

**Columbia River Toxics Reduction Working Group
Tuesday September 21, 2010
Maryhill Museum
Goldendale, Washington
Summary and Action Items**

Attendees:

Agnes Lut, OR DEQ	John Piccininni, BPA
Aja DeCoteau, CRITFC	Joseph Rinella, USGS
Alec Maule, USGS-Cook Lab	Judy Smith, EPA Region 10
Andrew Kolesseus, WA Ecology	Julie Carter, CRITFC
Ann Stephenson, WA DFW	Kathleen Feehan, Cedar Consulting
Anne Schwartz	Kol Peterson, EPA Region 10
Anthony Paulson, USGS	Kris Carre, EPA Region 10
Brett VandenHeuvel, Columbia	Laura Buelow, EPA Region 10
Riverkeeper	Lonna Frans, USGS
Cat Coehn	Lorraine Edmond, EPA Region 10
Catherine Corbett, LCREP	Lorri Eberle, LCREP
Chris Magan	Lyndal Johnson, NOAA Science Center
Dave Tetta, EPA Region 10	Marc Siegel, Senator Merkley's Office
Debra Sherbina, EPA, Region 10	Mary Lou Soscia, EPA Region 10
Gina Hoff, USBR	McClure Tosch, Yakama Nation
Glenn Vanselow, PNWA	Merlin Berg, NRCS
Greg Fuhrer, USGS	Michael Karnosh, Grande Ronde Tribe
Helen Rueda, EPA Region 10	Michelle Hollis
Ilene Goudy	Mike Cox, EPA Region 10
James M. Homer, Yakama Nation	Nadine Lehrer
James Thomas, Yakama Nation	Robert Grove, USGS
Jennifer Bayer, USGS	Rose Longoria, Yakama Nation
Jennifer Morace, USGS	Sheila Marcoe, OR Dept of Agriculture
Jim Irish, BPA	Steve Marx, Office of Congressman Wu
Joanne LaBaw, EPA Region 10	Susan Hess, Journalist
John Mason	Tony Paulson, USGS
John McKesson	

Introductions/Updates

Colleen Schafroth, Executive Director of the Maryhill Museum welcomed the group. Jennifer Morace of USGS indicated her Columbia Inputs work (WWTP effluent and stormwater runoff) is in review and should be released soon. Greg Fuhrer indicated the USGS had a 5 day tour of congressional staffers around Washington/Oregon including a boat tour on the Columbia. Catherine Corbett indicated GSI is compiling water quality data on the Lower Columbia in preparation for a meeting with the Monitoring subgroup to begin updating LCREPs monitoring plan for toxics. Catherine also indicated the next Science working group will be October 26th. Mary Lou Soscia indicated the latest version of the newsletter was completed thanks to the hard work of Susan Hess. Thank you Susan.

Columbia River Action Plan

Deb Sherbina discussed the roll out of the Columbia River Action Plan at the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation on September 23rd. She indicated many Tribal, Federal, State, and non-profit leaders will be attending.

Merlin Berg - Wy'East Coordinator, Wy'East Resource Conservation & Development, USDA - Work efforts to reduce pesticide use

Merlin Berg from NRCS discussed IFP Net. This is a program that is trying to reduce use of organophosphate pesticides and to have growers switch to less harmful alternatives. He also discussed the "Save Water Save Energy" program which tries to make sure water is applied in right amount at right time.

2010 Columbia River Hero

Lyndal Johnson, NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center, was awarded the 2010 Columbia River Hero Award at the September 2010 Columbia River Toxics Reduction Working Group Meeting in Goldendale, WA, for her dedication, hard work and technical expertise in scientific research to highlight problems with toxics in the Columbia River. She is the Reproductive Toxicology team lead at the Science Center and has over 25 years of experience studying chemical contaminants and the effects on fish. She is currently involved with several studies within the Columbia River and was a primary contributor for the report "Water Quality and Salmon Sampling Report" in collaboration with the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership and the US Geological Survey. We are thankful for Lyndal's hard work over the years and are proud to honor her with this award.

Marc Siegel, Field Representative Senator Jeff Merkley

Marc discussed the status of Columbia River Restoration Act. The bill was authored by Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley along with Senators Mike Crapo (R-ID) and Max Baucus (D-MT) to support the clean-up and restoration of the Columbia River Basin.

Brett VandenHeuvel, Columbia Riverkeeper - A report out on a trip to the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill

Brett Vanden Heuvel from the Columbia Riverkeeper discussed his experiences on a trip to the Gulf. He went with several others from Oregon. The purpose of the trip was to discuss the socio-economic aspects on the people impacted by the spill. They talked with local residents and attended several meetings with local residents and discussed impacts on their lives.

Joanne LaBaw, EPA - Update on EPA Lower Columbia River Superfund Site Assessment

Joanne Labaw from EPA discussed the Superfund site assessment program. She discussed how the site assessment program works. She indicated that 14 sites have been evaluated since 2006 with seven designated as needing no further action, four having a State lead, and 3 currently undergoing review and evaluation.

Mike Cox, EPA – Update on the Upper Columbia River

Mike Cox from EPA provided an update on the Upper Columbia River work. He discussed the history of the site and the sampling activities that have taken place or are planned to occur in 2009-2010: beach sediments; surface water; fish tissue; tribal use survey; white sturgeon sampling; recreational use survey, and sediments. Majority of information will be available in early 2011.

Dave Tetta, EPA – Update on Action Plan Initiative #5 – Data Management

Dave Tetta from EPA provided an update on developing a data management system to share toxics information. He reviewed the action items from the last meeting in Hood River. He indicated that EPA is moving forward on entering data in WQX from Portland Harbor and is hopeful that it will enter data from Hanford and the Upper Columbia. Dave also discussed a potential grant opportunity for data management.

Lyndal Johnson, NOAA – Update on Lower Columbia Monitoring Activities

Lyndal Johnson of NOAA provided an update on NOAA's Columbia River monitoring. She discussed several studies looking at water quality and salmon. Update on contaminants and salmon work in Lower Columbia. They will be doing additional sampling around Portland Harbor to evaluate impacts of contaminants on juvenile salmon. They will also be measuring wastewater compounds for estrogens and bisphenol A in fish bile in English sole in Puget Sound. She is also working on the Oregon toxics consultation.

Mike Cox, EPA – Update on Initiative #4 of Action Plan – Research Plan

Mike Cox from EPA discussed a proposal for developing a research plan for the Basin. A planning meeting will take place on Wednesday October 27th in Portland. He also discussed a meeting in Idaho on November 4th to discuss toxics work in Idaho and the rest of the Basin.

Webinar – This meeting was first Working Group Meeting to be held as a Webinar, thanks to Kol Peterson, EPA. A number of participants tried out this new technology and we plan to continue offering Working Group meetings as a Webinar to encourage green participation.

Action items

- EPA will provide a summary of meeting and presentations on EPA web site
- Next meeting will be in Portland on March 8th.