

COLUMBIA RIVER TOXICS REDUCTION WORKING GROUP
FEBRUARY 18, 2009
FINAL MEETING SUMMARY
HOSTED BY COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
PORTLAND, OR

PARTICIPANTS

Alec Maule, USGS	Agnes Lut, ODEQ
Andrew Kolosseus, WA Ecology	Anthony Barber, USEPA
Bob Heinith, CRITFC	Jennifer Morace, USGS
Brad Carter, USEPA	Barbara Stifel, OR DHS
Brett VandenHeuvel, Columbia Riverkeeper	Catherine Corbett, LCREP
Dave McBride, WSDOH	Elena Nilsen, USGS-OR
Gary Turney, USGS-WA	Gina Hoff, USBR
Greg Fuhrer, USGS-OR	Gwen Carter, Nez Perce Tribe
Helen Rueda, USEPA	Herbert Jackson, Nez Perce Tribe
Jeffrey Ullman, WSU	Jay Davis, USFWS
Jeremy Buck, USFWS	Joe Rinella, USGS-OR
John Piccininni, BPA	John Platt, CRITFC
Julie Carter, CRITFC	Kevin Masterson, ODEQ
Kim Johnson, USEPA (formerly)	Krista Jones, LCREP
Kris Carré, USEPA	Laura Gephart, CRITFC
Laura Buelow, USEPA	Lil Herger, USEPA
Lorraine Edmond, USEPA	Linda Tioskasin-Orr , Indian Health Service
Mark Siipola, USACE	Lyndal Johnson, NOAA Science Center
Michelle Hollis, Port of Portland	Mike Cox, USEPA
Mark Hardy, USGS-Idaho	Rachael Pecore, Columbia Riverkeeper
Patrick Luke, Yakama Nation	Sam Thompson, CRITFC
Patti Howard, City of Portland	Sheree Stewart, ODEQ
Wilfred A. Scott, Nez Perce Tribe	Tamara DeRidder, TDR & Assoc.
Tristan Gardner, USEPA	Daniel Serres, Columbia Riverkeeper
Katie Humphries, Columbia Riverkeeper	Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Kristen Kofmehl, DW Natural	Kathleen Feehan, CTUIR

MEETING OPENING AND INVOCATION

- John Platt, CRITFC, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Wilfred Scott from the Nez Perce Tribe who gave the invocation. John gave a small background on CRITFC's work and CRITFC's history in toxics reduction work in the Columbia River Basin.

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

- Mary Lou Soscia, EPA, welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed the agenda. Mary Lou introduced Judy Smith, EPA facilitator for the meeting.

UPDATES

- Anthony Barber, USEPA: provided update on EPA portion of the ‘stimulus’ bill.
- Jay Davis, USFWS: mentioned that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service now has a ‘smart disposal’ partnership with the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) and Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) for the safe disposal of pharmaceuticals and medicines (<http://www.smarxtdisposal.net/>).
- Kathleen Feehan, CTUIR: discussed the OR fish-consumption standards work effort; she noted Washington is considering increasing their rate in the future.
- Lyndal Johnson, NOAA: Salmon contamination monitoring with LCREP; mention of juvenile Chinook near Goble site containing high PBDE levels, possible from sewage outfalls.
- Andrew Kolosseus, WADOE: mentioned new ban on PBDEs in State of Washington; and the new electronics take-back program which began in uary, and the long lines.
- Kevin Masterson, ODEQ: discussed Senate Bill 737; also the huge popularity & success of Oregon electronics & pesticide take-back programs; also mentioned the importance of the additive effects of compounds such as endocrine disruptors.
- Jennifer Morace, USGS: CONHAB update: investigators to meet next week to discuss last year’s data for spring; mentioned Columbia City ‘hot spot’ for PBDEs, PCBs & endocrine disruptors; requested additional information on these; mention of last year’s osprey nest survey; and of additional plans to study osprey egg and blood sample, from airport seaward.
- Laura Buelow, USEPA: Sampling on the Columbia River for the Hanford Remedial Investigation has started, and the surface water and most of the sediment sampling has been completed. White fish sampling is occurring right now, and the other fish species will be sampled in the fall. The deep cores will be started late March. The data summary report is estimated to be available March 2010.
- Rachael Pecore Columbia Riverkeeper: CRK will soon release ‘River Nose’ update, which describes the 2008 CRK volunteer monitoring and EPA lab analyses. The draft report discusses possible causes of “River Nose” and recommends future monitoring.
- John Piccininni, BPA: discussed BPA/Northwest Power and Conservation Council project funding. He mentioned that it will be difficult to fund new projects (e.g., abandoned mines), exceptions being if work is already occurring there or if a significant cost-share exists.
- Mark Siipola, USACE: Columbia River *Corbicula* report is out, available online in PDF form.

STATE OF THE RIVER REPORT UPDATE

- Mary Lou Soscia and Mike Cox, US EPA, provided an update on the *Columbia River Basin State of the River Report for Toxics*, which focuses on particular Contaminants of Concern, Indicator Species, Toxicant Trends and Reduction Efforts; released to public January 15, 2009.

PRESENTATIONS

- Bob Heinith, CRITFC: Lamprey Restoration in the CRB. Discussed how impingement on salmon screen evidently a major cause of decline; overview of life history, mention of detriment caused by PCBs and dioxin; extirpation in past by State of Oregon in some rivers; viable numbers recorded 2001-2005, though data incomplete.
- Sheree Stewart, ODEQ: Drinking Water Contamination in Oregon. Reported on the inventory of potential contamination sources and statewide public water systems; provided overview of usage from Columbia River and wells influenced, rank of potential contamination sources, and monitoring efforts (primarily after treatment).
- Mark Hardy, USGS: Idaho Water Science Center. Discussed statewide ground water monitoring program of ~1700 well, 54-site network; Boise River study water advisory – bacteria, phosphorus, sediment; initial fungicide study this year; overview of Upper Spokane River Basin study that targeted different flow conditions and trace elements; 94% Pb and 30% Zn trapped in Coeur d’Alene, which remains blue in eutrophic conditions as Zn toxic to algae.
- Lorraine Edmond, USEPA: presented findings from 2004 sediment study by EPA, 45 samples, 33 sites; no ‘hot spots’, though Cd and Zn elevated in some locations; DDTs and PBDEs widespread; stressed need for more work on emerging contaminants.
- Jennifer Morace, USGS: Discussed Columbia River Inputs study by CRITFC, CRK & USGS designed to characterize pathways of contaminant transport to the Columbia River. Data available so far was from 7 WWTPs although stormwater from these cities will also be sampled this year. Contaminants analyzed included wastewater-indicator compounds (compounds typically found in wastewater, including surfactants, food additives, fragrances, antioxidants, plasticizers, solvents, disinfectants, and fecal sterols), pharmaceuticals, PCBs, PBDEs, organochlorine compounds, and compounds that have estrogenic effects. Several pharmaceuticals were detected and some wastewater-indicator compounds were found at concentrations greater than 1 microgram per liter. No PCBs were detected, while PBDEs were found in all 7 cities with congeners 47, 85, and 99 at the highest concentrations.

UPDATE ON WORKPLAN DEVELOPMENT FROM SUBGROUPS

- Sources / Loadings, Lorraine Edmond, USEPA: prioritized ranking of pathways, what and where fixes are needed, mentioned need to overlap with monitoring, “source-by-source” strategy effective but difficult

- Research / Monitoring, Greg Fuhrer, USGS: provided lines of evidence (LOE) overview; General LOE - basin size / flow; Specific LOE - population density / land use / point sources; mention of broad-based approach where no mainstem tributaries will be excluded as candidates for future monitoring; goals include the prioritization of mainstem tributaries for future sampling, identify data gaps, identify & implement toxics reduction strategies, design & implement effectiveness monitoring, continue to collect data.
- Reduction Activities, Mary Lou Soscia, USEPA: presented a summary of the September 30 meeting of the Toxics Reduction subgroup where a list of priority toxics reduction activities was identified which included TMDL implementation, mercury collection, promoting low impact development, increasing pesticide stewardship partnerships, stormwater sources tracking, product bans (e.g., PBDEs in State of Washington); also emphasized focusing attention on the collaborative priority permit process and encouraging green chemistry .
- Communication / Resources / Partnerships, Mike Cox, USEPA: Discussed outcomes from communication subgroup at September meeting and asked for additional ideas on how to proceed. Some of the ideas included:
 - capitalizing on the media attention from the State of the River Report
 - work with local communities to better identify their concerns
 - use neighborhood associations, healthcare agencies, community groups
 - use networks within watersheds

MAY WATERSHED WORKSHOP

- Judy Smith facilitated a discussion of the entire group on the May Watershed Workshop. Here are some of the ideas that we discussed:
 - Include a salmon feast
 - Identify a goal for the workshop; define target audience
 - Develop empowerment fact sheets that help meeting participants understand how they can reduce toxics in their daily lives
 - Explore an award for a successful toxics reduction
 - Develop messages that are widely understandable
 - Make EPA website a comprehensive place for toxics reduction information
- It was agreed that the goal of the May workshop would be to:

Share information with watersheds about toxics reduction and what they can do as individuals.

NEXT MEETING - JUNE 2 IN WHITE SALMON, WA.