

Minutes December 10, 2018 – General Member Meeting

Present: Hil, Carol, Ted, Matt, Cliff, David King, Mindy, Joe, Jay, Richard, Eleanor
Business

- Columbia River Treaty update (Mindy Smith (Round Table update)/David King)
Mindy gave her update on the Columbia Round Table. David spoke about his initial meeting to raise awareness about the CRT – he hopes to create a series of articles to present different perspectives on the CRT. Collaborating with DR Michele and Jay Berube. Weekly publications are uninterested. First article was written by Chelan Public Utility District. Second article will be from irrigators – Tim Columbia Basin Hydropower. Eileen Perkes will write the next one about the BC communities. Fisherman concerns voiced – they worry about tribes destroying their opportunities. Contacts discussed to contribute. For a recreational fishing perspective, Steve Losieux was mentioned.
- News from the Hill – EPA relatively incommunicado (Matt’s Washington DC visit)
Early Oct. Matt had hoped to have a meeting with Senator Murray and Cantwell, but no one was available. He met with an aide at Murray’s office who noted that their communications with the EPA were mostly one sided – they send things but get no response.
- RI/FS update (Joe)
 - BERA/Sediment toxicity phase III/ - Freeze grab failure in cobble question. Kathy Cerise is the lead on this.
 - Sediment FACES mapping: purpose: to map the river bottom. Every half river mile is a transect from shore to shore and then continuously in three areas (Marcus, China Bend and Deadman’s eddy). Stopped for bad weather and will finish next spring. CTT did some extensive mapping so EPA will combine the two datasets together.
 - Pilots for optimal equipment: determine best way to get sediment samples out of the river. Clam shell grabber can’t be used so they are using a freeze grab device. Asked some clarifying questions about methods. Can only do chemistry but at least it appears to be representative. Still trying to get porewater samples that are truly porewater. Similar apparatus as freeze grab that is supposed to prevent contamination with surface water; porewater is removed with a pump.
 - TIE pilot: toxicity identification evaluation: this year took the most toxic sediment sample collected in 2013 to do some testing. The sample came from the downside of China Bend. Was less supportive of life.
 - Macroinvert/Benthic Tissue - Phase 3 focus areas and potential reference locations in Canada were visited. Did recon on places that they might include. They want to look at what exists in a control environment and see what is missing in the UCR that would be expected. CCC provided comments to Dept. of Health on their advisory in November on the UCR Mussel and Crayfish eval results. Dave McBride at DOE did a very detailed analysis of data on mussel and crayfish. It turns out the crayfish are fine but mussels had a manganese problem so deemed to only be safe for 7.6 meals per month. Final report is pending. Northern Pike info has not yet been released but will be put into an advisory as well.
 - Background soil – draft final DQO with EPA. Trying to get everyone to agree on which data to use to define background. Teck will do the studies based on the initial agreement but, with the court ruling, will not be responsible for cleanup.

Commented [MS1]: Spelling?

- HHRA river and upland portions
 - Monica is trying to get pre-drafts to be sure that they are covering all the bases. That will go back to SRC to fill in gaps. We reviewed the river portion pre-draft.
- TRVs – Literature search. Final wildlife TRV comments were sent to EPA. Porewater TRV comments due 12/15; Mindy is working on these. Final draft fish TRV. Windward is the company and they are hired by Teck.
- Plants – sampling complete. Teck has 90 days to get data to EPA, so late Nov. Once EPA validates, a data summary report will be generated.
- Soil amendment/technology – Field work completed (Joe observed) using XRF to find contaminated soil horizon. They have identified a “good” (contaminated) soil sample for bench testing to see which amendments will lower the lead and arsenic bioavailability. 600 pounds obtained. Kira is the lead. We have been invited to conference calls.
- Bossburg – note received from Foster – no decision on clean-up. Jan 2012.
- Aerial delineation – modeling study – where did the stack emissions fall out. Comments on prelim draft went in October 20. TAI wants to test the air model with lead levels in soil adjacent to the smelter but there are other considerations (e.g., ore handling, stack heights, construction) and contamination from smelter is not in a linear distribution.
- Tribal use – nothing new
- Recreational use - final draft out soon
- Sediment transport – dead in the water (ha)
- Northern Pike study - EPA QA reviewers are looking at data.
- Residential soil remediation. There are now final reports on all remediation work. Chris and Dave Enos responded to our request.
- Data management plan – never completed until recently. Joe made point that all collected data needs to be kept.
- Skeo news (Mindy – October 5 email) Mindy to follow-up with Freya on new signature line for Joe and new letter head. No TASC designation or CCC mention. To distribute documents, there is a new site that is no longer the Teck website.
- Website (Hil) – facebook page to be set up.
- Air monitoring – EPA contact in air program is Jeff Hunt (Hunt.Jeff@epa.gov) – Mindy has not yet spoken with Jamie or Jeff about this. Joe found an air monitor – PurpleAir. Would be a one-time cost. No upkeep. Does particulates. \$260. It will provide information about air quality. Joe and Cliff will do more research and come back to us. Check on power source.
- Meeting with Jamie and Bob (Joe) – will need to wait until spring.
- Finance report: balance of \$3927.86 with \$170 from Cider Fest.

Commented [MS2]: Joe can you add the URL?

New Business

- Colville Confederated Tribes – Cindy unable to attend. 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the tribes against Teck for UCR pollution in Sept. 2018 (over \$8 million). Damages and contamination have yet to be fully characterized.
(<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/environment/appeals-court-sides-with-colville-tribe-against-canadian-mining-company-for-polluting-upper-columbia-river/>)
- EPA Small Grant opportunity (Mindy)
- New T-shirt design – new motto – group to work on ideas.

Adjourned