

Meeting Minutes

Joint Selenium Task Force & SMP Work Group Meeting

Date: July 24, 2013

Time: 10am to 3pm

Location: Delta USDA Service Center, 690 Industrial Boulevard, Delta, CO

Attendees: Dev Carey (DCD), Shannon Castrodale (SCD), Dale Woodbury (NRCS Montrose), Dave Kanzer (CRWCD), Rhianna Williams (AmeriCorps VISTA), Jedd Sondergaard (BLM), Ken Leib (USGS), Ron Godin (CSU Extension), Dave Brown (USGS), Mike Baker (Self), John Sottolare (USBR), Todd Olheiser (CSSGA), Sonja Chavez de Baca (STF Coordinator), Steve Miller (CWCB), Theresa McGovern (NRCS)

Selenium Task Force (10am to 11am)

- I. Introductions (10am-10:05am)
New attendees: Todd Olheiser of Colorado Stone Sand and Gravel Association
Rhianna Williams 2013/14 UWP shared AmeriCorps/VISTA volunteer
- II. Updates from the STF
 - A. Irrigation Leaders Workshop in Denver: Sonja reported that the workshop was very helpful and informative.
Action Item: Sonja will check to see if she can make the presentations available on the STF website.
 - B. Water Workshop in Gunnison: Sonja reported that the workshop was very informative and that she had an opportunity to speak to the acting under-secretary for NRCS and Rep Coram from Montrose about local selenium issues.
Action Item: Sonja will reach out to acting conservationist Randy Reynolds and Phyllis Phillips (Theresa and Dale can provide guidance). She will send correspondence to Phyllis asking if we can get some of her time when she comes to the area on Sept 6. In this correspondence Sonja will Cc Dale, Theresa, Dawn Jackson, Ed Nielson, Mike Collins and all the CD's.
 - C. Irrigation Demo Project Concept – update, discussion, decision item (Sonja)
Action Item: Sonja will organize a big-gun site visit for late August.
Action Item: John Sottolare will work to have the SMP Technical Subcommittee established by late August.
Action Item: John will follow-up with Ramdhan Khalsa and Terry Stroh of the USBR to see if Ram can provide a preliminary cost-estimate for the proposed on-farm big gun project to help answer questions.
- III. Finalize STF WQ Monitoring Program for 2013-2014 (10:40am-11am) (Sonja) – Tabled due to time constraints.
Action Item: Sonja will work with Dave Kanzer (DK) and Ken Leib outside of the meeting. She can send final STF WQ Monitoring Program to the group via email and she will put it on the STF website.

Selenium Management Program Work Group (11am-12pm & 1pm-3pm)

- I. SMP Updates (11am-12pm)
 - A. Lower Gunnison Salinity Study (Terry Stroh, SMP Work Group lead facilitator– absent. John Sottolare, USBR acting lead). Concern expressed over the lack of communication to

interested parties. Study Team meeting scheduled for late September/early October (exact date TBD). The meeting is structured as a focus group (invite only) for irrigators.

B. Uncompahgre Project System Optimization (Dave Kanzer , CRWCD; Steve Miller, CWCB).

Action Item: Sonja will request an RSVP for the August 28th System Optimization meeting so that she can make sure there is adequate room, etc. Space limited.

C. Subcommittee Updates

1. Research (Dave Kanzer)

Colorado Geological Survey Activities (CGS): Sonja and DK reported that Dave Noe CGS had contacted them regarding his inability to continue to participate in SMP activities due to changes associated with CGS' incorporation into the School of Mines. Dave Noe will be able to provide links to his online geologic maps of areas that he was able to map before his work assignment was changed. Dave Noe will not be able to provide a Bostwick Park Geologic Assessment / Summary

US Geological Survey Activities (USGS): Alisa Mast reported that she was getting some very interesting results back from the soil cores collected as part of the wetland study. Preliminary results from the study contradict the Wright study that said pyrite is driving selenium mobilization; her data shows its natural sources of nitrogen from bedrock.

- Questions about publication and review process: USGS has an internal colleague review process. Alisa indicated that the SMP can stay involved by reviewing and commenting before publication.

- Funding concerns: Funding for this project has not been secured from Reclamation which has made the logistics of running the project challenging. Alisa has an extension till the end of year for a final report with a 1st draft ready by late Sept/early Oct.

NRCS Activities: Dave Dearstyne reported the Lincoln, Nebraska lab is just starting to generate data on his samples. Maps will be created and data shared as soon as possible. Soil sampling currently taking place in Peach Valley and moving northeast into Hotchkiss. It's unclear at this point if Dave will be able to do more sampling next year.

- Other Notes: Dave's been researching a tool that looks at radioactive materials to determine selenium concentrations in soils with the help of Fred Fisher (former STF stakeholder).

Pond Study: Dave's NRCS summer interns finished the "Pond Study" for the Uncompahgre Valley, having delineated 630 ponds and conducted field verification to determine if perched. The project extends from Colona to Delta and then east. Data will be in the form of a GIS.

USGS Well Network Sampling:

Action Item: SMP WG would like Terry to research and begin necessary process for use of CRSP MOA funds for long-term sampling of 30 well network.

2. Technical & Implementation (John Sottolare, USBR)

Action Item: John will work on getting the SMP Technical Subcommittee established by late August.

3. Education & Outreach (Sonja)

Action Item: Sonja will work on getting the SMP WG penciled in for this fall and will report back to the group. She will also set a SMP Education/Outreach meeting for this fall to develop outreach objectives and tasks for 2013/14.

Sonja had a request from Hanna Holm to write a series of articles for CMU "Water Lines". Ideas developed by the SMP WG included:

- Big Picture
- Smaller Picture (On-farm article, quotes from Randy)
- Endangered Species
- TMDL's
- Selenium & Salinity relationship and differences

Action Item: Sonja will work on finalizing article ideas, message delivery and presentation format for public outreach sessions with County and Planning Commissions.

4. Science Plan: Suzanne Paschke (project lead, USGS) provided a written up-date to the SMP Work Group as she was not available to participate in the meeting. There were concerns expressed by the SMP WG over the amount of funding already paid to USGS and the fact that no one had seen/reviewed a product to date. The SMP was concerned about the project moving too far forward without their input and oversight.

Action Item: Dave Brown will be meeting with the appropriate USGS personnel and will report back to the SMP at the next meeting.

LUNCH BREAK ON YOUR OWN (12PM-1PM)

II. Salinity Control Program Updates (John) (1pm-1:15pm)

A. 2010 Project Updates

B. 2012 FOA project selection and progress: Only two signed agreements at this time.

Action Item: Sonja will get a copy of the 2010 and 2013 Salinity project information presented by John and will distribute to the SMP and STF via email (list of projects and GIS maps).

Action Item: Dave Kanzer will work with River District GIS staff to overlay 2010 and 2012 salinity projects on selenium maps to help move efforts forward with outreach to entities in selenium bearing areas who may be interested in submitting a salinity FOA proposal.

III. Finalize SMP governance document: Only one additional comment/piece of input was given by River District.

Action Item: John made a note of the comment and will pass it on to Terry.

IV. Fish Selenium Data & Recent USGS Report (Barb Osmundson, FWS): Barb presented information which brought clarification that some recent fish tissue data published by USGS (OFR 2013 – 1104) that were below toxicity values had recently come from ponds stocked with low selenium concentration in the water (and therefore food/prey items).

V. Discussion Item: Coordination of SMP activities and funding sources for SC Environmental: Tabled due to time constraints.

Action Item: Sonja will work on a preliminary draft with DK, Terry and Steve Miller which can be presented to the SMP for further input.

VI. Discussion Item: Identified SCTF Projects for 2013-14: Tabled due to time constraints.

VII. Next Meeting Dates:

STF & SMP WG (tentative Oct 17th); SMP Subcommittee- TBD