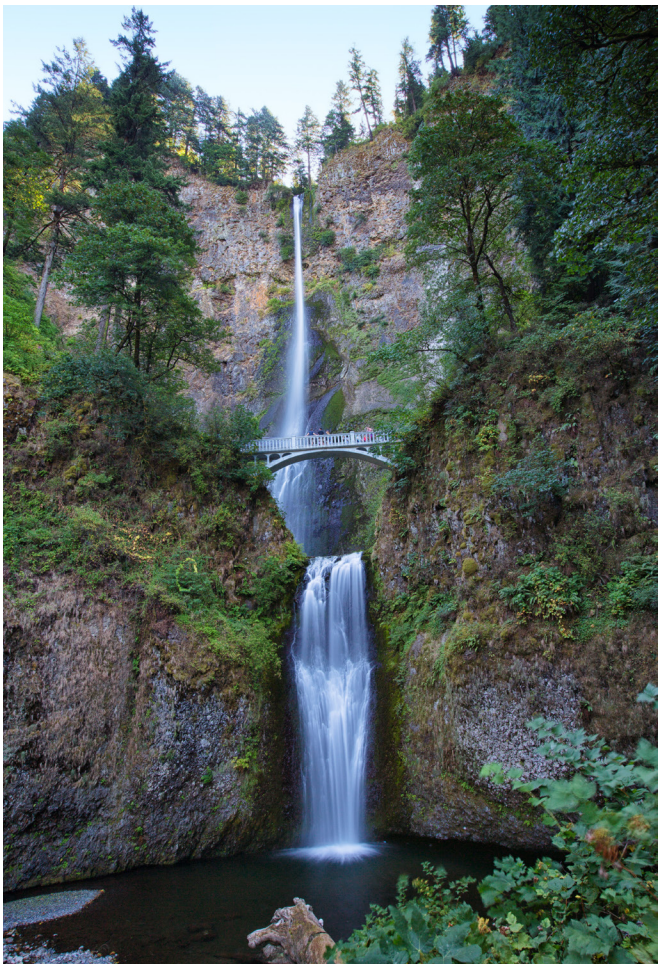
EPA

COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN
RESTORATION PROGRAM

Columbia River Basin Restoration Working Group
Hybrid Meeting Summary

MAY 31, 2023



CRBRWG Meeting
May 31, 2023
INTERNAL NOTES

Columbia River Basin Restoration Program Working Group
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May 31, 2023

In-Person Participants

- Adriane Borgias, WA Dept of Ecology
- Amy Puls, USGS/PNAMP
- Annie Byerley, Walla Walla County Conservation District
- Ashley Zanolli, EPA R10
- Brett Raunig, City of Vancouver
- Bryan DeDoncker, Clark County, WA
- Chris Hathaway, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
- Dan Kent, Salmon-Safe
- David Gruen, ODEQ
- Dorie Sutton, City of Vancouver
- J Shah, Yakama Nation
- Jen Bayer, USGS/PNAMP
- Jenna Baivin, Columbia Riverkeeper
- Karl Rains, WA Dept. of Ecology
- Kelli Daffron, NCWA
- Keri Handaly, Clean River Coalition Gresham
- Kris Olinger, City of Vancouver
- Laura Shira, Yakama Nation
- Lisa Kusnierz, EPA R10
- Lorri Epstein, Columbia Riverkeeper
- Mark Jankowski, EPA R1O
- Miles Johnson, Columbia Riverkeeper
- Nic Taylor, EPA R10
- Nikki Guillot, WA Dept of Health
- Peter Murchie, EPA R10
- Roy Iwai, Multnomah County
- Yvonne Vallette, EPA R10
- Greg Frey, The Council Oak (facilitator)
- Sophie Daudon, The Council Oak (intern)

Remote Participants

- Alan Kolok, University of Idaho
- Alex Mahmoud, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Andrew Swanson, Clackamas County and Oregon's Assn. of Clean Water Agencies (ACWA)
- Anthony Peña, Pacific Northwest Waterways Association
- Ben Jarvis, Idaho DEQ
- Brian Muegge, Salmon-Safe
- Brook Beeler, Washington Department of Ecology

- Catherine Corbett, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
- Crystal Elliot-Perez, WA Habitat Director, Trout Unlimited
- David Primozich, The Freshwater Trust
- Dianne Barton, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
- Elaine Placido, Executive Director of the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
- Elena Ramirez Groszowski, Yakama Nation Fisheries
- Elizabeth Herrmann, graduate student at University of Idaho
- Emilie Henry, MT Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation, Flathead Basin Commission
- Emily Stranz, DS Consulting
- Eric Trum, Montana Department of Environmental Quality
- Frances Gilliland, Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center
- Jan Boll, Washington State University (Pullman)
- Jesse Naymik, Idaho Power Company
- Jill Nogi, EPA R10
- Karen Schumacher, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
- Kat Compton, EPA R10
- Kathryn Rifenburg, Oregon Dept of Ag
- Kevin Masterson, Stony Creek Consulting
- Kevin Scribner, Salmon-Safe
- Krista Mendelman, EPA R10
- Lynny Brown, Willamette Partnership, Co-Director of a Region 10 TCTAC
- Maggie McKeon, Pacific NW National Lab
- Mary Engels, University of Idaho
- Mason Murphy, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Michelle Wilcox, EPA R10
- Nick Peak, EPA R10
- Peter Brumm, EPA R8
- Rachel Malison, Flathead Lake Biological Station, University of Montana
- Rich Doenges, Washington Dept of Ecology, Southwest Region Director
- Rob Elleman, EPA R10
- Robin Parker, EPA HQ
- Sean Payne, USGS Oregon Water Science Center
- Sherrie Duncan, Yakama Nation
- Tara Galuska, Orca Recovery Coordinator, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, Recreation and Conservation Office
- Tim Counihan, USGS Western Fisheries Research Center
- Will Hobbs, WA Dept of Ecology

Morning Session

WELCOME, AGENDA REVIEW, & PARTICIPANT INTRODUCTIONS

***Peter Murchie**, EPA Region 10 Geographic Programs Manager & **Greg Frey**, Council Oak*

Greg reviewed the agenda and options for in-person and remote participation. Peter Murchie introduced the EPA team and gave an acknowledgement of Mary Lou Soscia's work and retirement. He acknowledged that it is EPA's intent to grow the Columbia River Basin Restoration Program as a premier

EPA Geographic Program, building from the foundational work of the Working Group to help coordinate and lead toxics reduction efforts with tribes, states, local governments, industry, nonprofits and other partners across the Basin. He also highlighted the hard work of the EPA staff who are filling in the gaps while the team is short-staffed.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Sammy Matsaw Jr., *PhD, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and Ogalala Lakota Nation*

Dr. Matsaw spoke about the importance of increasing tribal government access to federal funding sources, via reducing grant application complexity and providing capacity assistance. He also emphasized the need to push back on elements of Western science. In particular, he highlighted the use of language in Western versus Indigenous cultures—Western language uses a lot of nouns and fewer verbs, whereas in Indigenous cultures, the verb-thought world shows how interactive peoples' lives are with the natural world. Examples like language help illustrate the need to heal how Western cultures relate to the world around them. Doing so will enable us to also tackle interrelated problems like climate change denialism and white supremacy. He is working on exploring ways to involve non-scientific communities in scientific assessments and use those opportunities to heal the Western relationship to the land. There is a lot of intelligence in our communities that is not being fully tapped—learning how to cooperate to share and benefit from this knowledge, rather than competing, will be essential to moving forward successfully on stewardship work.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Matt Tejada, *EPA Deputy Assistant Administrator for Environmental Justice*

Matt presented on the EPA's Environmental Justice efforts to close the gaps for communities who have been left behind by the environmental movement and have borne the brunt of pollution and other negative environmental impacts. Because of the huge amount of work needed to address historical injustices, he sees the current Justice 40 and IRA Environmental Justice funds as the equivalent of "honest money," rather than a "down payment." The work to address inequity is just starting. On this note, the EPA wants the Columbia River Basin Working Group to share the grant opportunities proactively and widely to disadvantaged communities.

Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs) are one way that the EPA is hoping to make Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and other funds more accessible to communities. These centers will provide cost-free basic forms of technical assistance and capacity building (e.g., grant writing support, community outreach strategies, incorporating a nonprofit, etc.) to communities with needs. Two TCTACs are starting in Region 10—led by the University of Washington and the Willamette Partnership. Region 8 has an interim TCTAC and is expected to win a grant competition in July to become a permanent TCTAC. Another EJ effort is the "Grant Maker" competition, which will provide a subaward program to regional grant givers to make it less burdensome for communities to access federal funds compared to applying for federal grants. An additional opportunity starting this summer are "Change Grants" (official name TBD). These grants, which will be between $10–$15 million, are intended to help communities close funding gaps to implement bigger environmental projects, such as replacing lead pipes, installing solar, etc. These grants will have a rolling application period starting soon. The bottom line is that the EPA EJ office wants the CRBRP Working Group to help local partners access and leverage these funds—

partnership in this effort is critical and partners in the Working Group are already well set up to access these types of funds and exactly who the EPA hopes to work with.

R10 EJ TCTAC

***Lynny Brown**, Co-director of R10 TCTAC*

Lynny Brown works at the Willamette Partnership, a conservation nonprofit committed to building equitable communities, fostering collaborative solutions, providing technical assistance, and facilitating connections between diverse peoples. She co-directs the new regional EPA TCTAC. She has prior experience with the Portland State Institute for Tribal Governance and brings that lens to her work. Her focus thus far has been looking at accountability to communities and changing systems to better support their needs and to ensure that their support is going where it is most needed. The Willamette Partnership TCTAC will offer services such as leadership and advocacy training and grant writing assistance. The CRBRP Working Group can get involved by ensuring that the unprecedented funding is going to the best use. She urges the group to capitalize on this opportunity and to invest in, support, and amplify existing EJ work that has already been happening for a long time.

To get updates, join the mailing list at: www.willamettepartnership.org/ej-tctac/.

EPA CLIMATE AND POLLUTION PREVENTION UPDATE

***Kat Compton**, EPA R10 Climate Coordinator and **Jill Nogi**, R10 P2 Lead*

Kat's slides gave an overview of IRA funding available for climate-related pollution work and how the funding will be funneled within the EPA to support 6 programs. She highlighted the two largest programs—the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) and the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG). Climate and EJ goals are embedded into both of these grants. The CPRG is a two-stage, $500 million program that supports climate action planning (Phase 1) and implementation (Phase 2). There is a Tribal Funding Program that is associated with that grant. The GGRF has three different objectives: 1) reduce emissions of GHG and other pollutants, 2) deliver benefits to American communities—especially low income and disadvantaged communities, and 3) mobilize financing and private capital to stimulate additional deployment (More detail is available in the slides.). Overall, these programs aim to support climate mitigation and adaptation.

Jill gave an overview of P2—the Pollution Prevention Program targets source reduction and thus provides grants to communities tackling pollution sources. For more information on the EPA's P2 and related grants visit: www.epa.gov/P2. The grant program is accepting applications until June 20 at 11:59 pm EST.

Overall, there are many funding opportunities coming and currently available. Using TCTACs and other partnerships to leverage access to this funding is a great opportunity for communities.

Related Information from Attendees:

- Opportunities to Accelerate Nature-Based Solutions: The Roadmap for Climate Progress, Thriving Nature, Equity, and Prosperity https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/green-infrastructure-federal-collaborative

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EMERGING CONTAMINANTS UPDATE

***Mark Jankowski**, R10 Ecotoxicologist & **Patrick Moran**, USGS Ecotoxicologist*

Mark provided context and background on Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs). CECs began with endocrine disruptors, since then the number of toxins designated as CECs has only grown. Many CECs start in personal care products and medications and then enter watersheds. Disposing of these items correctly will reduce CEC pollution. As the list of emerging contaminants grows, so too does the challenge of looking for them in the environment. Mass spectrometry is one new tool for identifying contaminants—in general, we are moving towards New Approach Methods (NAMs).

Related Information from Attendees:

- Gary Bahr, WSDA: EPA has recently announced their process to rebuild the EDSP assessment program. Please see their recent announcement, white paper update, and other information. I work with EPA OPP at a national level, and if you want further information, I can provide the science team contacts. https://www.epa.gov/endocrine-disruption

Afternoon Session

EPA UPDATES

***Nicole Taylor**, EPA Columbia River Team*

Nic provided updates on the two Requests for Applications that EPA is currently reviewing. The Tribal Government RFA closed on January 31 and the Toxic Reduction Lead RFA closed on March 13. EPA has been reviewing applications and will be making award decisions this summer. Stay tuned for an announcement this fall. A science and monitoring RFA is in development, but will not be released this fiscal year.

For more information on EPA's competitive grant program for environmental protection and restoration programs in the Columbia River Basin, visit Columbia River Basin Restoration Funding Assistance Program | US EPA

GRANTEE PRESENTATIONS

***Dave Wark**, UW Tacoma*

Dave presented his project characterizing the occurrence of CECs in the Lower Columbia River using High Resolution Mass Spectrometry methods. He and his research team monitored 16 sampling locations on the Columbia around Portland, OR and Vancouver, WA. They found that several CECs were present at unhealthy levels and that concentrations varied based on time of year in ways they did not expect, and more research would be helpful to understand the pattern.

***Kirk Shimeall**, Cascade Pacific RC&D*

Kirk shared how the Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development center has used CRBRP funds. The Cascade Pacific RC&D is working to coordinate regional goals for water quality in urban

environments. They have developed an MOU between a range of organizations to ensure that they are working in coordination to improve watershed health.

***Andy Maher**, WA Ecology & **Brett Raunig**, City of Vancouver*

Andy shared the work of the Pollution Prevention Assistance (PPA) Partnership, a program administered by WA Dept of Ecology to provide free, hands-on technical assistance to Small Quantity Generators (SQG)—their efforts are non-regulatory and voluntary. They have county partners throughout Washington and have worked in each area to help implement better pollution control practices to reduce runoff. Brett gave examples of their success and challenges supporting small businesses in the City of Vancouver.

***Kris Olinger**, P.E., Surface Water, City of Vancouver & **Dorie Sutton**, Environmental Scientist, City of Vancouver*

Kris and Dorie presented their methods and results from a watershed assessment they conducted in Vancouver, WA. They gathered data from watersheds that encompass 80% of the city area. They took data from base and storm flow to understand water quality and determine next steps for preserving and increasing Vancouver's Watershed Health.

EPA UPDATES

***Ashley Zanolli**, EPA Columbia River Team*

Ashley gave an update on EPA's Regional Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (RESES) pilot effort to prioritize and screen PFAS chemicals in the Columbia River Basin. The slides and content of her presentation are drafts and more detail should be available later this year. The project seeks to help tribal and state partners find a cost-efficient way to investigate and screen for PFAS contamination. The EPA has developed a prioritization workflow to predict locations with PFAS contaminated fish tissue and surface water. A tiered analytical chemistry approach and will be developed using field samples or archived samples over the next year. Ashley also touched on 6PPD, a newly identified chemical deadly to salmon and introduced to waterways by car tire dust. The EPA is aware of the contaminant and working to better understand it.

UPDATES FROM THE TOXICS MONITORING SUB-GROUP

***Jen Bayer**, USGS PNAMP Coordinator & **Mark Jankowski**, R10 Ecotoxicologist*

Jen and Mark provided an update from the Toxics Monitoring Sub-group. They are working to coordinate and better integrate data collection and sharing from across the Columbia River Basin and have met over the past year to figure out how to do this smoothly. They shared their top 10 ideas for how to move forward and got feedback from the group about which priorities were most important. They also shared initial findings from their Monitoring Matrix and gaps in data. They have another meeting July 11th, 2023 and would love input.

Learn more at the CRBRP Toxics Monitoring Subgroup (TMS) Project Page on pnamp.org & join us for the July 11th TMS virtual meeting

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ROUND ROBIN

Events Shared by Participants

- PSEMP Toxics Work Group Meeting – June 22, 2023
  This meeting is in-person/hybrid at the Center for Urban Waters in Tacoma. There will be three speakers from US EPA on PFAS, and Mariko Langness will present on her work developing the new nearshore/mussel indicator. The meeting will be followed by an informal happy hour in Tacoma. The agenda is available at:
  https://pspwa.box.com/s/zrtjzkqhyfkqe7p6dx72a33sojacvupy
- PCB Symposium #2 – June 15, 2023
  The second event from the Puget Sound Cross Program Contaminant Working Group focusing on PCB source identification and tracking. More information and a registration link is available at: https://www.pugetsoundinstitute.org/about/cross-program-contaminant-working-group/