

Panhandle Basin Advisory Group
 Idaho Department of Fish and Game
 Coeur d'Alene, Idaho DEQ
 March 12, 2008
 Final Meeting Notes

Members and Alternates Present	Guests Present
Dan Dinning-Local Government	Jeanne Bradley-Idaho Dept of Lands
Scott Fields-CdA Tribe	Dale W. Chess-CdA Tribe
Jack Filipowski-Agriculture	Bob Clark-N Idaho Flycasters
Patty Perry-Kootenai Tribe	Tyson Clyne-DEQ
Robert Rider-Livestock	Herman Collins-Bonner SWCD
W.C. Rust-Mining	Jamie Davis-Bonner SWCD
Liz Sedler-Environmental	Rob Eachon-DEQ
Bernie Wilmarth-Non Municipal Permittee	Mary Fritz-IDL
	Donna Harvey-DEQ
	Geoff Harvey-DEQ
	Tom Herron-DEQ
	Kristin Keith-DEQ
	Glen Pettit-DEQ
	Dave Pisarski-Boise DEQ 319 Coordinator
	Kajsa Stromberg-DEQ

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott Fields at Idaho Department of Fish and Game in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho at 9:10 am on March 12, 2008. Introductions were made around the room.

Rob Rider made a motion to approve and meeting notes from the December 2007 meeting. Jack Filipowski seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Two BAG members' terms ended in December of 2007. In the past, BAG members could state that they wanted to continue for the minutes and that would serve as a notification to DEQ. Liz Sedler agreed to continue as the Environmental Representative. Reid Ahlf was not present. Donna Harvey, BAG Secretary, will send Reid an Email asking if he wishes to continue as the Timber Representative.

DEQ Updates:

The Integrated report (303(d) and 305(b) lists) is out and 600 comments have been received. Hopefully, the list will go to EPA by April 1, 2008 and EPA will approve the list quickly.

Pend Oreille Tributaries: Only the sediment TMDL has been approved. The temperature and Pack River nutrient TMDL are awaiting approval.

The Pend Oreille River mainstem is going through the WAG process.

The N. Fork CdA River WAG held a permitting workshop which was well attended. Comments were received for a temperature TMDL. DEQ is looking at additional data for natural background for temperature. The WAG will work at implementation, update the Subbasin assessment, and identify projects and resources. A metals TMDL will be written and the 5 year review process for the sediment TMDL is approaching.

The Coeur d'Alene TMDL is up for five year review. A WAG is needed for this watershed.

Lakes of the Upper Spokane: DEQ would like to form one large “Lake Group” which would meet twice a year to discuss implementation of projects, such as Lake*A*Syst and CVMP (Citizens’ Volunteer Monitoring Project).

319 Project Proposals:

Latour Creek Road Improvement: Jeanne Bradley presented this project to the BAG. This road has been recently transferred from the Bureau of Land Management of Idaho Department of Lands (IDL). Latour Creek is 303(d) listed as is the river into which it flows. This road is used by industry, recreational users, and the United States Forest Service (USFS). Work will be conducted on 5.7 miles of road and will include 2 bridge replacements and repair of another, installing filtering, mulch, and seeding. A maintenance plan will be put in place after the restoration work is finished. Estimated sediment reduction is 79 tons/year. There have been some commitments from private industry for materials and/or more dollars to help with this project.

Short-Riley Creeks Porter Memorial: This project addresses implementation in the North Fork of the Coeur d’Alene River Watershed TMDL. This project involves decommissioning approximately 12 miles of road, removing culverts, and stabilizing the road cuts. Large woody debris (LWD) would be added to the streams, much like the Brett Creek project that was finished in 2004. Matt Davis of the USFS made the presentation followed by Bob Clark of the North Idaho Flycasters. Along with this project, Mr. Clark showed the group pictures from past projects in which the Flycasters were involved in the on-the-ground work. Reduction of 1557 tons over a 20 year period is estimated at completion of this project. Fish habitat and passage would be improved.

The BAG suggested that future projects may present exactly what part of the project would be accomplished by the 319 grant, especially when other entities are involved.

Rob Rider questioned disturbing grassed roadbeds. Mr. Davis explained that the USFS has learned a great deal when restoring planted areas. They are now using different methods and they are replanting native species, such as red osier dogwood.

Bernie Wilmarth said that the BAG would like feedback from past projects. The BAG votes to fund many 319 projects, but does not see the outcome. Bernie said he would like to see some actual monitoring numbers, sediment reduction numbers, and/or temperature criteria met.

Scott Fields said that this sounds like something that DEQ could provide. Tom Herron agreed that DEQ could provide the follow up for 319 projects to the BAG.

Removal of Mine Tailings from Upper Beaver Creek: This project is located at the Idora Mine in Upper Beaver Creek. Gig tailings are coarser tailings with higher metal content. These were produced pre-1925. These tailing were deposited from the mine site about a mile downstream. This removal will be done in concert with the USFS, with DEQ remediating private lands and the USFS remediating USFS owned lands. Following removal of tailings, Beaver Creek will be restructured and steps taken to restore habitat. A monitoring plan would be produced upon completion of the project.

Fish Creek Road Improvement: Jamie Davis of the Bonner County Soil and Water Conservation District (BSWCD) presented this application. She created two versions, one with private property owners’ cooperation and one without. As it would be to the property owners’ advantage to improve the roadway, they will probably cooperate with the district. The Clark Fork/Pend Oreille TMDL lists sediment as a pollutant. Fish Creek Road, which has experienced a major failure last year, promises to

fail again. This project would replace undersized culverts and stabilize unstable areas in the road drainage network. This project would include regular monitoring.

Pend Oreille Lake*A*Syst: Jamie Davis also presented this application. A Lake*A*Syst book and flyer were given to BAG members. The Implementation Plan for the Pend Oreille Lake Nearshore TMDL was completed in 2004 by a committee along with the Tri State Water Quality Council. Education was identified as a method that would help residents around the lake to reduce sediment and nutrient load to the lake by modifying their activities. This book has a rating sheet for various features on private property which the resident rates as to risk of failure, such as steep slopes. The resident can then speak with a technical person listed in the resource page and decide on an appropriate BMP (Best Management Practice) to implement on his/her own property to mitigate the threat to the lake. Two hundred residents have been contacted. The BSWCD would like to contact and distribute books to 2,000 residents around the lake. This 319 grant would facilitate continuing and expanding this project.

Mirror Creek Dam: Rob Eachon, DEQ, told the group that Mirror Creek is a tributary of Lake Pend Oreille. This creek is very cold, making it good habitat for Westslope Cutthroat and bulltrout. However, an old wooden dam presents a barrier to fish trying to get upstream. Some fish make the trip, but most cannot. This project would remove the dam and facilitate the creation and maintenance of additional cold water spawning for native fish.

Ballots were passed out to BAG members. The voting was as follows, with the first project listed receiving the most votes.

1. Beaver Creek Mine Remediation
2. Latour Creek Road Improvement
3. Fish Creek Road Improvement
4. Pend Oreille Lake*A*Syst
5. Short-Riley Creeks Porter Memorial
6. Mirror Creek Dam Removal

Dave Pisarski of DEQ State Office said that the amount available statewide for 319 grants is about the same as last year, around 2.4 million. However, because the computer form is more user friendly, and more people are becoming familiar with the 319 grant process, the State has more applications this year than last year.

Glen Pettit gave a Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Project (BURP) update of streams to be sampled this summer in the 5 northern counties.

The next meeting will be June 11, 2008 at Idaho Department of Fish and Game in Coeur d'Alene at 9 am until noon.

Bernie Wilmarth made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dan Dinning seconded the motion and Chairman Scott Fields adjourned the meeting at 12:25 pm.