

# GRAND VALLEY SELENIUM TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

July 14, 2004

Technical Steering Committee Meeting 10:00 a.m. to noon

Task Force Meeting 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Bureau of Reclamation, 2764 Compass Drive

Facilitator: Tom Peltier, Grand Valley Selenium Task Force Coordinator

[Note: This is the last meeting Tom will be serving as Task Force Coordinator.]

## **Technical Steering Committee Meeting**

1. **Introductions:** Tom Peltier (GVSTF), Eileen List (Grand Jct), Rick Krueger (USFWS), Dave Kanzer (CRWCD), Dan Beley (WQCD), Barb Osmundson (USFWS), Mike Baker (USBOR), Russ Walker\* (Mesa State College) [\*participated in afternoon session]
2. **Agenda Revisions (Facilitator):** Paul von Guerard was unable to attend the meeting; the two agenda items that Paul intended to discuss: Land Use Study and Stormwater Contributing to Selenium were removed from the agenda. Paul had previously transmitted an email message to Task Force participants discussing these issues. At the request of Task Force members, discussion of "GVSTF Coordinator Recruitment" was added to the agenda for the afternoon session.
3. **Muddler's Proposal and Public Outreach Objectives (Mike Baker):** During last month's Technical Work Group Meeting, Mike developed a discussion paper outlining a process for developing a public outreach strategy and identify target areas for encouraging public involved in water conservation (which will also help to promote selenium reduction). All participants agreed this rather whimsical name needs to be changed but the basic concepts contained in the document are worthwhile. The document identified potential partners and objectives of what the GVSTF would like to do with them. The basic premise of this effort is to ask potential partners what this group can do to help them reduce the amount of water that is being applied to the ground.

Greg Trainor (City of Grand Junction) has proposed a "Summit Meeting" to bring the various water conservation groups together. While our group and others have the same basic objective, it may be difficult to identify opportunities to coordinate and get the message of selenium reduction to these other groups. Dan Beley suggested this effort would be more effective if we met with a smaller group of the other parties to identify areas where this group can have an impact. Overall, the GVSTF needs to set priorities for Target Areas that they want to pursue action on. By

looking at how much water is being used in each target area and whether that water use is amenable to selenium reduction we can set priorities so that our efforts can be better focused and more productive. For instance, we know that ponds are a big potential source of deep percolation. Additionally, agricultural lands are the largest overall user of water so these are likely areas to focus our efforts. However, concerning selenium loading to the main stem of the Colorado River, we still need to focus on upstream issues as our top priority. Influencing new development throughout the region is particularly important. Once development happens the opportunity to address water issues is potentially lost. The Task Force does not have any way to regulate development but we can work cooperatively with local decision makers and encourage them to carefully evaluate new development proposals with an eye toward potential selenium impacts.

Some work has been done to quantify the cost per pound of selenium removal for various kinds of selenium removal activities. This information can also help the group prioritize its efforts toward selecting target areas to focus our efforts. Depletions are anticipated to be a significant factor this year due to activities at Shoshone Power Plant. With reduced flows we can anticipate selenium concentrations to be very high this year, even if loading remains constant. We don't know if this five-year period is anomalous or if it is representative of what we can expect for the long-term condition of the basin.

Based on the different approaches needed to address the tributaries and main stem, the group will likely need to develop a different set of priorities to address selenium loading in the tributaries. The TMDL process will also play a role in the prioritization process. The "Roadmaps" that are continuing to be developed (discussed later in the day) combined with the Public Outreach Objectives will help the group establish its priorities. It would also help to have a better idea of the pounds of selenium removal that can be expected from each potential activity. Members of the group noted that public outreach is, or should be, part of all of our activities. We need to first identify our overall course/path and then prioritize actions to best achieve progress down that path. The benefit of the "Roadmaps" is that they show us what steps (tasks or subtasks) have to be completed to progress to the next step in the process. We can use partners i.e., the DRIP Program to help disseminate this information. An important part of this outreach effort will be to make personal contact with potential partners before holding the summit meeting proposed by Greg Trainor.

Participants noted that the opportunity to influence future development is open and we need to take advantage of this while we can. Members of the group need to make contact with local planners and developers to urge

them to support our efforts. Having a list of Best Management Practices to give people would likely increase the effectiveness of this outreach effort.

### **Action Items:**

Incorporating the “Roadmaps” and “Public Outreach Objectives” documents into one package constituting an Action Plan; this should be done by the new coordinator.

Making contacts with potential partners: Eileen List will contact City Planners; Julie Constan will be asked to contact County Planners; NRCS staff (?) will be asked to contact land owners. Ed Page and Aung Hla will be asked to contact small acreage landowners; Russ Walker will contact golf course operators in the area; Dave Kanzer will contact Greg Trainor to work on the development of plans for the Summit and coordinate with the Gunnison River Basin/Grand Valley Water Forum. Other Task Force members are encouraged to volunteer to make contacts with other potential partners. These contacts should be set up with the new coordinator.

### **Grand Valley Selenium Task Force Meeting**

4. **Update from the Joint Steering Committee Meeting:** A joint Grand Valley Selenium Task Force/Gunnison River Basin Selenium Task Force Steering Committee Meeting was held in conjunction with a tour of selenium reduction projects on July 8<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was productive and provided a good foundation for the two groups to begin working more actively together to address selenium loading. The message the Grand Valley representatives brought to the meeting was: “What can we do for the Gunnison Basin group?” The Gunnison Group offered no specific insights about how the Grand Valley group could help them but they seemed to appreciate the offer of assistance. They will let us know when a need for help from the Grand Valley group arises.

The group believes the Joint Steering Committee Meetings are important and productive. However, the number of meetings to participate in are becoming a burden, and it was recommended that the joint meetings be consolidated into a one-day quarterly meeting that would incorporate both of the individual group meetings for the month and the Joint Steering Committee Meeting. This suggestion would result in a series of monthly meetings similar to the current meeting schedule, where one month there would be a Joint Steering Committee Meeting, the following month there would be a Technical Committee Meeting, and the third month there would be a full Task Force Meeting. The concept was to be introduced to the GVSTF at their meeting the following day.

5. **Coordinator Selection Committee:** Members of the group were asked to volunteer for the Coordinator Selection Committee. Dave Kanzer, Eileen List, Dan Beley, volunteered to serve on the committee. Paul von Guerard and Andrus Aslan (though neither was present) were also appointed to serve on the committee.
6. **"Roadmaps" for Addressing Selenium** (Mike Baker, Group): Several members suggested revisions to the flowcharts for addressing selenium in the main stem and tributaries. Eileen List and Dave Kanzer were asked to make suggested revisions to the flowcharts and bring them back for further discussion at a later meeting.

**Other Business:** Members of the group suggested that it would help the group to step back and look at accomplishments occasionally. Developing quarterly reports identifying where we are in the process would benefit the group and help to focus our efforts so we don't get lost in the process

Eileen List has been asked to speak to members of the Club 20 Water Committee. Her presentation will focus on informing the group about the priorities of the task forces. It was suggested that she also provide the group with a copy of the mission statement for the GVSTF and contact information for those interested in contacting the task force.

In the absence of a Coordinator for the Task Force, Eileen List has graciously volunteered to be the point of contact for inquiries to the Task Force. Her contact information is as follows:

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