil suggests CCC host the event offering \$25 and food. Unanimous approval. Could also have a donation jar. David is trying to find someone on the Canadian side to speak about the CRT. Eileen Perkes is a possibility. Matt suggests Salmo stream keepers.
- T-shirt ideas – reached out on facebook and saw a post that the couple who made the shirts previously are traveling at the moment. Will meet with Patty to get a T-shirt design. We should have enough available for summer sales to make new shirts. Hil and Carol will work on that.

New Business

- Clare Dibble (dibble13@gmail.com): Art and trip down the Columbia River. She is interested in connecting with people from many backgrounds along the river; especially those who might wish to interact including artists, writers, and poets. Website is watershedmoments.art. Mindy has connected Claire via email with Jamie and Patti Bailey.
- Matt: Dept of Ecology proposed clean-up of Northport city park. Wonders if there is other information. Joe observed the sampling in March and thought that the sampling program was excellent. Joe spoke with John Roland and they want to have a meeting

after they have both the data and a plan for remediation. Early fall for a possible meeting. Matt wonders about funding when they couldn't do air monitoring. They got a grant for this.

- Eleanor mentions tributaries. She is with Steven's county DOE - floating islands of vegetation in Lake Spokane. The goal is to help protect from erosion. She is also a voting member on a stewardship program to protect critical areas that intersect with agriculture. Will be planting on the 26th. Mindy asks that she write this up and put it on our facebook page and in the newsletter.

Adjourn.