

**Panhandle Basin Advisory Group
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
2750 Kathleen in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
May 2, 2006**

Final Meeting Notes

Members and Alternates Present	Guests
Reid Ahlf, Timber	Jenna Borovansky, CdA DEQ
Glenda Empsall, Non Municipal Permittee	Melissa Cleveland, JUB Engineers
Scott Fields, Coeur d'Alene Tribe	Tyson Clyne, CdA DEQ
Jack Filipowski, Agriculture	Donna Harvey, CdA DEQ
Patty Perry, Kootenai Tribe	Geoff Harvey, Hayden Lake Watershed Association Board
Robert Rider, Livestock	Robert Hidgem, CdA DEQ
Bill Rust, Mining	Bill Melvin, City of Post Falls
Liz Sedler, Environmental Representative	Mike Mihelich, Kootenai Environmental Alliance
Ruth Watkins, Representative at Large	Glen Pettit, CdA DEQ
Bernie Wilmarth, Non Municipal Permittee	Dave Pisarski, State Office DEQ
	Glen Rothrock, CdA DEQ
	Robert Steed, CdA DEQ
	Ed Tulloch, CdA DEQ
	Joe Wuest, Lakes Highway District

The meeting was called to order by vice chairman Scott Fields at 9:10 am on May 2, 2006. The chairman and several other members were delayed due to an accident on Highway 95. Robert Rider made a motion to skip the introductions and the 319 presentations, and to move to the next agenda item so that the missing members would be present for the 319 presentations. Reid Ahlf seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Kootenai-Moyie TMDL: In January 2006, the first draft of the Kootenai-Moyie TMDL was approved by the WAG to go out for public comment. A technical edit was done and page numbers were fixed and other minor adjustments were made. The load allocations and processes were not changed in the editorial process. If BAG members would like a cd or a hard copy, DEQ can provide them with one.

On May 5, the newspapers will receive a public comment notice and a press release will follow on May 12. On May 15, the public comment period of 45 days will begin. The WAG will host a public meeting on May 23rd. Because technical people and citizens on the WAG have participated in the ongoing meetings, the WAG doesn't anticipate a large turnout for the public meeting.

On DEQ's website, there will also be a place for public comment. This TMDL was done for sediment in Cow and Deep Creeks from the 1998 303(d) list. There is another way to view the document by typing in ftp//164.165.67.240 and using the username password, "public."

Lower Clark Fork TMDL: The Lower Clark Fork WAG has met monthly and has had good participation. The metals and temperature TMDLs received good comments and editing changes have been done. There was no mining member on the WAG, but a Revett Mining representative is looking over the TMDL and will provide comments.

DEQ will need to place an allocation for Total Dissolved Gas and will need to coordinate this allocation with the State of Montana. As Idaho's temperature criteria are different than Montana's, DEQ will also have to coordinate on temperature also.

Pend Oreille TMDL: DEQ expects the results from a study done by a contractor for a temperature model for this TMDL. Also, DEQ applied for and got a large grant to finish several TMDLs for tributaries around Pend Oreille Lake and River. In the next two years, several TMDLs should be completed for this watershed.

On the main stem of the Pend Oreille River, the WAG is coordinating with the State of Washington on the temperature TMDL. There will also be a Total Dissolved Gas TMDL.

Pack River: In 2001, the EPA wasn't satisfied with this nutrient TMDL as so little data existed for the tributaries. With the grant, the tributaries can be monitored and data collected, and DEQ will be able to decide if the Pack River will need a nutrient TMDL.

Hangman Creek TMDL: The Coeur d'Alene Tribe and the State of Washington have been working on their respective Hangman Creek TMDLs. DEQ's technical services has been working on the 8,000-10,000 acre state portion of the watershed above the tribal lands. The work was finished last year and is being held up so that DEQ can form a WAG for this watershed. Both the Tribe and the Benewah Soil and Water Conservation District have suggested some possible participants for the WAG. DEQ must now form WAGs in adherence with HB 145, and so DEQ needs to strive for full participation of all listed interests for these watershed groups, if possible.

Other TMDLs: Robert Steed passed out a list of other TMDLs that must be completed by Coeur d'Alene Regional Office and the dates they are due. This list is not final because there are still ongoing arguments about which streams are on the 1998 list and which are on subsequent lists, which determines when each TMDL must be completed. Chairman Liz Sedler asked for a motion to accept the January meeting notes. Patty Perry made a motion to accept the meeting notes, Rob Rider seconded the motion and the motion passed. Introductions were made around the room.

319 Grant Proposals: Dave Pisarski of DEQ's State Office introduced himself. He took over from Todd Maguire, who was the previous 319 coordinator. Dave has visited all the other regions to outline the program. Dave has worked for DEQ for many years in air quality and hazardous waste, but has recently worked for NOAA for two years.

Fewer federal funds will be available this year and not all projects will be funded in this cycle. Last year 21 of 25 projects were funded. Dave said that in previous years, the money was divided up among the regions, giving money for two or more projects per region. This year, Dave said that he will be judging all projects by the State of Idaho's criteria on a state-wide basis. Also, due to less money being available, only approximately 15 projects will be funded. Dave said that this year most project proposals are very good, and the competition will be intense.

Dave has also streamlined the application for 319 grants. The application and guidance will be put online so that applicants can access all the materials they need to apply for grants next year.

Bear Top 319 Grant Application: The Beartop Milling site sits at the top of Bear Gulch and contributes metals to Prichard Creek in the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River watershed. The United States Forest Service (USFS) completed a site investigation and determined that the Paragon, Monarch, and Beartop sites contributed 80% of the metals in Prichard Creek. Both the Paragon and Monarch have been remediated. The Beartop was found to be on private land and required a more specific EECA tailored to the Beartop site. The Beartop is estimated to contribute 406 tons of lead and 781 tons of zinc into Prichard Creek.

In April of 2003, the mill site and its downstream impacts were studied and the result was that 1,400 yards of tailings and 23,000 yards of fluvially mixed wastes and sediment will require removal and placement in the Forest Service operated Eagle Creek Repository site. This project would require a total budget of \$358,333 and the grant application is for \$215,000. This project proposal takes into consideration 2006 diesel fuel costs. There is some urgency to deal with these tailings because there is still room for these tailings in the USFS repository at Eagle Creek, and if the project is delayed too long, the repository may be closed.

Robert Higdem showed pictures of the Eagle Creek repository, which was created under a joint DEQ-EPA-USFS memorandum of understanding. The site is on level ground in a geologic anomaly for that region, in that drainage from the site is minimal. The site has monitoring wells and French drains to control and monitor the small amount of runoff.

City of Post Falls City Hall Stormwater Re-Use: The future city hall of Post Falls is planned for the downtown urban renewal district. The city hall will sit atop the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer, which provides drinking water for 500,000 people. The Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer is identified as a "Sensitive Resource" in IDAPA 58.01.11 of the Groundwater Rule. City officials hope that the new city hall will serve as an example of sustainable development over the aquifer and also as an example of water re-use and conservation and as an educational tool for citizens and developers. The project will include collection and re-use of roof and parking lot runoff, a water feature, municipal re-use of water, a roof top garden, and onsite treatment of stormwater. Pollutants of concern in stormwater are heavy metals, nitrogen, phosphorous, grease and oils and petroleum.

This project will begin this year to be completed in 2007. The grant application is for \$217,815.

Hayden Stormwater Treatment: Hayden Lake has an EPA approved TMDL in place for nutrients. Stormwater is the second highest contributor of phosphorous to the lake. The topography around Hayden Lake presents some unique problems in dealing with stormwater runoff because the highway district owns very little of the right of way along the narrow road, the land is very steep, and the south shore is experiencing a development boom on very steep lots. Stormwater collection and treatment is a priority in the Hayden Lake Management Plan. The Lakes Highway District, the Hayden Lake Watershed Association, and JUB Engineers are cooperating in this proposed project to use state of the art technology to collect and treat stormwater from the steep hillsides of Hayden Lake. Some of these collection technologies would be placed under the road, or possibly on private land owned by cooperating landowners around the lake. JUB has done some preliminary research and showed the BAG pictures of some of the products that could be used to collect and treat stormwater. This will be a pilot project and the three groups hope that this test of the various technologies will not only provide stormwater collection and treatment for Hayden Lake, but also for other steep areas around Northern Idaho. The amount of the grant application for this project is \$68,200.

319 Project Vote: The BAG voted on 319 project proposals with the following results: First was Hayden Stormwater, second was the Beartop Tailings Removal, and third was City of Post Falls Stormwater Treatment project. Dave Pisarski will schedule a “Super BAG” meeting for the BAG chairmen to travel to Boise to present their region’s project and to prioritize all the state’s 319 project proposals.

2006 BURP Season: This year, the Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Project will focus on Coeur d’Alene Lake, Pend Oreille Lake, and the Upper Spokane watersheds. There are also 5 trend sites: three in the St. Joe watershed, one in the North Fork Coeur d’Alene Rive, and one in the Priest watershed. The trend sites show water quality changes over time.

The BURP crew has 62 sites on their schedule with 9 random sites. Since some data for some of the sites are five years old, the BURP crew will collect new data, which is needed for these sites. Landowners are notified and permission is secured before crews sample on private land. If any member of the BAG wants to accompany the BURP crew on a sampling run, he or she needs to contact Glen Pettit and tell him in which waterbody they are interested, and Glen will schedule a time and place for the BURP crew to meet the BAG member(s).

Coeur d’Alene Tribal Water Quality Standards: Public comment period has just ended on the Tribe’s water quality standards. Fourteen letters and 300 comments were received. Some were supportive; some had numerous questions and concerns. Some involved legal questions. Scott will respond to the technical questions and concerns and the tribal attorneys will respond to legal questions and concerns. After responding, the standards will be revised and packaged (with comments and responses included) and

presented to the tribal council in early June. Comments and responses will be posted in June on a website so that the public can view them. After the tribal council approves the tribal water quality standards, the package then goes to EPA for final approval. This process could take 3-4 months to complete.

SEEP Program: Glen Rothrock and June Bergquist have been working with people from various groups including Panhandle Health District, Idaho Building Contractors, the counties and others, to create a Stormwater and Erosion Education Program for the Panhandle of Idaho. This program will educate developers and local officials in stormwater and erosion abatement, promote open communication lines between developers and the governing agencies, and create a local pool of experts to help the developers avoid environmental problems on their developments. This program would provide voluntary certification after a 24-28 hour credit course and successful completion of an examination. Renewal would be required within three years. The program is scheduled to begin late 2006 or early 2007.

2006 303(d) List: DEQ is asking for public input for the 2006 303(d) list of impaired waters. Robert Steed showed pictures of a website that provides interactive sharing of information on the watersheds of Idaho. BAG members and other interested parties are encouraged to visit the website and to provide any information that they may have about the waters of the 5 northern counties. Written comments will also be accepted. Commenters are urged to be specific as to the stream for which they are providing comment. The 2002-2004 list will be on that website. Hard copies of the list will be sent to local libraries.

Triennial Review: This is a high priority for the State of Idaho and there will be opportunities for public comment. There should be ample time for public comment because this package will *not* be completed in time for the 2007 session of the Idaho Legislature.

Spokane River: Most decisions are on hold at this time. The FERC staff has been reassigned. Idaho and Washington have been working on the flow conditions for the Post Falls Dam.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Liz Sedler at 12:15 pm. The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 11, 2006 at Idaho Department of Fish and Game in Coeur d'Alene.

