

Minutes September 28, 2020

Present: Hilary Ohm, Joe Wichmann, Mindy Smith, Ted Stenhouse, Jamie Papparich, Jay Berube, Bob Jackman, Caroll Vrba

Business

- RI/FS update (Joe)
 - Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment (BERA)/Sediment toxicity phase 3: remaining studies, according to the document deliverable list, include the sediment bioassay to be delivered at the end of October. It is unclear what pore water extraction method will be used. Kathy hasn't been on the EPA calls. Draft soil approach steps 1-6 (TRV) is out for review with a due date of Oct 16 for CCC comments. Sediment facies mapping is final and on the UCR website.
 - Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) – summary of key findings and next steps. EPA/Teck still haven't decided which blood level will be used – likely 5 micrograms (the range assessed and reported was for 3-8 micrograms); trying to hold off this decision until after the November election. There are 878 residential DU with lead levels higher than 5 micrograms, so quite a few more areas would need to be cleaned up. Not likely to choose 3 micrograms as that level is close to background levels. If you add eating fish, a few more areas would be added as marginally affecting the nervous system, developmental system and skin; if eating suckers (not allowed per advisory) then adults might be impacted as well. Robert will contact Dave McBride to come up with some addition to the fish advisory based on the RI/FS. Everyone who participated in the residential soil study will get additional information and outreach from EPA.
 - Soil amendment/technology (SATES): Phase 3/phase 4 (field testing and monitoring plans). Robert Tan is now lead on this project. Soluble phosphate + biochar, sol phosphate, and compost are the three amendments that will be evaluated. Two tribal offices nearly burned down in the fire, so it is not clear that applications will begin before the ground freezes. The current plan is still to get into the field by the end of October, pending receipt of permits.
 - Aerial delineation: Should be coming up next, but Robert had no timeline for this.
 - Sediment transport (keeping the thought alive)
 - Bossburg (no new action – beach remains closed)
- Removal action: Ongoing. Monica has been in Northport observing and doing oversight so all properties have been done really well. This project is nearing completion.
- Skeo news (Joe) – Still OK with respect to contract and communication flow.
- T-shirts and dues (Hilary) - Hilary has the new T-shirts so can stop by and get one. Also, please send Hilary \$5 dues or \$25 for sustaining membership. Current balance is \$3932.53.
- Website (Jamie) update – updating minutes and agendas as they come.
- Epidemiologic study update (Jamie) – emailed Josh but no update.
- Air monitoring (Mindy) conversation with Jenks/Dave McBride on hold. Will pursue soon.
- Columbia River Treaty (Mindy) – update
 - Not a lot to report. Canadian side negotiators are working well with First Nations to get an ecosystem function arm into the treaty. US side still allowing access to information to tribes before and after negotiation meetings but still not accepting of an ecosystem arm. Negotiations are not transparent so it is not clear if the sides are close on other issues

(power and sharing arrangements, flood control including reservoir levels [e.g., Arrow Lakes] that might allow Salmon return). All eyes are on the binational elections – Oct 24 in BC, CA and Nov 2 presidential election in US.

- Enhanced community outreach (continuing the conversation); Stevens county news and resources – Hilary could post on that site.

No new business.

Meeting adjourned.