

**Panhandle Basin Advisory Group**  
 Idaho Department of Transportation  
 600 W. Prairie Avenue  
 Coeur d'Alene, Idaho DEQ  
 October 22, 2008  
 Final Meeting Notes

<b>Members and Alternates Present</b>	<b>Guests</b>
Dan Dinning-Local Government	Tyson Clyne—DEQ
Jack Filipowski—Agriculture	Donna Harvey—DEQ
Patty Perry—Kootenai Tribe	Tom Herron—DEQ
Robert Rider—Livestock	Ken Merrill—Kalispel Tribe
Vince Rinaldi—Water Based Recreation	Kajsa Stromberg--DEQ
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 Transportation, 600 West Prairie Avenue, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Introductions were not necessary as everyone at the meeting was acquainted with all members and guests. Members were provided with a note from Liz Sedler stating that she was ill and could not attend the meeting and a letter from a potential Timber Representative to the BAG.

**Vacant Positions on the BAG:** The first item on the agenda was the choice of the Representative at Large member to the BAG. The BAG members present discussed the various applications. The members indicated that they would prefer a secret ballot vote. John Condon was elected to the BAG as the new Representative at Large.

The second item on the agenda was Timber Representative position. Bernie Wilmarth made a motion to accept Kennon McClintock as the Timber Representative Dan Dinning seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Bill Rust made a motion to accept the meeting notes from the July 2008 meeting. Patty Perry seconded the motion; the motion passed.

**Blue-Green Algae Blooms in Northern Idaho:** Kajsa Stromberg of Coeur d'Alene DEQ office, described the excessive blue-green algae blooms on several local lakes. DEQ received complaints about some blooms last summer. In late summer of 2008, complaints came in from Fernan Lake that a large bloom had occurred. DEQ contracted with a lab to do a fast turn-around on identifying the algae. Several types of blue green algae were found at concentrations above World Health Organization advisory levels.

DEQ worked closely with Panhandle Health District, Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the drinking water section of DEQ to warn people about the blue-green algae blooms. Some of these blooms can be toxic to livestock, pets, and people. Boiling will not always rid drinking water of the toxins. This year DEQ developed a response procedure that will give residents a warning about the algae blooms when they appear on local lakes.

**319 Projects:** Tyson Clyne showed pictures from a 319 tour of past projects that took place this summer with State Office personnel. These tours help State Office people to become familiar with this area of the state and with 319 projects that have been implemented.

The projects included the Pend Oreille Lake BMP mushroom mats, which filtered and scrubbed pollutants from a driveway runoff that previously went straight into Pend Oreille Lake. An undersized culvert in Twentymile Creek in the Deep Creek drainage of Boundary County was replaced, a bridge built, and multiple leveled pools for fish installed. A particularly bad road failure on Fishhook Creek in the St. Joe Drainage received a jersey barrier for 500 meters. This was a very low cost project. The Bear Top Project removed tailings from Bear Creek which flows into Prichard Creek. The tailings were then stored in a repository and native vegetation replanted along the creek. A milfoil project in Pend Oreille Lake was a Lake\*A\*Syst project.

Washing stations for boats coming into Idaho waterbodies is a logical step in the effort to save lakes and rivers from invasive species. This is an expensive project, as the water needs to be 140 degrees F in order to kill these species and the run off from the washing process needs to be filtered and cleaned.

**New timeline for 319 Projects:** Tyson said that State Office is shortening the timeline in future years between the time the 319 project receives final approval and the time the applicant receives the money. This year, preliminary projects should be submitted by December 10, with finals due on May 9. The BAG ranking will take place between June 16 and July 10 and the Super BAG Meeting in Boise where the BAG Chairs rank the projects is tentatively scheduled for August 13. The 319 online application process has also been improved. Applicants are encouraged to contact Tyson if they have questions or need help with the process.

### **Other Water Quality Updates:**

The Integrated Report has been submitted to EPA and DEQ is awaiting approval.

The TMDL progress continues. Kajsa is close to a North Fork Coeur d'Alene River temperature TMDL. The document has been reviewed by the Watershed Advisory Group; however, additional data is being evaluated.

**Small Lake Group:** Met for the first time and there is support for forming a group to address mutual concerns. Rathdrum Prairie Lakes Watershed Group will begin quarterly

meetings on February 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss lake management alternatives and to assist with TMDL implementation.

The Spokane River TMDL for Washington State has identified new nutrient targets. EPA has gone back to the drawing board to adjust NPDES permits to meet the new targets. Local dischargers are concerned and will be meeting soon to discuss the new development.

Pend Oreille River temperature loading analysis is moving towards being submitted to EPA.

The Coeur d'Alene Lake Plan has been out for public comment. Comments will be addressed via a matrix of responses to comments at the end of November with final out the end of December.

A draft TMDL for Black Lake has been developed by IDEQ, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, and EPA. The draft TMDL will be presented to a WAG after one is organized. IDEQ has been discussing implementation activities with agricultural land owner that includes additional monitoring.

The WAG for these local watersheds, affiliated with Lake Coeur d'Alene, was discussed. BAG members thought the advertisements in local and large papers seems to work well to create interest in local water quality issues.

The Pend Oreille River loading assessment will be presented to waste water treatment dischargers on December 10<sup>th</sup>. DEQ does certify section 401 water quality certification permits, but the NPDES permits for wastewater plants on the Pend Oreille River are being processed by EPA.

**Spokane River Piling Removal:** Tyson gave a presentation on a pilot project that involved the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, DEQ, and Idaho Department of Lands as well as some private individuals. The project involved removing several pilings in various ways to see which method caused the least turbidity and disturbance to the water. Besides sediment, there is an issue with metals pollution in the Spokane River.

Pushing the pilings over with a tugboat created the least disturbance. Pulling the pilings out created the most disturbance. Tyson said that DEQ suggested that this work be done when lake levels are low. Also, leaving time between removals to let the water clear is advised. This will be Kootenai County's project and it will be the county's plan that will be implemented.

**Issues for next meeting:**

Pend Oreille River Nutrient Assessment and DEQ Technical Services report

Vince Rinaldi made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bill Rust seconded; the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Scott Fields.

**Next Meeting Date and Time:** Wednesday, January 21, 2009 at Idaho Department of Fish and Game, 2750 Kathleen Avenue, Coeur d'Alene, at 9 am until noon.