Final Meeting Notes
Panhandle Basin Advisory Group
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
2750 Kathleen Avenue, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
April 28, 2005

BAG Members Present
Reid Ahlf-Timber
Adriane Borgias-Kootenai Tribe
Fred Brackebusch-Mining
Dan Dinning-Local Government
Glenda Empsall-Non Municipal Permittee
Scott Fields-Coeur d'Alene Tribe
Robert Rider-Livestock
Liz Sedler-Environmental
Ruth Watkins-Rep at Large

Guests
Tony Brede-IDL
Tyson Clyne-DEQ
Steve Cuvala-IDL
Annette Duerock-PHD
Donna Harvey-DEQ
Rep. R. J. Harwood-Idaho Legislature
Connie Johnson-Benewah SWCD
Bruce Kinkead-CdA Tribe
Mike Mihelich-KEA
Patty Perry-Kootenai Tribe
Glen Pettit-DEQ
Ed Tulloch-DEQ
Bob Wagner-Potlatch Corporation
Diane Williams-Tri State WQ Council

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 am by Chairman Rob Rider. Introductions were made around the room. Fred Brackebusch made a motion to accept the January minutes. Ruth Watkins seconded the motion; the motion passed. Chairman Rider read four letters that had been received at DEQ for the BAG. Liz Sedler and Ruth Watkins agreed to serve on the BAG for another term which would end in 2007. Dan Dinning, Boundary County Commissioner, was appointed by DEQ Director, Toni Hardesty to serve on the BAG as the local government representative. Bernie Wilmarth wrote a letter to the BAG naming Glenda Empsall as the alternate non- municipal permittee representative. Adriane Borgias announced that she is leaving the Kootenai Tribe to devote more time to her consulting business. Patty Perry will be the Kootenai Tribe's representative on the BAG until the Tribal Council meets to decide who the member and alternate will be.

A letter was sent to BAG members asking for volunteers to serve as BAG chair. No responses were received. The names of representative groups were drawn from a hat at the February 2003 BAG meeting, with the first group serving first, which was Livestock. Rob Rider's term was over in December of 2004 and the Environmental Group was second on the list. Liz Sedler agreed to serve as BAG Chair for two years with her term as chair ending in December of 2006. Rob Rider agreed to chair today's meeting.

Ed Tulloch said that a letter had been sent to John Campbell, the Water Based Recreation representative on the BAG, with an addressed and stamped reply envelope enclosed, asking if Mr. Campbell wanted to remain on the BAG. There has been no reply. Mr. Campbell may have moved to Boise. In a previous meeting, the BAG decided that an advertisement with a small questionnaire should be inserted in local newspapers, so that the BAG would, hopefully, be able to choose among several volunteers for the Water Based Recreation seat on the BAG.

319 Grant Proposals

Ed Tulloch said that the State of Idaho should have about 2.8 million dollars this year which could possibly be reduced because of the national deficit and the fact that many federal agencies are experiencing cuts in funding. Various groups develop 319 project proposals, which then go through a technical evaluation at DEQ to be sure they will meet EPA's 319 criteria. The groups then present an outline of their projects to their local BAG. The BAG rates these proposals, and the BAG Chairs from all the districts travel to Boise for the final rating of all the proposals in the State. The proposed projects are submitted to EPA for approval and funding consideration.

Fishhook Creek Slide Stabilization Project

Partners in this project include Benewah Soil and Water Conservation District, Forest Capital LLC, and the St. Joe/St. Maries Watershed Advisory Group.

Project Goals:

- Reduce sediment loading to Fishhook Creek, a tributary of the St. Joe River
- Focus on long-term stabilization methods
- Improve riparian and stream channel habitat
- Continue BMP effectiveness monitoring before, during, and after project

Regional Priority:

- Watershed is part of an approved TMDL and is considered a high priority watershed.
- Fishhook Creek is perennial stream that flows into the St. Joe River and is listed on the 303(d) list.
- Pollutants listed for the TMDLs are sediment and temperature. This project will address sediment.

This project will remove overburden, install rock structures and barriers, install and reshape catch basins, and seed and mulch. Monitoring, including digital photographs of before and after over a 3-5 year period and field inspections, will document the success of project.

West Fork/Middle Fork St. Maries River TMDL Implementation Project

This project is a cooperation between Benewah Soil and Water Conservation District, Potlatch Corporation, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Idaho Conservation Commission and the St. Joe/St. Maries Watershed Advisory Group.

Project Goals:

- Reduce sediment transport to streams and tributaries
- Bring active logging roads up to appropriate culvert standards
- Improve fish passage structures on Class 1 Streams
- Continue BMP effectiveness monitoring before, during and after project

Regional Priority:

- Watershed is part of approved TMDL and is considered to be high priority
- West Fork/Middle Fork of St. Maries River on 303(d) List
- Pollutants listed on TMDL are sediment and temperature. This project will address sediment.

This project will put rocking on 3.4 miles of new and reconstructed roads. Culvert replacements will occur on Class 1 streams at four sites. There will be creation of fish pools at two of the sites and addition of baffles at one site. Digital photos and field assessments will document success/failure of projects. Assessments will be conducted annually on the West Fork and every two years on the Middle Fork.

Soldier Creek Rocking Project

Partners in this application include Benewah Soil and Water Conservation District, Idaho Department of Lands, Potlatch Corporation, Forest Capital LLC, and the St. Joe/St. Maries Watershed Advisory Group.

Project Goals:

- Reduce sediment loading to Soldier Creek, a tributary to the St. Maries River
- Provide for better fish passage on the Class 1 streams
- Continue BMP effectiveness monitoring before, during and after project

Regional Priority

- Soldier Creek is a tributary to St. Maries River
- Since the lowest reach of the St. Maries River is water quality limited due to sediment, the sediment TMDL covers the entire subbasin.

The project includes surfacing 5.9 miles of rock with rock, installing 2 fish ladders, installing properly sized culverts on Class 1 streams and installing ditch relief culverts. Digital photos will be taken before, during, and after the project. Four sediment traps will be installed, two where the road will be rocked and two at nearby locations that will ***not*** be rocked. Field inspections will be conducted and the project will be maintained for ten years. BMP failures will be repaired.

Low Impact Development-Emerald Gardens

PHD held a "Charrett," i.e., "a quick brainstorming session that provides design teams with an opportunity to step back, assess, evaluate and consider alternative approaches" for designing a certain project. Mithun, David Evans and Associates, Landmark, DEQ and PHD, plus community members, were briefed at strategic times. This process allowed for discussion and input.

The goals of the project include:

- Protect the Aquifer
- Reduce pollutants
- Improve water quality
- Reduce water use
- Recharge all stormwater on site
- Rebuild soil
- Demonstrate Multiple Stormwater Strategies
- Make strategies visible
- Use strategies that are repeatable within current economics and technology
- Show long term economic and environmental benefits
- Use construction process as an opportunity for technology transfer with tours.
- Test stormwater strategies
- Build monitoring infrastructure into project
- Provide habitat
- Use Sustainable Design, Construction and Maintenance Practices

This project includes many unique design features that deal with various aspects of stormwater infiltration in creative ways, not usually seen in commercial building construction in this area. The project also includes the planting of native plants and xeric-adapted vegetation which use little water and enhance wildlife habitat, an educational walkway, methods for saving and recycling water, and topography that lends itself to aesthetics and also allows water to flow from higher areas to lower, thus filtering it through vegetation.

Bonner County Milfoil Treatment Project

Eurasian Milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) is an aggressive non-native aquatic weed that poses a serious threat to Northern Idaho waters. Over the last few years, this weed has infested the Pend Oreille River and now has been observed in Pend Oreille Lake.

Some landowners are engaged in the very dangerous practice of buying herbicides over the internet and using them on the milfoil in the lake. This practice not only endangers humans and animals, but also fish and native aquatic plants. This project ties into the Pend Oreille Nearshore TMDL which has been approved by EPA.

Purpose of Project

- Develop site criteria for use of chemical and non-chemical treatments
- Select and implement non-chemical controls for treating Eurasian milfoil
- Install a power wash station to remove milfoil fragments from boats and trailers
- Prepare a report that documents results of non-chemical treatments and reduction of chemical applications to control milfoil
- Prepare public information materials to educate and encourage participation in non-chemical treatments

Benefits

- Project will contribute to on-the-ground knowledge about non-chemical treatments that can be used in other infested sites and waterbodies. Reduction of chemical use addresses other beneficial uses of waterbodies, such as recreational, drinking, and fishing.

Pend Oreille Lake Marina Project

Pend Oreille Lake receives over one million visitors per year. Fishing hours number 465,000 per year. Eighteen private marinas dot the shoreline around the lake. Bonner County's population is growing rapidly, resulting in new and expanded marina applications to accommodate the added population. Marinas can negatively impact a waterbody by release of sewage, grey water, or petroleum hydrocarbons. Boats coming into and out of marinas can stir up sediments. Boats can also spread noxious weeds from bits of weeds clinging to propellers or to boat trailers. This project also ties in with the Pend Oreille Nearshore TMDL. The project could also have statewide implications.

Goal of Project

- Reduce negative impacts to water quality from marinas

Components of Project

- Design and implement a monitoring program to assess water quality and fish communities within the marinas' areas of impact
- Develop criteria for mitigation projects utilizing results of these assessments
- Select and implement an on-the-ground mitigation project and educational program to reduce impacts to water quality of lake from marinas

The BAG voted by a numbering system, giving the best project 6 votes, next best 5 votes and on to their least favorite project, which received one vote. The votes for all the projects were listed and then tallied.

Outcome of BAG votes on 319 proposed project:

1. Milfoil on Pend Oreille Lake-42 votes
2. Fishook-41 votes
3. Middle Fk St. Maries River-34 votes
4. Low Impact Development-PHD-29 votes
5. Soldier Creek-24 votes
6. Marinas on Pend Oreille Lake-16 votes

Kootenai-Moyie TMDL Status Report

The Kootenai-Moyie TMDL is 90% complete. Subbasin assessment issues have been submitted to the WAG and EPA. Review by external and internal technicians is pending. Technical staff predicts little or no objection during WAG review or during comment period.

Sediment TMDL-Sediment has been given priority over other pollutants in development of TMDLs. Percent over background strategy has been selected and is being developed. Using GIS technology, it appears that in areas where sediment delivered to streams is 40% to 50% greater than background, results in Not Full Support (NFS) streams. The technicians will look at each stream that has been listed for sediment, and they will compare the watershed's percent above background to establish reductions and to determine allocations based on land use. The Sediment TMDL is 70% complete.

Temperature TMDL - DEQ's Technical Services Division is working on temperature TMDLs. The Temperature TMDL is 80% complete and will soon be sent out for internal and external review. The Temperature TMDL was changed mid-course from the Ralston Equation TMDL to the Potential Natural Vegetation TMDL process. The WAG was informed of the change. A document has been prepared and findings will be presented to the WAG, EPA, and the DMAs (Designated Management Agencies). Technicians predict general agreement with outcome on specific streams.

Metals and pH TMDL-These are in early stages of development. Some anecdotal information has been collected on condition which needs to be validated with lab results. The metals and pH TMDL is 10% complete. These TMDLs seem straightforward and staff expects these can be completed quickly. Metals and pH targets exist as water quality criteria, unlike sediment and temperature, and load analysis should be simple.

Implementation Planning-The work has begun, but not followed through. DEQ is evaluating the progress in this area.

Integrated 305(b) and 303(d) Reports

The 2002 integrated report was submitted in July 2004 and is nearing EPA approval. The EPA is looking favorably at the list, except for temperature issues. The 2004 list will be issued as soon as the 2002 list has been approved. A public comment period will be started for the 2004 list of at least 30 days duration. The 2006 list guidance is out and there will be more emphasis on a broad-based approach to make the public aware of all water quality assessments being conducted. There will also be more emphasis on groundwater.

2005 BURP sites

Glen Pettit handed out a list of the 2005 BURP sites. Nearly all are in the Pend Oreille Watershed and all are on private property.

HB145

House Bill 145 was signed by Governor Kempthorne. From now on, the WAG must look like the BAG in its representation of various groups. During the TMDL process also, beneficial uses must be examined along with water quality criteria, and the WAG must be involved in all processes. If the decision is that the waterbody cannot attain its beneficial uses, the Director of DEQ must decide if a Use Attainability Study should be done. Documentation of the concentration of pollutants must be done, with evidence shown that the pollutant impairs the waterbody. TMDLs must be reviewed every five years. Also, there will be no public comment period without consultation with the WAG. In addition, the WAG must approve submittal of TMDLs to EPA.

Several dates were discussed for the next meeting. It was decided that the next meeting would be July 20, 2005 at Idaho Department of Fish and Game starting at 9 am.

Chairman Rob Rider adjourned the meeting.