

Panhandle Basin Advisory Group
 Idaho Department of Fish and Game
 Coeur d'Alene, Idaho DEQ
 March 18, 2009
 Approved Meeting Notes

Members and Alternates Present	Guests Present
John Condon—Rep at Large	Serena Carlson—Intermountain Forest Industry Association
Dan Dinning—Local Government	Tyson Clyne—DEQ
Scott Fields—CdA Tribe	Donna Harvey—DEQ
Jack Filipowski—Agriculture	Ken Merrill—Kalispel Tribe
Kennon McClintock—Timber	Robert Steed—DEQ
Patty Perry—Kootenai Tribe	Kajsa Stromberg—DEQ
Robert Rider—Livestock	
Vince Rinaldi—Water Based Recreation	
W. C. (Bill) Rust—Mining	
Bernie Wilmarth—Non Municipal Permittee	

The meeting of the Panhandle Basin Advisory Group (BAG) was called to order by Chairman Scott Fields at 9:05 am at Idaho Department of Fish and Game, 2750 Kathleen Avenue, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Introductions were made around the room. Two new members: Kennon McClintock and John Condon were introduced and welcomed.

Jack Filipowski made a motion to accept the meeting notes from the October 22, 2008 BAG meeting. Bernie Wilmarth seconded the motion; the motion passed.

BAG Chairmanship: Vince Rinaldi, who was next in line to be BAG Chairperson, accepted the position. Vince will be BAG chair for two years.

319 Grants

DEQ has five 319 grant applications at this time with possibly two more coming in before the deadline of May 9, 2009. The 319 process has become more streamlined and the forms more user-friendly. DEQ has also changed the schedule to bring the time that the projects are prioritized by the Super BAG (chairs from all the BAGs) and the time the grant recipients receive the money closer together. DEQ hopes to narrow that time down to about a year. The Super BAG will meet August 13, 2009 in Boise.

TMDL Update

In the **Kootenai-Moyie Watershed**, DEQ placed some temperature loggers. All of the sites exceeded the EPA standards for temperature except for one site. DEQ will make an argument that most of these temperature exceedences are the natural condition.

The Pend Oreille TMDL was complete except for the Pend Oreille River from the Railroad Bridge to the state line, which was listed for nutrients. DEQ proposed a load allocation to the United States Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) which the ACOE found unacceptable. The ACOE came up with their own model. This will have to be peer-reviewed and published in order to be incorporated into the TMDL.

Another issue with the Pend Oreille River TMDL is that Washington State has stricter water quality standards than Idaho, and Idaho must meet Washington's criteria at the border. EPA has given Idaho a grant to hire a consultant to finish this TMDL.

Now that the Pend Oreille River has been listed for nutrients, the wastewater plants are very worried that a TMDL will prohibit them from obtaining their NPDES permits. DEQ is working with the wastewater systems to resolve the issue. DEQ has also received an \$80,000 grant for monitoring stations to monitor biomass. This TMDL is due in 2-3 years.

Spokane River

The draft permits for the Spokane River were halted and the process will begin again for the TMDL process for Washington. One of the problems is that Idaho must meet Washington's water quality standards 55 miles downstream from the border. The end result of Washington's TMDL for the Spokane River could be that none of the dischargers can meet the criteria in the TMDL.

Nutrient Pathogen

Bill Rust brought up the nutrient pathogen standards which do not protect Northern Idaho lakes. In Southern Idaho, these standards work, but in Northern Idaho, a ten unit housing development with a shared drainfield near a lakeshore could potentially impair a Northern Idaho lake under the current standards. Bill asked if it would be possible for the Northern Idaho counties to pass their own standards. Dan Dinning said that he didn't think the counties had that authority under state law.

Fish Creek

The Fish Creek WAG and the Kootenai Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District have proposed some projects for TMDL implementation for Fish Creek. The agriculture group has written a plan for the agricultural area and the Fish Creek WAG has written a plan for the forested areas.

University of Idaho Intern

Kelli Duncan, a senior in environmental studies student at the University of Idaho, took an internship with DEQ and has been working with Kajsa Stromberg. DEQ received ten years of temperature data from the United States Forest Service (USFS) for the Upper Spokane, South Fork Coeur d'Alene River, North Fork Coeur d'Alene River, and Coeur d'Alene Lake HUC. Kelli has been entering all of this information into a database. Kajsa has found that nearly all the waters listed meet the cold water criteria, but nearly all fail for salmonid spawning criteria.

North Fork Coeur d'Alene River WAG

The North Fork Coeur d'Alene River WAG has been meeting often and has been considering water quality criteria in subbasins, waterbody assessments, bull trout temperature, and a pending cadmium and arsenic rule change. The WAG has also worked on water quality implementation projects. Kajsa and the North Fork WAG have produced a handout that can be used in all WAGs that, when filled out, provides a rough idea for a water quality improvement project that could possibly result in a 319 grant application.

The North Fork WAG has received a \$140,000 grant from the Office of Species Conservation to improve water quality and habitat on private lands in the North Fork Watershed. Another ongoing project involves the EPA, DEQ, and USFS, who together will assess the USFS water quality projects in the North Fork Watershed for the five year review.

Deicing Study

Tyson Clyne presented a deicing study power point presentation. Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) has been using NaCl on the freeway instead of sand and gravel the past two years. Coeur d'Alene DEQ, responding to many complaints about yellowing trees on the I-90 corridor, placed monitoring equipment on 4th of July and Cedar Creeks, which receive impacts from salt from the freeway and one creek which does not receive salt from the freeway-Fern Creek, which served as the control. Tyson presented charts which showed that the NaCl from the roads reached both 4th of July and Cedar Creeks. However, the monitoring showed that the level of salt was not sufficient to impact aquatic life in the streams.

A further study will be conducted by DEQ and the Idaho Department of Transportation Department with better field equipment. ITD is interested in the outcome also.

Some discussion ensued as to various types of substances put on icy roads in the winter in Northern Idaho. The City of Coeur d'Alene uses beet juice which is very high in biological oxygen demand (BOD). Salt, while cheaper to apply than sand or gravel, also damages the road surfaces. Bill Rust wanted to know whether applying the salt which damages streams, plants, road surfaces, and the metal on vehicles, really saves money when all these factors are considered.

The entire Deicing Presentation, for which time did not allow at this meeting, will be posted on the Panhandle BAG website on the DEQ website.

Integrated Report

Robert Steed said some final work is being done on the report and he expects the report to be available in a few weeks. He also said that there is a new person in State Office who is in charge of data entry, so that aspect of the list should be improved.

BAG Membership

Scott Fields, Jack Filipowski, and Bill Rust all agreed to serve two more years on the Panhandle BAG.

Next BAG Meeting

June 18, 2009 was the agreed-upon date for the next BAG meeting. Agenda items include: 319 presentations by applicants, discussion of relationship of Lake Plans and TMDLs, Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan update, and Coeur d'Alene River bank stabilization update. The last three items will be covered if time allows.

Bill Rust made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rob Rider seconded the motion; the motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at noon, March 18, 2009 by Chairman Scott Fields.