

Columbia River Toxics Reduction Working Group Meeting
September 10, 2009
Longview, WA

Attendees

Agnes Lut
Al Whitford
Andrea Kolosseus
Ann Williamson
Anthony Barber
Barbara Stiffel
Chris Magan
Don Steffen
Gina Hoff
Helen Rueda
James M. Thomas
Jason Braaten
Jay Davis
Jim Irish
John Piccininni
Kathryn Van Natta
Kim Johnson
Krista Jones
Laura Buelow
Laura Hamilton
Linda Tiokasin
Lonna Frans
Mary Lou Soscia
Melissa Knudson
Mike Cox
Robert A. Grove
Summer Goodwin
Tim Sherman
Travis Williams
Wendy Briner

Organization

OR DEQ
Silk Road Environmental
Washington Ecology
EPA
EPA
OR DHS
SCBID
US FWS
BOR
EPA
Yakima Nation
EPA
US FWS
BPA
BPA
NWPPA
USACE
LCREP
EPA - Hanford
USACE
Indian Health Service
USGS
EPA
LCC Student
EPA
USGS
EPA
USACE
Willamette Riverkeeper
USACE

Introductions, Welcome and Update

Robert Grove from USGS discussed osprey work which was completed at the end of August. He hopes to have collection information finished in a month.

Workshops

There was a discussion on the July PCB Workshop, the August Wenatchee workshop and possible future workshops. PBDES were discussed as a possible subject for a January 2010 workshop.

2009 Columbia River Hero Award

Travis Williams, Executive Director, Willamette Riverkeeper, became the first recipient of the Columbia River Hero award, for his work on the 2009 OR Legislature Deca-BDE Ban. Williams discussed the various achievements of Willamette Riverkeeper and partnerships in the recent OR legislation.

Status Report on Columbia River Monitoring

Mike Cox and Agnes Lut discussed the monitoring in the Columbia which was developed to connect to the Lower Columbia River study. Secondary project objectives (such as looking at mercury, e-coli and seeing if there are any real project improvements) were also discussed. Information for this study should be available online in Feb 2010.

Update on Columbia River Monitoring Strategy

Mike Cox discussed the purpose and the long range goals of the Monitoring Strategy. Cox discussed lines of evidence approach.

Successes of the Pulp and Paper Industry to Reduce Dioxin

Kathryn VanNatta of the Northwest Pulp and Paper Association discussed work efforts of the pulp and paper industry to successfully reduce dioxin in discharges, a major toxics reduction success story.

Columbia River Communication Tools

Summer Goodwin discussed the EPA Columbia River Basin use of Twitter and the Web 2.0 world. She provided a Twitter demo for the working group. Summer recommended the Working Group continue the River Hero Award.

Columbia River Toxics Reduction Action Plan

Summer Goodwin and Tony Barber presented the draft Action Plan, follow up to the State of the River report. The Working Group discussed the components of the Action Plan and the importance of using the action plan to advance the Columbia River as a priority with the new EPA Regional Administrator.

Wrap-Up

Mary Lou Soscia- Proposed to do some exploratory thinking about a PBDE workshop (potentially in January). We discussed the next meeting of the working group and it was recommended to have one before the next workshop.