EPA

COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN
RESTORATION PROGRAM

Columbia River Basin Restoration Working Group

Toxics Monitoring Subgroup Meeting #3

JUNE 2, 2022

Columbia River Basin Restoration Working Group
Toxics Monitoring Subgroup Meeting #3
June 2, 2022
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Pacific
Teams Meeting

Meeting Attendees

Tribal Governments & Consortia:
Dianne Barton, CRITFC
Ken Merrill, Kalispel Tribe
Laura Shira, Yakama Nation
Laurie Porter, CRITFC
Sierra Higheagle, Nez Perce Tribe

State Agencies:
Aaron Borisenko, OR DEQ
David Gruen, OR DEQ
James Medlen, WA Ecology
Karl Rains, WA Ecology
Margaret Drennan, WA AG
Mark Peterschmidt, WA Ecology
Mike Mulvey, OR DEQ

Other
Andy James, UW Tacoma
Ralph Myers, ID Power

Federal Agencies
Becca Scully, USGS
Cavan Gerrish, USBR
Cheryl Vincent, EPA
Donald Brown, EPA
Ian Waite, USGS
Jennifer Bayer, USGS
Jennifer Morace, USGS
Lisa Kusnierz, EPA
Mark Jankowski, EPA
Mary Lou Soscia, EPA
Meghan Dunn, EPA
Michelle Wilcox, EPA
Patrick Moran, USGS
Tim Counihan, USGS

EPA Facilitator
Greg Frey, The Council Oak

Welcome, Agenda Review, and Introductions

Greg Frey, The Council Oak, began the meeting by introducing Mary Lou Soscia, EPA, who provided a brief overview of the Columbia River Basin Restoration Program, as well as overarching goals for the Toxics Monitoring Subgroup. Next, Jen Bayer, USGS, reviewed the agenda and background on past Toxics Monitoring Subgroup meetings. Greg Frey then led introductions for attendees and introduced the first session.

Toxics Monitoring Subgroup Goals

Jen Bayer reviewed the proposed goals that were assembled prior to the first meeting and additional goals developed through meeting discussions, specifically the support for the CRBRP Working Group and the request that the Toxics Monitoring Subgroup be non-prescriptive but supportive of the Subgroup's strategy development. The discussions, topics, and feedback from Meetings 1 and 2 were reviewed, followed by the introduction of Donald Brown, Region 10 Quality Assurance Manager.

Topic #1: Revisiting a Columbia River Basin-wide Generalized or Programmatic QAPP

Presentation: Quality Assurance Project Plans – Donald M. Brown

Donald Brown provided a quick overview of when a QAPP is needed and offered assistance for anyone finding themselves having questions about the QAPP process. A requirement for all environmental information collection, generation, evaluation, and use activities, the four Quality Assurance Project Plans were discussed in detail and include:

1.) Project QAPP—the most traditional and comprehensive plan with a defined start and end date.
2.) Generic QAPP—an overarching plan that can cover multiple projects with similar goals, provided they have a common data quality objective (DQO).
3.) Programmatic QAPP—similar to a Generic QAPP but linked to a specific program, regulation, or statute. These do not have a defined start and end date, and they describe the policies of the program relating to required QA documentation.
4.) Umbrella QAPP—a subset of the previous three QAPPs that is used when a project's components require project-specific addenda to provide better definition.

All QAPPs have four elements—project management, data generation and acquisition, assessment and oversight, and data validation and usability. For access to the full presentation, please click here.

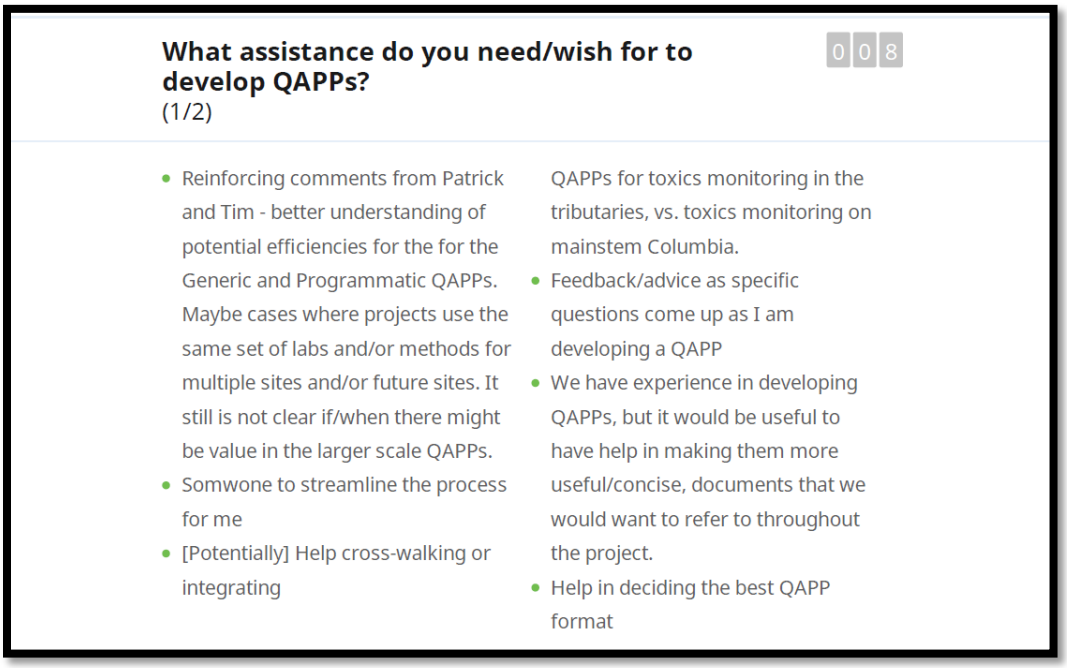
Questions and Answers

- In the instance of a Generic QAPP and multiple projects with similar goals, would that same QAPP apply to future projects with similar goals or do the plans have to be identified at the time of writing the QAPP?
    - Yes, you could potentially include future plans with an additional addendum, as long as the new plan's objectives and quality criteria were aligned with the previous plans.
- Is there a benefit or efficiencies associated with using an Umbrella or Generic QAPP when it comes to adaptively managing programs and/or altering criteria?
    - Sure, there is a benefit if the plans are to rely upon the same sampling protocol or methods, but when considering adaptive management, it would depend on what criteria were being altered.
- Would a Generic QAPP apply to plans with similar laboratories and methods? Are there any current EPA examples?
    - Yes, and although the EPA does not have a lot of Generic QAPP examples at this time, they do exist on a state level.
- In the instance of an umbrella QAPP, as adaptive management happens, could you submit those addenda for additional data quality objectives?
    - Since a QAPP is linked to a single DQO, a new DQO would not be able to be written in an addendum.
- What do applicants struggle with the most?
    - The Data Quality Objective process.
- Are there QAPP requirements that follow the EPA's template, or can organizations use their own?
    - The EPA does have a basic document (the R-5), but if an organization or state has a vetted option, it is okay to use that as well.

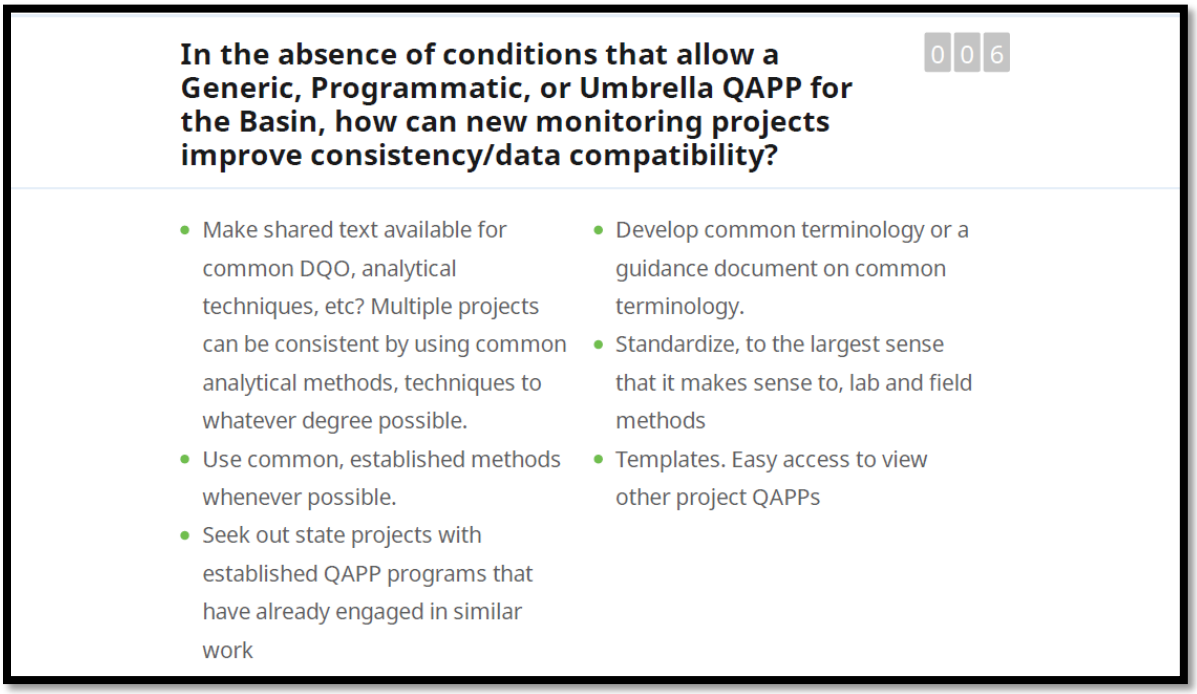
Topic #1: Slido Interactive Discussion

Greg Frey and Jen Bayer led the attendees through interactive poll questions that were based on the previous meetings, while attendees continued to ask questions relating to QAPP development (see above).

Poll Question #1



Poll Question #2



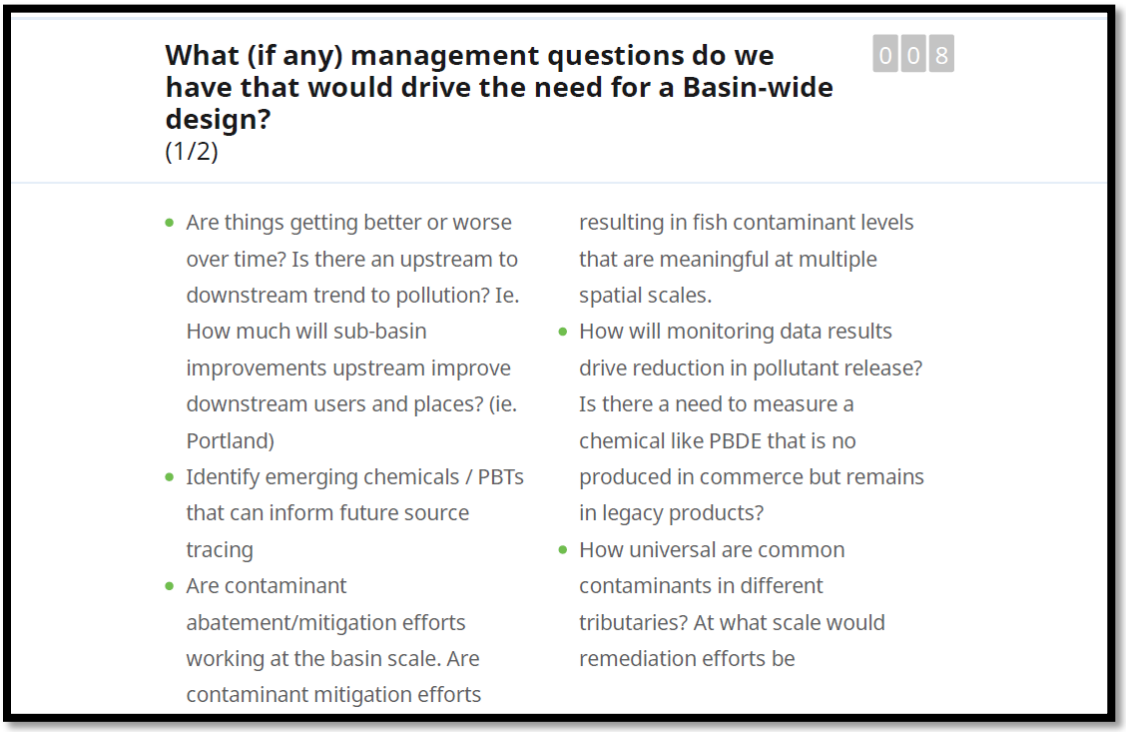
Topic #2: Revisiting the Idea of Coordinating Existing Work to Develop a Scientifically Defensible Design that Includes the Basin Tributaries

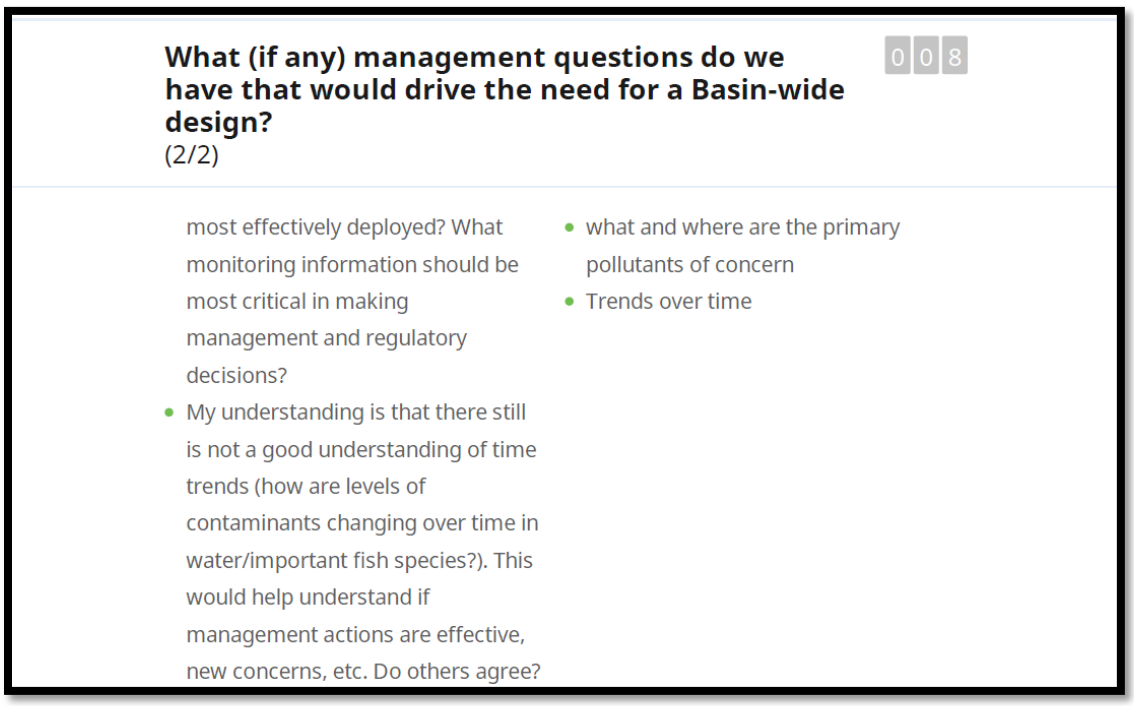
Jen provided two design examples that other large-scale programs have used that could serve as a guide to include the tributaries of the Basin. The two examples provided were the National Aquatic Resource Surveys program and the Great Lakes Monitoring program.

Topic #2: Slido Interactive Discussion

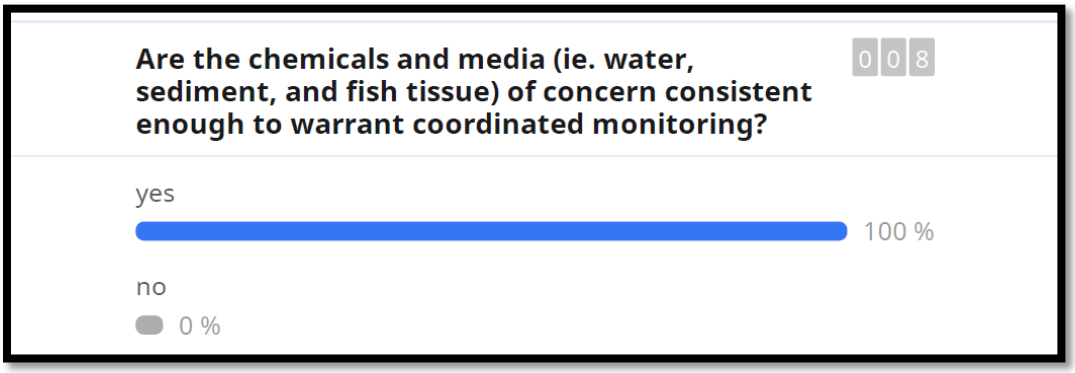
Jen Bayer engaged the group in a discussion on why the Subgroup would want to come up with a Basin-wide design and if doing so makes sense for our Basin, which followed into a second set of Slido Interactive Questions for group participation (see below). James Medlen, WA Ecology, shared his thoughts on their state-wide Persistent, Bioaccumulative, and Toxic substances (PBT) program in relation to the examples that were shared and provided a link to the program.

Poll Question #1





Poll Question #2



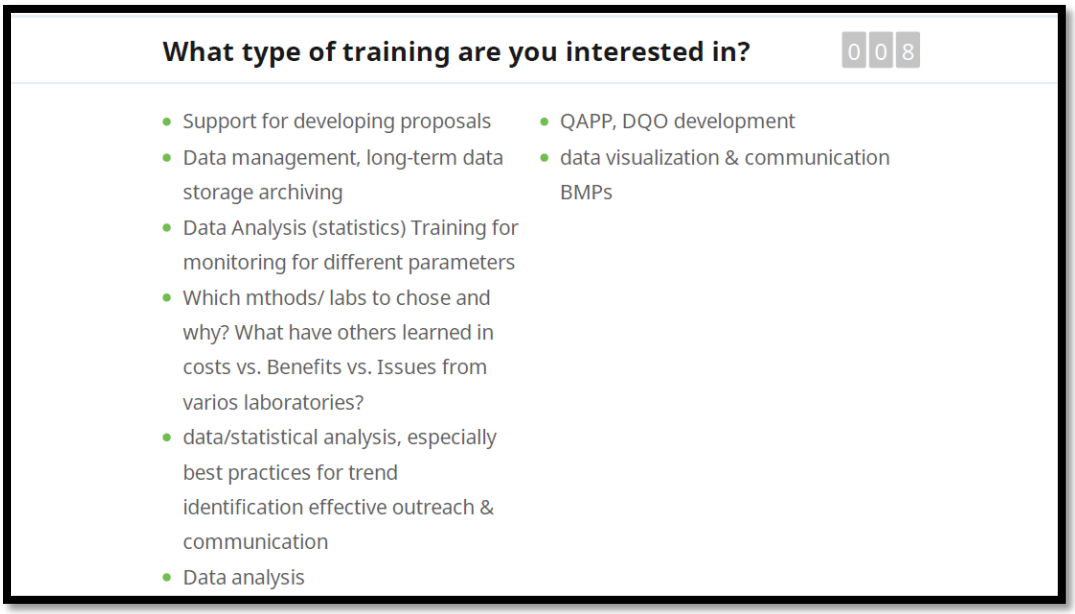
Comments were provided for the second question, including a concern about relinquishing innovation in the pursuit of new chemicals and/or understanding the extent of potential impacts that might come from the contaminants of concern already identified. An additional concern was raised regarding the importance of being mindful about migratory patterns and habitat influence on the species of fish to be sampled.

Topic #3: What Else Do You Need to be Successful in Moving Towards a Coordinated Columbia River Basin-wide Toxics Monitoring Strategy?

Jen Bayer asked the attendees to identify their most important goals, if there is an interest in collaborating with EPA, and what else might the attendees need to achieve their goals. That discussion continued in the Slido Interactive Discussion below.

Topic #3: Slido Interactive Discussion

Poll Question #1



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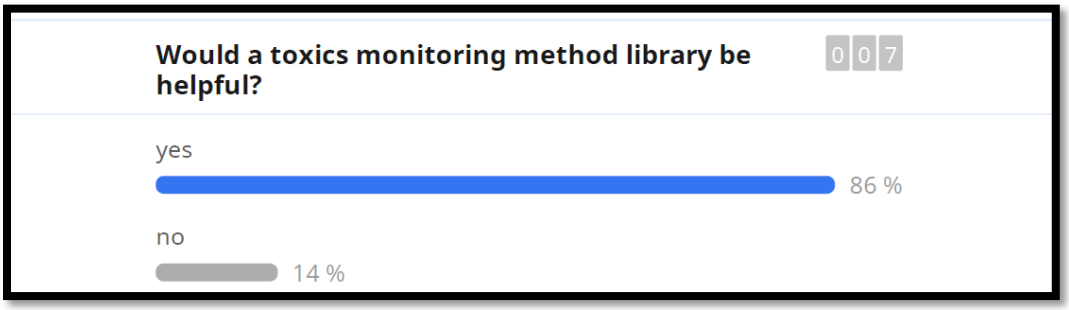

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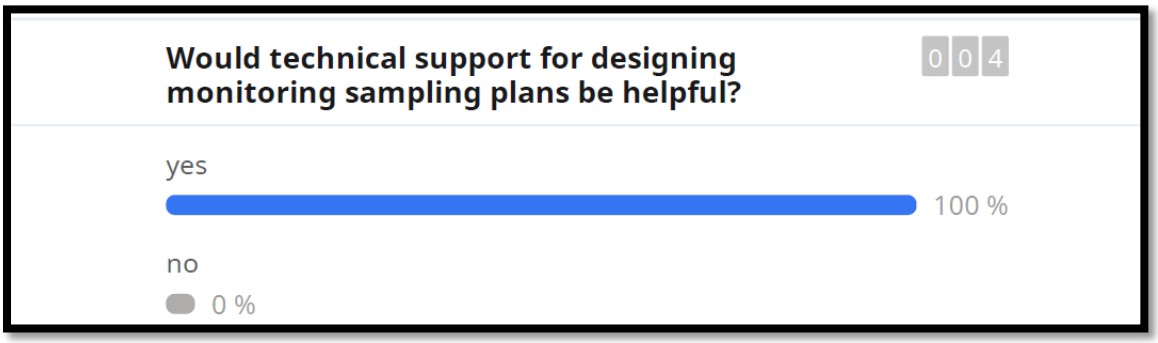

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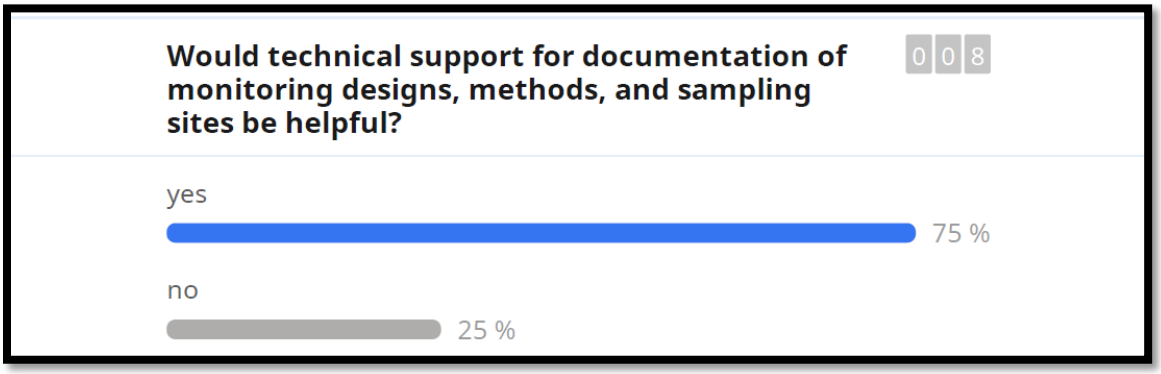

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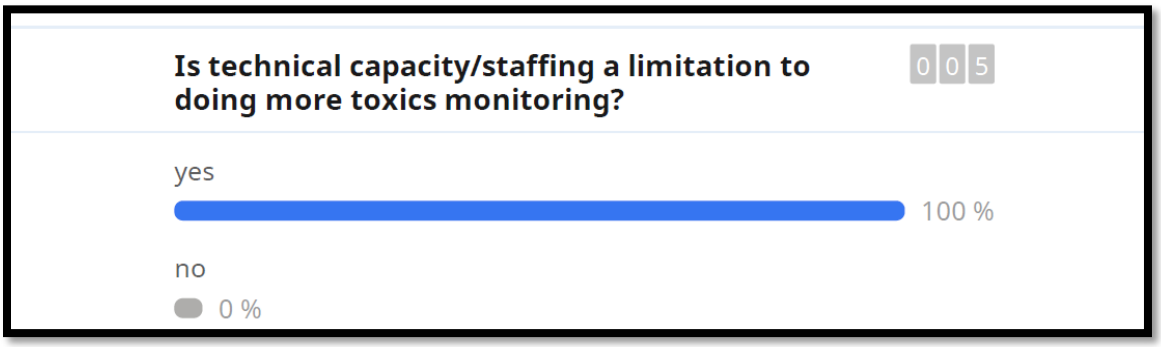

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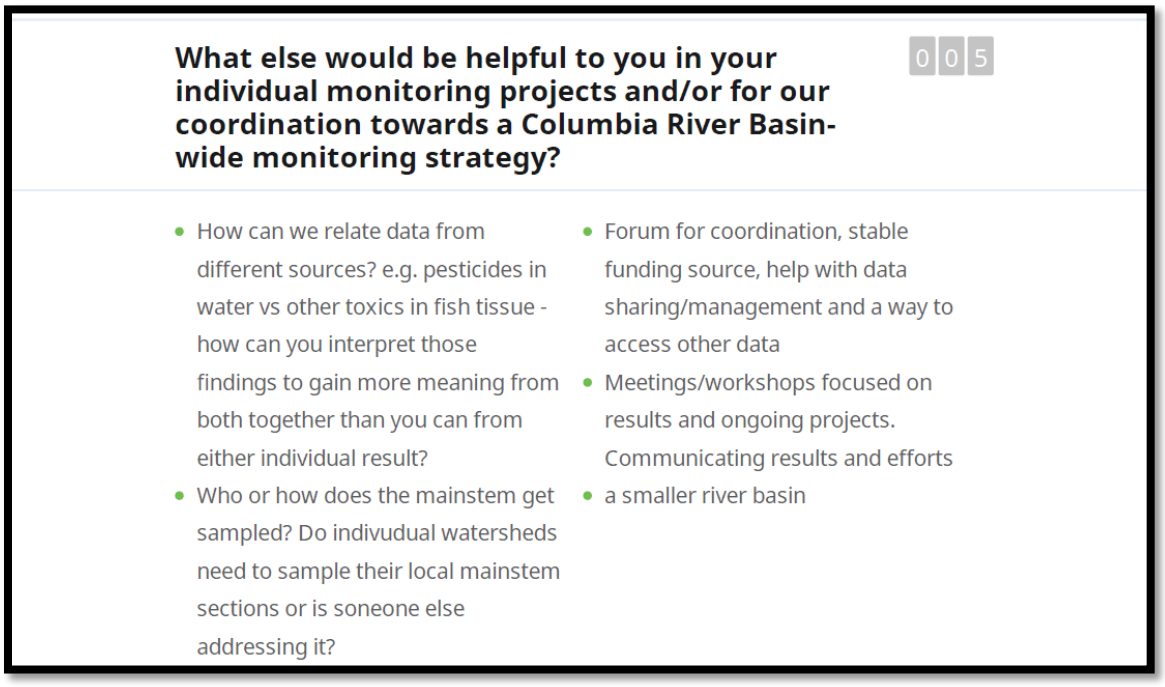

Wrap Up and Next Steps

Mary Lou Soscia thanked the attendees for their participation. Next steps include summarizing the feedback from the three meetings while considering how to incorporate mainstem monitoring framework in development (led by the Yakama Nation) and how to incorporate other monitoring projects funded by the CRBRP (including new projects selected in 2022 for funding) to develop a roadmap for the path forward. This is the third meeting in a planned series of meetings to develop a strategy coordinating monitoring activities, including supporting a forum to exchange information specific about monitoring. Materials from the March and April 2022 meetings can be found here. Information on the CRBRP Working Group can be found here.

If you have any questions or would like to participate in future Toxics Monitoring Subgroup meetings, please contact Greg Frey (gfrey@thecounciloak.com).