

South River Science Team

April 10, 2013

Minutes

This was a half day meeting mostly used for presenting updates and summaries of task team progress. To take advantage of people coming to the SRST meeting, the Remedial Options and Monitoring task teams met the day before the SRST meeting and the Human Exposure Task Team met after the SRST meeting. Summaries will be presented below as was presented at SRST meeting. For detailed minutes of task team meetings, contact representatives of those task teams.

DEQ 2012 Fish Tissue Data: Calvin Jordan, DEQ

Fish tissue data seems to be consistent with historic data, although data have not been normalized to length to make direct year to year comparisons. Removal of Rife-Loth dam does not appear to be resulting in increased upstream migration of contaminated smallmouth bass. This is most likely due to upstream habitat that is not favorable to the smallmouth. Biopsy plugs were collected from about 100 fish to make comparisons between biopsy plug and whole fillet tissue concentrations. Biopsy data was very random and not consistent with fillet data. This was most likely due to limitations of analytical equipment associated with size of each sample. If non-lethal sampling is desired in the future, we seek an outside lab with equipment better equipped to measure low concentrations of mercury in small volumes of animal tissue. Fish data from 2012 have been shared with the Virginia Department of Health for consumption advisory consideration (South River and the South Fork of the Shenandoah River are already under mercury consumption advisories) and will also be posted on DEQ's web site shortly. The next regularly scheduled fish sampling event will occur in 2017.

SRST Task Team Updates

Remedial Options: Robert Brent, JMU

http://prezi.com/9jhivxmtjmgq/south-river-conceptual-model/?auth_key=5ae090487a8e982b4a6d7edebcc79dad532fd2fe&kw=view-9jhivxmtjmgq&rc=ref-28679005

Robert has taken the "Conceptual Model" and used a web based program called "Prezi" to show model including references and possible remedial options. Follow the link above to see the Prezi display. Many attendees at the meeting were commenting on how this could be used for other programs.

Clay Patmont, Anchor QEA

Clay gave a condensed version of his presentation to the ROPs team from the previous day on the remedial plan that will be submitted to NRDC. The plan will be about 150 pages long and will concentrate on the first two miles of river downstream from the plant site. The focus will be on the

banks where 60% of the loading is thought to originate. The plan will rely heavily on adaptive management and will follow EPA Risk Management Principles. The plan will also serve as a template for future work downstream. To see more details on the remedial plan, see the presentation slides.

Human Exposure: *Annette Guiseppi-Elie, DuPont*

Human Exposure Task Team did not have a chance to meet before SRST meeting, but did meet after the meeting. Task team still working on wildlife evaluations and will be producing fact sheet soon on findings. Information is also being communicated with VDH and DGIF. Presentation was given at last SETAC meeting on waterfowl data. Livestock sampling is moving along. Samples were collected last week from cattle raised on floodplain and control samples were to be collected after meeting. A risk assessment is being done for both onsite and offsite risk; currently concentrating on offsite eco-risk. Onsite eco and human risk assessment was provided to EPA week of SRST meeting.

Program Integration Task Team: *Mike Liberati, DuPont*

DuPont desires that remediation plan being developed for NRDC will also be acceptable to other regulatory agencies. RCRA corrective action also requires DuPont to “chase” contamination off site. Current permit is silent on offsite contamination. DuPont, DEQ and EPA working on offsite options. Permit will either be through RCRA or Superfund. Will hopefully have answer by July.

Outreach: *Mike Liberati, DuPont*

Communication with landowners in the South River floodplain will become critical in the future due to remediation activities. Because of this, DuPont is going to create task team to address outreach to landowners. DuPont is currently working with City of Waynesboro on upstream bank stabilization project (Wayne Ave. and Ridgeview Park). Construction will begin next year. DuPont has partnered with WDDI (Waynesboro Downtown Development Inc), CCR (Center for Coldwater Restoration) and the VA Natural History Museum on a trout hatchery demonstration project. DuPont has donated space in the SRTS office in Waynesboro for the “demonstration hatchery”. The new SRST website is up and running. Go to www.southernriverscienceteam.org to see new website.

Monitoring Task Team: *Ralph Stahl, DuPont*

The team is currently working on list of remediation and monitoring needs. It looks like the team is going to have a prominent role as an advisory panel; reviewing monitoring plans for future restoration, remediation, and other projects. Next meeting is May 16.

NRDC Remedial Proposal Status: *Nancy Grosso, DuPont*

See presentation for remediation timeline (also in Clay’s presentation). Comments wanted by end of April on Remediation Matrix. New date on draft is June. Verbal comments can be given at the ROPs team meeting in July.

Plant Site Investigation/Remediation Status: *Mike Liberati, DuPont*

Approximately 3-5% of the Hg load to river is coming from outfalls (2 are main contributors). Original number of 20 Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) narrowed down to 3. Two main contributing outfalls are 001 (largest with largest load) and 011. The 3 SWMUs are SWMU 7 (former lagoon), SWMU 4 (incineration area), and SWMU 1 (retort area). The 2010 sewer investigation led to removal of 27 cubic yards of sediment and 1148 lbs of Hg. Current activities include sewer abandonment, cleaning and slip-piping sewers, filtration of sumps and cleaning sumps.

Next SRST Meeting: July 17th, 2013 at Harrisonburg DEQ office.