

## DRAFT AGENDA

**HNRTC Meeting**  
**July 8-9, 1999 – USFWS Office**  
**Olympia, Washington**

**Thursday, July 8, 1999:**

- 9:00 Welcome and Introductions
- Approve Agenda & Previous Meeting Minutes
- Review Action Items
- 9:15 Announcements (All)
- 9:30 Update on 100 Area Public Comment Period (Jay McConnaughey)
- 9:45 Strontium-90 Discussion (Jamie Zeisloft/Larry Gadbois)
- 10:45 BREAK
- 11:00 Tolling Agreement Discussion (Doug Mosich/John Carleton/Jamie Zeisloft)
- 11:30 BRMaP Update/Discussion (Dan Landeen)
- 11:45 LUNCH BREAK
- 1:15 Groundwater/Vadose Zone Update (Jamie Zeisloft/Barbara Harper)
- 1:45 DDE/DDT Update/Status (Jamie Zeisloft)
- 2:15 1100 Area Pre-Assessment Screen Status (1100 Area Work Group??)
- 2:30 BREAK
- 2:45 Draft Letter for Finding on Geological Source Site (Jay McConnaughey)
- 3:30 By-Laws (Susan Hughs)
- 4:00 ADJOURN

**Friday, July 9, 1999:**

- 8:30 Chromium Study/Salmon Study Phase II (Jamie Zeisloft)
- 9:00 BTAG Discussion (Bruce Duncan, EPA Seattle/All)
- 10:00 BREAK
- 10:15 Continue BTAG Discussion
- 11:30 ADJOURN

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Due date:  
Aug. 18

# HANFORD NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEE COUNCIL

## Meeting Minutes

July 8-9, 1999

Natural Resources Building - Olympia, Washington

### Council Attendees:

John Carleton	Jenifer Linville
Teri Elzie	Jay McConnaughey
Larry Gadbois	Doug Mosich
Wendell Hannigan (Not Present)	Tom O'Brien (Not Present)
Barbara Harper (Not Present)	Preston Sleeper (Not Present)
Susan Hughs	Darci Teel
Nick Iadanza (Not Present)	JR Wilkinson (Not Present)
Jake Jakabosky (Not Present)	Jamie Zeisloft
Dan Landeen	

### Presenters & Guests:

Don Steffech, USFWS  
Bruce Duncan, EPA Seattle

### Welcome and Introductions:

Jay welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

### Approval of Agenda and May Meeting Minutes:

The meeting minutes from both the March meeting and the May meeting were approved. The agenda was discussed and one item was added by Jamie Zeisloft, a discussion on the W-519 Revegetation Project. The agenda was approved as amended.

### Action Item List:

The Action Item list was reviewed and updated.

#### **New Action Items:**

- (1) Teri Elzie – Add Doug Mosich to the Web Page committee
- (2) Jamie Zeisloft - Biomonitoring Master Plan/Schedule; copies to the Council
- (3) Tom O'Brien - Rocky Mountain Arsenal Master Biomonitoring Plan, copy to Teri to forward to Council.

### Announcements:

- Susan distributed copies of an article from the Seattle Times, "Hanford Cleanup Isn't All Great News," and copies of a pamphlet, "Protecting the Columbia River."

- Jay mentioned the Health of Hanford Conference, November 2-3, 1999, Tri-Cities; and a seminar, "Wildlife Applications," Denver, Colorado, August 17-19, 1999.
- Jay stated that approval of Resolution 99-02, Barbara Harper as Vice-Chair was received, however, we may have to re-address the issue.
- Larry said that on August 24, 1999, Ecology/EPA will be hosting a workshop to discuss soil cleanup levels and how they are doing calculations, how did they derive the cleanup levels, etc. It will be held in Portland, Oregon, 1:00 – 5:00; location TBD.
- Larry stated that HR-3 is going out for public comment, July 23, 1999.  
**Action: Darci – Begin providing the document review list to the Council again.**
- Larry distributed copies of EPA's comments on the 100 Area Burial Ground Feasibility Study.
- Jamie updated the Council on personnel changes within DOE.

### Update on 100 Area Public Comment Period – Jay McConnaughey

Jay updated the Council on the 100 Area Assessment Plan Public Meeting that was held June 17, 1999, and the public comment period. He said there were several problems with distributing the notifications for the meeting, and so the comment period was adjusted to allow a full 30-days. The public comment period now runs until July 31, 1999. In spite of the poor notification, the meeting was held with the understanding that if requests come in for an additional public meeting, one would be held. Currently, the only comments received are from the EPA. Kudos were given to Jay on his presentation and to Jamie/ Jen for the posters they had prepared for the meeting.

### Strontium-90 Discussion – Jamie Zeisloft/Larry Gadbois

Jamie discussed the Strontium-90 articles that have been appearing in various newspapers. Norm Buske went out with Battelle and the Department of Health to do some sampling, and then wrote a report about Strontium-90 being found next to Fall Chinook spawning areas. Jamie said that the presence of Strontium-90 is "nothing new," a lot of Buske's results are "hypothetical," and he is adding in his own theories because the equipment he is using to do the sampling is not the right kind to sample for Strontium-90. Dan Landeen said that Buske's findings are nothing new as well and that his way of getting there is "suspect." Larry said that Buske is missing the distribution of data, and it is a misinterpretation of data. There was a discussion concerning the salmon being caught in British Columbia and Alaska by commercial fisherman, and that approximately 25-30% of the fish caught come from the Hanford Reach. Could radioactive fish end up on someone's dinner plate? It was stated that by the time the fish coming from the Hanford Reach (smolts???) reach Alaska, any radioactive contaminants would be diminished or only be identified in the bone, not the mass (??).

Jamie said that in the 100H-Area, Strontium-90 will be looked at and sampled. At the N-Reactor, Strontium-90 will be found at much higher concentrations.

Jamie discussed a document, "Survey of Radioactive Contaminants in the Near Shore Environment at the Hanford Site 100-N Reactor Area." Jay said that he feels the document only discusses exposure and doesn't address injury. Jay would like to see an injury study be done that could identify what actions could be taken as a remedy to the problem in the N Area.

Susan asked if there is any "action" needed from the Council at this point.

**Action: Jamie – Provide a copy of the document, "Survey of Radioactive Contaminants in the Near Shore Environment at the Hanford Site 100-N Reactor Area," to Tom O'Brien/Don.**

**Action: Jamie – Set up a conference call with the Council and the NR-2 Project Managers.**

### **Tolling Agreement – Doug Mosich**

Doug updated the Council on the Tolling Agreement and said there is nothing new going on right now. Doug said there is the possibility of adding the North Slope but that is a couple of months away. He said we would use what we currently have as a template and propose it for the North Slope. It was stated that the Statute of Limitations (3 years) has expired with the State, but not for the Tribes. Larry asked if the Tribes would be interested in following through with a tolling agreement, Dan Landeen said "probably not." Jamie asked if the State (Doug) would not be signing the Tolling Agreement because the time has expired, and Doug said that is the way they are leaning. The original draft of the Tolling Agreement included both the 1100 Area and the North Slope. DOE's response narrowed it to only the 1100 Area. The Statute of Limitations for the North Slope runs out in October. Jamie asked Doug to notify him (State to DOE) when they have decided whether they will sign the Tolling Agreement or not.

### **BRMaP Update/Discussion – Dan Landeen**

Dan provided the Council with an update of the BRMaP. The Nez Perce have been working with PNNL and are approximately 1/3 complete with updating the maps. Dan said the Introduction and the Executive Summary have been rewritten and submitted to PNNL, but he hasn't heard anything back as yet. Dan also said there are several changes that need to be made within the plan itself. He will be meeting with PNNL next week to discuss what remains to be done. A draft should be out for review by the end of September. Jamie asked about the issue of compatibility with the HRA/EIS, and Dan said that he has been working with Tom Ferns.

### **Groundwater/Vadose Zone – Jamie Zeisloft**

Technical elements within GW/VZ are working with conceptual models, and Jamie distributed a copy of the latest presentation on conceptual models. Pam Doctor and Barbara Harper are working on the dependency webs, and a draft should be issued

July 16, 1999.

### **Project W-519 – Jamie Zeisloft**

Jamie updated the Council on Project W-519, Compensatory Mitigation. He said they are presently working on selection of the sites for fall planting. Once the sites are selected, ecological and cultural reviews will be done. The subcontract for the planting has not been written, and discussions with the Tribes are happening. Jamie said if the Tribes can not be competitive, they will not get the work. The USFWS is looking for the best price they can get. He said the current plan is to plant in the fall and then begin the 3 different monitoring events over the next five years. They will be studying post-planting influences on survival (environment). Discussions with the Tribes are leading to the site selection on ALE, because they are most interested in ALE. Larry asked the question, “what gets you more habitat, 400 plants on 1 acre, 200 plants on 2 acres, or 100 plants on 4 acres.” Is there a minimum density to restore the habitat? Jamie said if we continue to see the survival rate we have been seeing, we could go to a lower density. More plants/more acres for the same price. Currently there are nine large plots and Jamie distributed a map identifying the plots and giving a brief description of each of the selected sites. The USFWS has agreed that access to the sites selected would be acceptable.

If you want to comment on the site selection process, send comments to Teri/Jamie and they will forward them on to Mike Sackschewsky (2 weeks). A conference call may be set-up to discuss site selection.

### **By-Laws – Susan Hughs**

Resolution 99-03, Revision to the NRTC By-Laws, will go out July 12, 1999, for Council vote.

### **Geologic Source Site Letter (Draft E) – Jay McConnaughey**

Jay passed out copies of the latest draft (Draft E) of the Geologic Source Site letter to Paul Dunigan. The letter was discussed and some language changes suggested. In the 100 Area, which would be best, to cap or to excavate? Excavation would involve recountouring, which would require backfill. Suggested changes were given to Jay so that he could prepare Draft F.

### **DDE/DDT Update/Status – Jamie Zeisloft**

Jamie discussed the preliminary results we have received on the DDE/DDT issue. He said that we have most of the results, but that they are preliminary. Based on USFWS results, DOE chose to do additional biomonitoring on ALE and North Slope, the higher risk sites from the USFWS report. The sampling was done using a grid system, insects were collected to see if the DDE was restricted to certain portions of the sites or all over. Jenifer said that anything found in the traps was sampled (beetles, spiders, and crickets).

Bird eggs were also collected, but there are no results back as yet. Jamie stated there was only one hit on ALE, several hits on Horseshoe Landfill; PSN-90 matched pretty closely with the USFWS report, but all data has not come back; PSN-01 composite samples; H-06-LE several composite samples, pretty close to the USFWS report (ours a little higher mean). No isolation to DDT, pretty spread out.

Jamie said that we didn't learn a whole lot more, but that it is not isolated hot spots. He said that we don't know what we will do from this point forward, have to discuss it with the project people.

Jamie said that if it is related to waste sites, contamination levels are too low to cause population impacts. Yes, there is DDE out there and it appears to be related to the waste sites themselves. Don said that they (USFWS) would like to work with DOE to address these issues because some of the levels are elevated and it is a wildlife refuge (habitat). The USFWS says that it is biologically significant, whereas Jamie (DOE) said that it is biologically insignificant.

Jamie said that a draft report will be issued. When the rest of the data and the bird egg data comes back, he will pass on the results. Darci said the remaining data should come back within the next couple of weeks.

**Action: Jamie – Distribute the egg data results to the Council when it is received.**

### **1100 Area Pre-Assessment Screen Status – 1100 Area Work Group**

Jay said that he put this on the agenda because he wanted the group reminded that we have a project that has been stagnant for some time. Jay said the Horn Rapids Landfill and Horseshoe Landfill were the only 2 sites that were NOT eliminated. Jamie asked if those potential impacts warrant the cost of additional assessment? Don said that when the 1100 area (or any areas) are "delisted," EPA has a five-year timeframe to come back and revisit the areas if new information becomes available. Larry said that the 1100 Area Landfill was the only site that EPA left that option open for. Jamie said the Tribes could still file a damage claim on the 1100 Area PAS. They would have to complete the PAS, move forward with an assessment, and then determine if there is the potential for injury. Otherwise, the PAS dies as a draft document. Jay said he was looking to see if it could be completed. John would like to see it recorded (from the Council) closing out the site. Susan asked what is involved with completing the PAS? John said we need to come to some kind of final consensus on the two sites. Do we have enough information on Horseshoe, and what do we do about Horn Rapids? Is there enough information to show potential for injury to go forward with a damage assessment? These two sites were NOT ruled out because of "reasonable cost." Does the value of the injured resource exceed the value of the assessment. Doug asked if anyone could do an "economic model" using the worst case scenario; Jamie said that would cost more.

Jamie said that we should be doing a pre-assessment screen for the North Slope, and the Statute of Limitations is about to run out.

Susan said that she thinks the Council should at least do a letter to file stating what we (the Council) think and move on to bigger and better problems. Jamie said that DOE-RL's recommendation would be to not move forward to an assessment, the sites are too small and the numbers are too low. Dan said he will check into the Nez Perce funding additional samples.

**Friday, July 9, 1999**

**Chromium Study/Salmon Study Phase II – Jamie Zeisloft**

Jamie updated the Council on the Salmon Study. He stated that additional funding was received for Phase II which includes a re-do of the fertilization test, conducting avoidance testing, and the water exposure test using Hanford water. Jamie discussed a presentation he gave to the HAB-ER Committee and provided everyone with a copy. He said that he is awaiting a proposal from the Spokane USFWS office. He is planning for funding to cover three things:

- Preparation of Study Plan
- Implementation of Study Plan
- Final Report

Jamie said that it was originally planned for USFWS to prepare the study plan, and now that Battelle will be writing it he needs to “de-scope” this work from the USFWS. Realizing that the USFWS have already been paid to do the work, Jamie needs to determine out how to get the funding transferred from the USFWS to Battelle. Jamie said that now we need to get the contracts in place and get the study plan written.

A copy of Jamie's presentation is filed with the meeting information.

**BTAG Discussion – Bruce Duncan (EPA Seattle)**

Bruce Duncan of the EPA office in Seattle discussed the possibility of establishing a Biological Technical Assistance Group (BTAG) at the Hanford Site.

The purpose of a BTAG is to help project managers make remedial decisions and get through the RI/FS process. The goal of having Trustee membership, is so that during the CERCLA process, Trustee concerns are identified and the NRDA process is brought out or discussed.

Bruce said that by establishing a BTAG we would know exactly what would be done with any information collected and how it will be used. He said that you would get the best benefit from a BTAG early on in the project. Doug asked if a BTAG would supplement what the Council does, or does it become a “lightening rod” to challenge (frustrate) the Council. Jamie asked if we need “biological technical assistance” at Hanford? He said we have the experts at Hanford, we just don't utilize them. Bruce said

that you should not add the BTAG as a layer that would add problems. Larry said that a BTAG at Hanford could give the ecological people more of an upper hand. Hanford is a very large site with a lot of sites that need to be cleaned up, and the “human health” side (people) far outnumber the ecological people, so they currently have had the upper hand.

Bruce reiterated the role of the BTAG is to get the right information to the decision makers in order for them to make their decision.

Doug would like to see an informal BTAG formed to help with decision making. The role of the EPA in a BTAG would be to ensure that other “critters” (those that don’t have a Trust responsibility) are considered as well.

Doug asked if the Council can make the decision to establish a BTAG or if that decision needs to be made by the EPA? Bruce said usually it is the EPA Project Manager that decides a BTAG is necessary.

Susan asked if the Council were to establish a BTAG, what resources would become available that we don’t have now? Don (USFWS) tried to answer that it would make resources available that currently aren’t available, but at no cost. Bruce said that BTAG involvement usually lowers ecological costs.

Doug suggested developing a set of objectives of how a BTAG could help at Hanford. The Council could evaluate it and then decide whether or not to take it to management (good or bad), a sort of “pilot” project.

Jay thinks that a BTAG could be implemented in the 200 Area (DQO process); Susan asked if a decision is needed today from the Council? Larry suggested that a request is needed from an RPM.

Jamie is going to wait for EPA/Ecology to request a BTAG through the DOE. Then he will work on it from his end.

Any questions should be sent to Larry and then he can forward them on to Bruce. Bruce will respond back to Larry and will forward them through Teri to the Council.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held in Lowell, Idaho. Dan Landeen will finalize the dates and get back to us (September 7-8 or September 8-9).