

**Panhandle Basin Advisory Group**  
 Idaho Department of Health and Welfare  
 Coeur d'Alene, Idaho DEQ  
 October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
*Draft Meeting Notes*

<b>Members and Alternates Present</b>	<b>Guests Present</b>
W. C. Rust - Mining	Debra Andrews
Scott Fields - Coeur d'Alene Tribe	Chris Hardy
Jack Filipowski-Agriculture	Tom Herron
Adrienne Cronebergh - KEA	Kristie McEnroe
Robert Rider-Livestock	Rusty Shepard
Vince Rinaldi-Water Based Recreation	Jeanna Paluzzi
Patty Perry – Kootenai Tribe	Don Ellis
	Mike Knowles
	Marty Franz
	Chris Hardy
	Dave Pisarski
	Steve Kolb

The Panhandle Basin Advisory Group (BAG) meeting was called to order at 9:19 AM at Idaho Department of Health and Welfare in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, by Chair Vince Rinaldi. Introductions were made around the room.

The minutes were reviewed from the September 7<sup>th</sup> BAG meeting. Patty Perry had correction to the minutes, Vince Rinaldi made motion to pass the amended minutes, the motion was seconded by Bill Rust. Motion passed.

**Review of Agenda**

The agenda for today's meeting was reviewed by the BAG Members and corrected to remove the Coeur d'Alene Bank Stabilization project that was on last year's agenda and replace it with a DEQ update on the Priest Lake WAG.

**319 procedure overview**

Dave Pisarski from the DEQ State office overviewed this year's 319 budget and a little about the program itself. The EPA would like to change the way the 319 money is used to see it focused on priority watersheds which would be determined by the State rather than parceled out as it is now. So far they have not reached a decision which would mandate that practice. This year there were 1.4 Million dollars assigned for the 319 Projects. 25 project applications were received this year. The Super BAG Meeting will be held on December 5<sup>th</sup>, at the DEQ State Office. The BAG chairs from the regions will

then review all the top rated projects and select the ones that will receive funding this year.

Vince Rinaldi explained the timing procedures for the presentations. Each presentation will be limited to be 20 minutes, with an 18 minute presentation and a 2 minute window for questions.

## **2012 319 Grant Application Projects:**

### **Fish Creek Restoration Project**

This project was presented by Chris Hardy and Debra Andrews from the Twin Lakes Improvement Association. The Fish Creek TMDL Allocations called for a reduction in sediment of 33% or 278 tons per year. Grazing impacts from the project area account for a significant portion of this load. The Twin Lakes Improvement Association hope to repair an exposed section of Fish Creek with fencing, planting up to 8,000 willow bundles, native shrubs, wetland plants and conifers in an attempt to reinforce the bank. Bank stabilization will be composed of 20 rock/log barbs installed with coir cogs and burlap waddles with integrated planting providing root protection. They will also install two rock hardened cattle crossings that will be sloped and buttressed by rock/log grade control and anchored to the stream bed. The Fish Creek Restoration Project TMDL effort will reduce sediment and nutrients and will increase stream shade through comprehensive BMP application processes. The outcome of the project will be a stable stream channel with a reduction of 50% of the sediment load allocation and significant phosphorus loading reductions on Twin Lakes. The project is estimated to cost \$140,000. The Twin Lakes Improvement Association is asking for \$84,000 from the 319 program.

### **Mica Creek Sediment & Nutrient Reduction**

This project was presented by Tom Herron on behalf of Bob Flagor from the Kootenai Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District. During a high water event in early 2012, three hundred feet of creek bank including existing alder collapsed into Mica Creek. The massive bank failure partially blocked the stream and increased erosion of the newly exposed stream bank adding to the sediment of Mica Creek and ultimately to Lake Coeur d'Alene. The funding requested by the Kootenai Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation district is for Phase 1 of a 3 phase project. Phase 1 is intended to remove the collapsed vegetation from 250 feet of the South stream bank and dispose of it on an upland site, to reshape the bank with excavated materials, transport and finish grading of the upland disposal site and placement of rip rap and willow plantings at the eroded section per a NRCS design. Mica Creek was designated a water quality limited stream for sediment and bacteria and a TMDL put in place prior to this event. Corrective action is needed to address this bank collapse or further erosion of sedimentation of Mica Bay is likely to

occur. It is unlikely the goals of the TMDL will be met until this and other rehabilitation work is completed. The project is estimated to cost \$47,275. The Kootenai Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District are asking for \$28,365 from the 319 Program.

### **319 BAG Voting Results:**

After the presentations, the BAG voted on the order of support of the applications:

1. Fish Creek Restoration Project & Santa Creek Bank Stabilization\*
2. Mica Creek Sediment & Nutrient Reduction\*

\* A motion was made by Scott Fields that since the total dollar amount of the 2 combined projects was so low that both projects should be voted as #1. Vince Rinaldi offered to promote both projects equally at the Super BAG meeting in December. If he should have to put one over the other at the Super BAG meeting the BAG Members agreed that Fish Creek would be the number one choice. The motion was seconded by Jack Filipowski. Motion passed.

### **Priest Lake WAG**

Tom Herron notified the BAG that the DEQ has reinstated the Priest Lake WAG to develop a potential natural vegetation TMDL. DEQ solicited membership via email, letters and an ad in the local newspaper. Emails were sent out with a survey to various entities again in September. There were several interest groups; agriculture, livestock and mining that didn't have any response and others that had an abundant response. The DEQ is open to participation suggestions and would like to differ to the BAG Members to make a selection where there are multiple parties in the same interest group showing interest. Jack Filipowski let Tom know that he had spoken to Greg Becker a few months ago for WAG member suggestions and that he would be a good resource. Tom asked that any recommendations made be given to the Chairman and they would be forwarded to Tom. In the meantime the DEQ will continue to solicit representation for these industry segments. Bill Rust mentioned to the BAG that he can't remember a time when any interested party has been excluded. That when it came to a vote it was based on consensus. Tom said that the DEQ wasn't really focused on the voting issues but more on getting all the different interest groups fairly represented on the WAG. Patty Perry recommended contacting the Forest Service for any representatives they might suggest, and they would also know about any mining claims in the area which may be beneficial. A contact she recommended was Jill Cobb. Theoretically DEQ would like to see local members of the public, local business members or governing agencies with an interest in the watershed for Priest Lake and Priest River to fill the empty spaces on the WAG. Rusty Shepard was in attendance at the BAG and he has 50 acres along the lower west branch of Priest River and he had an interest in forest products and land management. Patty Perry reviewed the rules of the WAG making procedure and while they were not clear as to how members should be solicited it was clear that there should be equal representation for all interest groups. And that it is important to represent a balanced group. Tom Herron said he will get with the DEQ employees who have taken over the WAG to see if they can solicit more members. Tom asked the BAG Members to hang on

to the WAG material packet they were sent with the interested parties and he would send them any new interested parties as they come in. Bill Rust recommended that no one should be excluded and if it came down to a voting issue then the WAG should figure out internally what they want to do.

The next meeting was tentatively set for mid-April 2013. Slated for that meeting are the 2012 Integrated Report and an update from DEQ. An email will be sent to the BAG Members with a date when one is set.

Dave Pisarski asked the BAG Members to develop a system for scheduling the 319 BAG meetings that is similar to the State office's scheduling of the Super BAG. The State office schedules the Super BAG on the first Wednesday in December. Tom Herron mentioned that it should be scheduled either the first or second week in October and left it to the BAG to discuss at the next meeting.

Vince Rinaldi motioned to adjourn; Patty Perry seconded the motion, the motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:46 AM.