

**Technical Team Minutes**  
**January 15, 2008**  
**6:30-8pm**

Attendees: Laurie Bernstein, Allen Martin, Erik Moberly, Alison Center, Jim Mough, Doug Garletts (& Bohdan), Pam Reber, and special guests Bryn Thoms (DEQ) and Christine Zeller (UO Environmental Studies Graduate student working with the DEQ).

6:30pm           **Round robin of recent activities**

Jim—a little mercury research

Laurie Bernstein—Cinderella Park grant application first draft is almost complete; Laurie worked on a restoration project in Fall Creek in 1992.

Doug—working on the BiOp

Erik—Mosby Creek research; Bob Danehy, WeyCo, is petitioning his boss's boss's boss to work on habitat restoration; took photo points at Hill Creek component of Garden Lake.

Alison—There is a research project on ; Presented to Beverly Wilson's classes on invasive plants, bullfrogs, etc. yesterday

Allen—no updates

Pam—completed grant application for review, work session with Laurie on Cinderella, public meeting Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> on WQ.

6:45pm           **Special Guest, Bryn Thoms, OR DEQ Mercury Update**

Bryn—Project Mgr at Black Butte for the past 3 (?) years. Has moved slowly to date, on cusp of doing larger scope investigations.

Black Butte Background—fish tissue studies in from mid 1980s, mining from 1800s, some studies then dead until OSU, Corps starting looking at it using 319 funds—100 soil samples from mill site out in about a 1 mile radius—amt of mercury on site, speciation, particulate mercury sulfite? Components from mercury cooking/roasting/volatilization? DEQ used study results to leverage EPA, DEQ used a regional RAMs program to get \$60k in 2006 to do a removal assessment (bandaid on the site) and 'cap'/stormwater remediation. High levels of mercury found adjacent to Furnace Creek—and the stream is flowing over 4-8' of tailings. Estimated volume of material is the whole hillside (5-10k + cubic yards). Contractor at the time gave an estimate of \$5 mil to place creek over the tailings, riprap over geotextile. EPA leading the project will mean that they will do a full blown RFSI. Larry Curtis wanted to do a mercury loading study of all the tributaries temporally through the year to compare this site to a baseline—high turbidity, mercury sulfide state is the assumed output. No synthesizing has been done on the existing data sets. It has not been designated a SuperFund site as of yet.

DEQ monitoring for the TMDL was basin-wide, and indicated the Willamette Basin was receiving significant deposition from air sources. 2007 legislature authorized funds for a couple of positions at the DEQ lab to investigate further the mercury problem on a comprehensive level. (this last part from Pamela Wright)

Jim, higher content of elemental mercury at Dorena b/c that is what was used to extract the gold that the mercury was used for. Discussed entrainment of sediments in point source tributaries using baffles

Doug—deposition of air mercury

Alison—curious about high autism rates. Are there DHS studies?

Study—sediment and surface water study in Big River and Garoutte Creek—maybe evaluating soils, significant mineralizations in pockets of the Elkhead. Samples revealing mercury content correlated to flow—to result in volume of

Christine Zeller—UO Grad student looking for study ideas

- He will inform us about potential mercury studies on the reservoirs in the Coast Fork (Hg loading, potential Grad student investigation)
- Discussion

Needs a full proposal by Spring, and interested Masters in Environmental Studies

Jim—has data sets from over the years, correspondence from the Corps—flow measurements, sediments, 1993/4 study showed that more mercury was flowing out of the lake than into the lake. Needs to send to Bryn and Christine.

Laurie—USGS biomagnification study occurred within the past few years—published?

Doug Drake and Jean Foster in 93-95. Jim Kizer. Dippers and other species.

WQ monitoring—get a hold of the map and send it to Bryn/Christine

Erik—fish tissue sample study was done by ODFW. He and Doug might be available for assistance.

Aprovecho Site Visit Discussion—fish traps, etc. See detailed site visit notes.

7:35pm      **Discussion/Decision Ogsbury Small Grant proposal**

Approved at 8:45p

- Concern about risk, discussion about how to review this.
- Concern about performance standard—we could set a performance standard. Feedback or evaluation from the landowner or OWEB may be pretty loose.
- This grant will be effective in recruiting other landowners, since it is in a good location.
- Expectations change based on the scope of the project (of the landowner).

Thoughts for future project consideration—

- Consideration of risk has ramifications to the Steering Committee
- Refer to the Steps to Developing a Project for providing the Technical Team with enough information

Adjourned at 9pm—Next meeting FEBRUARY 19<sup>TH</sup> We will be reviewing the Cinderella Park proposal and may have guests from Lane County. Also, Pam may send a small grant out for your review and approval by email in the interim.