

Willamette River Toxics Reduction Meeting Summary

Oct 11, 2018, 1pm – 4pm

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC)

Portland, OR

Attendees

Andrew Swanson, Association of Clean Water Agencies (ACWA)
Brenda Sanchez, OR Department of Agriculture
Elena Nilsen, U.S. Geological Service (USGS)
James McKenna, OR Governor's Natural Resource Policy Office
Jennifer Morace, U.S. Geological Service (USGS)
Jeremy Buck, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Jim Cathcart, West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (WMSWCD)
Kim Hack, OR Department of Environmental Quality (OR DEQ)
Matt Criblez, Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (BES)
Jane Bacchieri, Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (BES)
Binh Quan, QW Consulting, LLC
Neil Ward, QW Consulting, LLC
Roy Iwai, Multnomah County and Clean Rivers Coalition (CRC)
Kevin Scribner, Salmon Safe
Travis Williams, Willamette Riverkeeper
Willie Levenson, Human Access Project (HAP)
Scott Dahlman, Oregonians for Food and Shelter
Steve Mrazik, OR Department of Environmental Quality (OR DEQ)
Andrea Matzke, OR Department of Environmental Quality (OR DEQ)
Patricia Atkins, OR Department of Environmental Quality (OR DEQ)
Kevin Masterson, OR Department of Environmental Quality (OR DEQ)
Mary Lou Soscia, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
David Gruen, ORISE Fellow, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Round Table –Steering Committee Members Updates on work pertinent to Willamette Toxics Reduction Partnership – All

Kevin Masterson, OR DEQ, reported that he is working with other states on issues on implementation of the 2016 revisions to the Toxics Substances Control Act (TSCA); DEQ will be updating its priority toxics “Focus List” in 2019 as part of the agency’s toxics reduction strategy.

Elena Nilsen, USGS, reported that USGS is writing a grant proposal to provide monitoring support to understand impacts of coal.

Willie Levenson, HAP, requested the group get engaged in reducing Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) in the Willamette River. He is working with OSU on a baseline study and is reaching out to the Willamette group to get support in working to solve the HAB problem in the River.

Jim Cathcart, WMCSWD, reported that the West Multnomah County Soil and Water Conservation District has implemented a monitoring project on Sturgeon Lake.

Kevin Scribner, Salmon Safe, reported on the upcoming Aug 25th First Annual Salmon Safe IPA Festival. He also reported that he is a member of the Columbia River Basin Partnership Task Force, serving with Jim McKenna from OR Governor's office.

Travis Williams, Willamette Riverkeeper, reported that he is looking forward to the OR DEQ monitoring report results. Travis reported on the [Mussel Study](#), which is focused on studying the differences between the population near Eugene with the more viable population below Dexter Dam.

Tricia Adkins, OR DEQ, reported on her oversight of grants in OR DEQ's clean-up program, and a grant that is looking at the purple algal bloom.

Jim McKenna from OR Governor's Office reported that the Governor has asked the Natural Resource Policy Office to develop an OR Safe and Resilient Water Strategy, which will look at climate change, development and stressors over the next 100 years.

Brenda Sanchez, OR Dept. of Agriculture, reported on the Area Plans, which provide voluntary compliance for agricultural practices. The OR Dept. of Agriculture has added toxics language to all area plans, including potentially reducing the use of pesticides.

Clean Rivers Coalition Update – Roy Iwai, Multnomah County and CRC

Roy said CRC has selected a contractor for their strategic implementation plan which will focus on 1) public survey which will have a focus group component to identify important messaging; and 2) implementation plan which will identify opportunities for social and digital media.

Update on Willamette Mercury TMDL – Andrea Matzke, OR DEQ

Andrea reported the DEQ is moving forward with the TMDL. Per litigation, must have an approved TMDL by April 2019. DEQ and EPA are requesting an extension. Most of the modeling has been completed, but still working on point source discharges. Draft modeling results indicate that a very small portion of the total mercury load (less than 5%) comes from point source discharges. The majority comes from nonpoint source, specifically through air deposition which falls to the ground and then moves through erosion or other means to waterbodies. Therefore, controlling soil erosion will be a key management strategy in the TMDL Water Quality Management Plan.

Draft modeling indicates that large reductions of total mercury will be necessary to meet Oregon's stringent fish tissue methylmercury criterion. The TMDL fish tissue target is based on bioaccumulation factors of the Northern Pikeminnow. Upon finalization of modeling and allocating loads to specific sectors, DEQ may be able to target certain watersheds where greater reductions in mercury is needed. There was some discussion about mercury coming from

stormwater sources. It is likely that MS4 permittees will get a Waste Load Allocation for mercury.

Finishing the [Willamette River Toxics Reduction Story Map](#)

There was discussion on the work efforts to complete the story map. Jennifer Morace, USGS, said the current draft map language was too technical; she recommended that the map be edited to define objectives, audiences, and purpose of Story Map. Also, a proposal was discussed for two story maps with the focus on both public and technical information. Potential future topics are: USGS work, Algal blooms, Willamette Riverkeeper mussel study, stormwater management, OR Water Resources Department place-based grants, and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) projects.

EPA support for Willamette River Story Map and Collaboration

Mary Lou reported that EPA is providing contract support funded through the EPA Urban Waters Program. Neil Ward and Binh Quan from QW Consulting were introduced to the group and will work on the following projects:

- 1) Support for meetings to help with agenda development and meeting summaries
- 2) Identifying and interviewing key entities focusing on tribal governments and other diversity-based community groups that are not able to participate in the Willamette River Toxics Reduction work effort to engage and establish a voice for those governments and groups in this work effort.
- 3) Completing the story map working with EPA, OR DEQ, Steering Committee members, and key entities including tribal governments, and other diversity-based community groups to get their input into the Story Map.

Mary Lou reported on the implementation of the Columbia River Basin Restoration Act, CWA Act, Sec 123, passed and signed by President in 2016. A meeting was held on Oct 30th in The Dalles, OR, to start implementing the Act beginning with developing a program management plan.

Update on Salmon Safe Certification in the Willamette River Basin – Kevin Scribner, Salmon Safe and Jane Bacchieri, BES, City of Portland -

Jane and Kevin provided an update on the City of Portland's commitment to Salmon Safe certification. The presentation will be posted on [Willamette Toxics Reduction Steering Committee Oct 11 2018 Meeting Materials](#).

Where are We Going from Here? Opportunity for Group Reflection and Discussion

Kevin Masterson led this discussion and recommended that we provide time to discuss expectations in the first part of the next meeting and it might be time to check in with the larger group. The group recommended January for the next meeting. Post meeting discussions have identified March as having more likely availability for steering committee members.