

**Panhandle Basin Advisory Group Meeting  
July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
9AM-12PM**

**Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
2110 Ironwood Parkway  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814**

**AGENDA**

- 9:00**      **Introductions: Welcome Ward Cooper; Representative at Large Review today's agenda**
- 9:30**              **DEQ Updates—Basin Advisory Group Open Position; Non Municipal Discharge Permit Holder, 2012 Integrated Report**
- 9:50**              **TMDL Updates: Priest Lake and River Tributaries WAG and Kootenai River Tributaries Temperature TMDL submitted to EPA, Spokane River Metals TMDL, Lake Pend Oreille and River monitoring for TMDL 5 Year Review.**
- 10:20**              **Break**
- 10:30**              **Lake Coeur d'Alene Management Plan Update, Wolf Lodge Creek Interim Restoration Action Project from \$319 Unallocated Funds.**
- 11:25**              **Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force --- Dan Redline**
- 11:35**              **Fernan Lake Miles Grant U of I Study Update-- Kristin**
- 11:50**              **Next meeting agenda topics and date selection**
- 12 noon**      **Adjourn**

**Panhandle Basin Advisory Group**  
 Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
 Coeur d'Alene, Idaho DEQ  
 July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
*Approved Meeting Notes*

<b>Members and Alternates Present</b>	<b>Guests Present</b>
W. C. Rust - Mining	Jamie Brunner
Kennon McKlintock	June Bergquist
Dan Dinning	Tom Herron
Robert Rider - Livestock	Kristie McEnroe
Patty Perry – Kootenai Tribe	Craig Nelson
	Bob Flagor
	Robert Steed

The Panhandle Basin Advisory Group (BAG) meeting was called to order at 9:23 AM at the Department of Environmental Quality in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, by Tom Herron from DEQ.

The chairman was not in attendance and no quorum was met. It was agreed the meeting would be informal.

**Review of Agenda**

The agenda for today's meeting was reviewed by the BAG Members. Tom mentioned that the non-municipal discharge position in the BAG is vacant, since there was no quorum he will revisit the subject at the next BAG meeting.

After the agenda was reviewed Bill Rust formally announced his resignation from the BAG. He has met with several interested parties to fill his position and will be getting back to the BAG when he has found a replacement.

**Priest Lake and Priest River**

Bob Steed from DEQ made a presentation on a Potential Natural Vegetation (PNV) or a temperature TMDL for Priest. They have been meeting with the WAG for two years. The Kalispell Tribe which is a member of that WAG have been bringing up very technical questions on the PNV process. To start addressing all the Tribes concerns Bob felt it was time to go to public comment. That will allow all their concerns to be addressed in a written format rather than a public forum and hopefully that will allow for

better information gathering to answer their concerns. In August, the Priest PNV TMDL should be out for Public Comment. Together with the Department of Lands, DEQ has been able to identify target shade areas. There was another Golden Algae bloom this year in the Priest. While not harmful like the Blue-Green Algae blooms it has a high lipid content and produces a very strong fishy odor. Its cause is unknown. It doesn't seem to be nutrient related. The blooms have been reoccurring in the north end of the lake for the last 10 years. It is a good algae for the fish to be consuming.

### **Kootenai River's Temperature TMDL**

Bob Steed from DEQ also spoke to the BAG about the Kootenai River's Temperature TMDL. The TMDL is on the state office administrator's desk waiting to be submitted to EPA. They worked with the WAG on the TMDL to identify target areas. That TMDL should be submitted soon. That watershed is very successful and DEQ has worked on many implementation projects including water quality monitoring. Bob thanked Patty Perry for being a driving force in keeping the watershed advisory group running. DEQ is continuing with the temperature monitoring. They are trying to define the range of natural conditions in the Kootenai River watershed. It should be a real benefit in the long term. The data is also being entered into a Quality Assurance Protection Plan (QAPP) so the data is non-disputable once entered in. The WAG members are really active putting out the data loggers and downloading the data, it's a really great program. The QUAPP is just about complete and now they are looking into the Field Sampling Plan. The monitoring will continue until the fall when they will look into a more comprehensive monitoring program. DEQ also completed some E coli monitoring on all four segments of the Kootenai River system trying to get ahead of the anti-degradation report. The results were well below the cut off values for E coli. Bob will be listing the Kootenai River Watershed as fully supporting recreational beneficial uses in the next integrated report.

### **2012 Integrated Report**

DEQ has gotten an EPA approval letter for the 2012 Integrated Report. We are still trying to get in up on the DEQ website. DEQ has already sent out the call for data for the 2014 Integrated Report in order to update it. All of the assessments are past due but DEQ wasn't able to work on them until the 2012 report was approved. The Kootenai Beneficial use finding and several new BURP sites will be included in the 2014 Integrated Report. DEQ would like to get ahead on some of the major watersheds. Sometimes they don't get completed in time for the next upcoming Integrated Report which would push them off to the next cycle of assessments. The next round of permits that come up will need the current results to simplify the permit process. The draft version of the 2014 Integrated Report will be given to the BAG and the WAG's for review before it's submitted for public comment. There shouldn't be very many changes from the 2012 to the 2014 Integrated Report for our region.

### **Spokane River Metals TMDL, Monitoring Efforts and WAG**

Bob Steed from DEQ made a presentation on the Spokane River Metals TMDL and the monitoring DEQ has done. Currently, DEQ is working on 3 NPDES permits that are out for public comment for the City of Coeur d'Alene, Hayden Area Regional Sewer Board and the City of Post Falls. One of the challenges for the permits has been how to deal

with the cadmium, lead and zinc that have been identified in the Spokane River Metals TMDL. DEQ knows that there will need to be a TMDL in place for those metals in 5 years when the next permitting cycle comes up. DEQ started to collect data in March to really get a good idea when and how often the river exceeds criteria and what would be a budget to get the river back below the criteria for those metals. DEQ has been collecting 4 samples a week at 2 upstream and 2 downstream locations and the preliminary data shows a measurable increase between the upstream and downstream locations. The difference is very slight but it is there. We are also breaking up the year in flow divisions to allow the future permits to have specific time periods of criteria for seasonal flow rather than a base all year long. Cadmium doesn't seem to exceed criteria often, lead is sporadically exceeding criteria and the zinc is consistently exceeding criteria. That TMDL will be challenging because the criteria is being exceeded before the water flows into the Spokane River. The WAG will be responsible for dividing the allocations into sections to determine who is responsible for lowering the metals in what section of the watershed whether it be upstream, the lake or at the dischargers.

Other things going on with the Spokane River; Washington State has called on a group called the SRRTEF. They are tasked with trying to find the sources for the PCB's in the Spokane River. Washington Ecology just finished one of the first steps in monitoring for these PCB's and they are getting values between 7 – 50 picograms per liter. Unfortunately some of the blank samples the lab has run have been higher than the actual samples taken. It's impossible to take duplicate samples and get duplicate results. With the results so low and the reliability of those results Bob has recommended not going forward with the PCB testing. Unfortunately the EPA requires our dischargers to test quarterly for PCB's in their permits. The BAG members made the suggestion to DEQ that DEQ needs to let our local legislators know about the difficulty in testing and the low values of the PCB's and what that may mean to further TMDL studies in the area.

### **Lake Pend Orielle and River Monitoring**

EPA provided DEQ with funding that would allow them to be able to do extra monitoring and evaluate the Lake Pend Orielle Nearshore phosphorus TMDL. They will be following one of Falter's studies and putting artificial substrate (Styrofoam attached to pavers) DEQ will then take samples from the artificial substrate to measure how fast the chlorophyll is growing. For the past 2 years the monitoring has shown low results for phosphorus. That leads to the question what is consuming the phosphorus or is the phosphorus no longer entering the system.

### **Wolf Lodge Creek**

Bob Flagor from Kootenai-Shoshone Soil & Water Conservation District (KSSWCD) made a presentation on the Wolf Lodge Creek project that will be funded from the §319 unallocated funds. They brought their engineer from Lewiston who designed 5 barbs throughout the target region. This should force the stream further away from the road protecting the road from erosion. Eastside Highway district said they will supply the labor and KSSWCD will provide the rock for the barbs. He received an email this morning from Dave Pisarski from the DEQ state office saying that the funding was on the way. There was another active area further to the South that they also recommended

barbs for. It is Bob's hope that by stabilizing these target areas it will reduce the sediment load dramatically.

### **Spokane River Regional Toxics Taskforce**

Dan Redline from DEQ made a presentation on the Spokane River Regional Toxics Taskforce. The taskforce was required to form by the permits issued to the dischargers to the Spokane River. The taskforce has been in operation for about 2 years. The goal for the taskforce now is to do some sampling along the Spokane River, the focus is on PCB's and the chlorinated biphenyls. Bob Steed has provided technical assistance and sampling. Their goal is to do more monitoring to figure out where the PCB's are coming from. The next sampling effort will be next month with 8 locations along the Spokane River along with the 8 dischargers sampling their own effluent.

### **Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan Update**

Jaime Brunner from DEQ gave the BAG members an update on a few projects that the Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Program (LMP) is working on. They have been looking at the Wolf Lodge Creek watershed but have not been able to figure out the logistics for sampling. They have also been looking at the St. Maries watershed. Craig Nelson along with the LPM are looking to reconvene the Watershed Advisory Group there to look at the nutrient source inventory data and to start getting locations to work on some projects. On the St. Joe River the LMP doesn't have any projects lined up for this year as far as erosion control but they completed a large one last year and are working with Avista on their plan for the next 5 years in their erosion control. The Our Gem maps have been revised and now focus on recreation specific outreach items. They attended a Coeur d'Alene Lakeshore property owners meeting the night before and handed out the Our Gem maps. They have been working with the Lakeshore group on the Lake\*A\*Syst program as well. They hope to have edits completed on the Lake\*A\*Syst manual and do another printing in the spring.

### **Fernan Lake**

Tom wanted to do some follow up and inform the BAG members about the Blue Green Algae bloom issued in Fernan Lake. DEQ worked with Panhandle Health District to issue an advisory for direct contact with the lake. The algae exceeded the recommended concentrations which created the opportunity for toxins to form. When the bloom decreases they will cancel the advisory. EPA approved the Fernan Nutrient TMDL which identifies some implementation actions. Fernan will also be the focus of U of I's EPSCOR grant.

Tom reminded the BAG that the next meeting will be the 319 meeting and it has been set for October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 at 9:00 the DEQ Coeur d'Alene Regional office.