

Panhandle Basin Advisory Group Meeting  
February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
9AM-12:00 PM  
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
2110 Ironwood Parkway  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

**AGENDA**

- 9:00 Introductions: Review today's agenda, Welcome Ward Cooper; Representative at Large, Bradley Kucera, Mining Representative and Melissa Driscoll Mining Rep Alternate.
- 9:15 DEQ Updates—Lake Coeur d'Alene Management Plan Update, Fernan Lake Miles Grant U of I Study Update, Wolf Lodge Creek Interim Restoration Action Project update, Lake Pend Oreille and River monitoring for TMDL 5 Year Review, Status of 319 funding for Bloomsburg Road project request.
- 9:50 TMDL Updates: Priest Lake and River Tributaries WAG and Kootenai River Tributaries Temperature TMDL submitted to EPA, Spokane River Metals TMDL Update, South Fork Coeur d'Alene River WAG development.
- 10:20 Break
- 10:30 Basin Advisory Group Open Position Discussion; Non Municipal Discharge Permit Holder Update, Discuss Expiring Terms of BAG Members, review rules as necessary.
- 11:35 Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force --- Dan Redline
- 11:50 Next meeting agenda topics and date selection
- 12 noon Adjourn

**Panhandle Basin Advisory Group**  
 Department of Environmental Quality  
 2110 Ironwood Parkway  
 Coeur d'Alene, Idaho DEQ  
 February 19, 2015  
*Approved*

<b>Members and Alternates Present</b>	<b>Guests Present</b>
Kennon McClintock – Timber	Tom Herron - DEQ
Scott Fields - Coeur d'Alene Tribe	Kristie McEnroe - DEQ
Jack Filipowski - Agriculture	Chad Peterson – U of I
Adrienne Cronebaugh - Environmental	Craig Nelson - DEQ
Ward Cooper – Representative at Large	Bob Steed - DEQ
Robert Rider - Livestock	Darcy Sharp - DEQ
Bradley Kucera - Mining	Jamie Brunner - DEQ
Vince Renaldi – Water Based Recreation	Kajsa Van de Riet - DEQ
	Kristin Larson - DEQ

The Panhandle Basin Advisory Group (BAG) meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Vince Renaldi and seconded by Adrienne Cronebaugh, at the Department of Environmental Quality, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The BAG welcomed new members Ward Cooper and Bradley Kucera and introductions were made around the room.

Tom Herron reviewed the agenda. The minutes from the October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 meeting. Robert Rider made motion to approve minutes from the previous meeting as provided. It was seconded by Scott Fields. Motion was approved.

**Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Program Update – Jamie Brunner**

The 2015 field season is already in progress with the early spring run-off. The team is actually on the lake today. A portion of the DEQ monitoring is done at 4 deep water sites and base sites that are monitored 7-8 times per year depending on the rain on snow or spring run-off conditions. This year they are keeping the same sites as last year with the addition of 4 new base sites. This year they are they are also taking isotope samples to start to get an idea of the physics of the lake.

The LMP have gone through 5 years' worth of lake data collection within the current Lake Management Plan. After the internal reviews are complete within the next couple of months they will be coming out with a status report that will show water quality triggers and a comparison between this last five year data set and the last few data sets from 1991-1992 and 2004-2006.

The EPA five year review is out, not to be confused with the DEQ five year data review. Within the five year review is a record of decision for the Bunker Hill site, EPA has identified remedies for specific areas of clean up with a deferred decision on Coeur d'Alene Lake. They are waiting

to make a decision based on how successful the Lake Management Plan is. The LMP staff will be putting together a review of the program which will be added to the EPA five year review as an appendix. The review should be out by the end of the year.

### **Fernan Lake Update – Kristin Larson**

Kristin showed the BAG an aerial photo that was taken in August. The lake appears very green confirming that it has a very high productivity of blue green algae blooms that are toxic. DEQ wrote a prescription (TMDL) to try to reduce the algae blooms. The TMDL called for a reduction in phosphorus. As a result of that effort there was a lot of interest at the same time Boise State University and Idaho State University got a 20 million dollar grant, both universities decided to focus on the Fernan Lake watershed. The fall bloom lasted for 30 days and the spring bloom lasted for 120 days. In those blooms there were 2 types of algae that produce toxins. Frank Wilhelm is overseeing the University of Idaho, they are doing a full watershed approach to understand the source of the phosphorus that may be causing the blue green algae blooms. In order to treat the phosphorus it is important find the sources. The University is very implementation minded and would like to find out what processes will be most effective for the lake.

Kristin made the BAG aware that there are grants that the BAG members can apply for. Adrienne presented one to the EPA and it looks like it will be funded. Her project will be roadside restoration and will start off focused on the north east side of the lake and then move on. They will also be testing the fertilization in Fernan Village to see how much of that source is contributing to the phosphorus. They've also installed a test floating wetland for the residents to see how it interacted with the ice. They are hoping to put more on the lake depending on how the test wetland went.

### **Wolf Lodge Creek – Kristin Larson**

Wolf Lodge Creek is a tributary to the Coeur d'Alene Lake on the north east side. It's a pretty large tributary. There was some extra 319 money from projects that came in under budget. The regions applied for the extra money and the Kootenai Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District applied for a grant to address some of the problem areas on Wolf Lodge Creek. From 1998 – 2012 the creek moved and has become a hazard to the county road there. Through the grant they were awarded \$46,000 to fix the eroded bank. The District came through and put in some barbs that would push the water off the bank. There was another bank further down at the north end of the Gateway Ranch community. The district came in and did the same thing for the meanders on that bank. Both locations were observed during the high water rain on snow event and both seem to be holding and doing their job.

### **Pend Orielle Lake Nearshore TMDL 5 year review– Kristin Larson**

There has been a TMDL in place since 2000 on Pend Oreille Lake for nutrients. In the 90's there was a very comprehensive monitoring program done by the University of Idaho. In 2014 DEQ

was able to replicate the University of Idaho's monitoring design. They did a productivity study weekly for 6 weeks. They took samples of the bottom algae on artificial substrates. At the end of the 6 weeks they took the final sample. Bob is in the process of doing the analysis and writing a report that should be out in the next couple of months. Preliminary results show the total phosphorus in the northern region is higher than in the south. There was a target that was set in the TMDL and it appears in the north part of the lake that is not being met.

### **Priest Lake Watershed Update – Bob Steed**

DEQ is working on a temperature TMDL for Priest watershed which should go out for public comment soon. The WAG for the Priest will not meet until after the TMDL goes out for public comment.

### **Kootenai- Moyie TMDL – Bob Steed**

The Kootenai- Moyie final temperature TMDL has been approved by the EPA. DEQ is currently working with the WAG members that are deploying devices to monitor temperatures in that watershed.

### **Spokane River TMDL – Bob Steed**

Bob Steed asked the BAG for support in starting a WAG for the Spokane River TMDL. DEQ is in the planning process right now to start the WAG. Bob has spent the last 2 years monitoring the river and it's now time to start on the TMDL. The TMDL is for cadmium, lead and zinc. DEQ needs to have a TMDL in place before the next permit cycle for the waste water treatment facilities on the Spokane River which is slated for 2017. Bob pointed out the need for a municipal discharger representation on the BAG. The monitoring is being conducted in 2 locations; one at the state line and the other is at the NIC beach. Through the monitoring it shows the hardness of the water increases from the beginning station at NIC to the state line station. The reason the hardness is relevant is because the metals calculations are all hardness dependent. The levels are consistently exceeding criteria in high flow events. Bob handed out the draft press release to enlist WAG members. He asked the BAG to send him contacts of any potential WAG members.

### **South Fork Coeur d'Alene Sub-Basin Update – Kajsa Van de Riet**

Kajsa asked the BAG for support in starting a WAG for the South Fork Coeur d'Alene Sub-Basin. There hasn't been a WAG up there for some time. DEQ developed a sediment TMDL in 2002 since then our efforts have been dwarfed by the EPA Superfund clean-up. There is a lot of work to do outside of the Superfund clean-up. DEQ now needs to develop a temperature TMDL and in order to do that they need a WAG. They are also looking into doing some stream assessments. Kajsa has done some preliminary outreach to the Basin Commission Superfund group. Kajsa is also planning a press release similar to what Bob is putting out for the Spokane River but it won't be for a couple of months yet. She asked the BAG for any suggestions for people to contact, places to meet, etc. She would like to hold a couple of meetings and see how

they go, then come back to the BAG with a list of candidates then to appoint formally to the WAG. She also asked the BAG to recommend a facilitator to help with the South Fork WAG.

### **North Fork Coeur d'Alene Update – Kajsa Van de Riet**

The North Fork WAG is going smoothly. They are doing great, there is a WAG meeting this afternoon. The sediment TMDL is done and has been approved by EPA. The implementation is going well. They have sampled almost all of the unassessed waters, Craig and Kajsa will be reviewing which streams are left and compiling a list of possible sites to sample this year. They are looking into developing an implementation plan that the Forest Service has offered to help draft.

### **Restoration Plan – Kajsa Van de Riet**

The Restoration Plan team have been planning restoration using settlement funds related to the historic release of mine waste. Public scoping is done. The team is going through the NEPA process for public engagement. The first draft of the Restoration plan is now complete. It's going on for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be developed. Once the draft plan and draft EIS are completed they will go around for another round of public comment. Once complete there will be more than \$100,000,000 for restoration of wetland streams, lakes and many other projects.

### **St. Joe/St. Maries Watershed Advisory Group Updates – Craig Nelson**

In December Craig had a meeting with the St. Joe/St. Maries WAG. The WAG had been inactive for about 3 years. They plan to have another meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup>. They will have around 4 meetings a year focusing on implementation. There will not be a TMDL but a discussion of projects. The WAG has also been incorporated into the LMP.

### **B.U.R.P – Craig Nelson**

Over the next couple of months DEQ will be starting the Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Program (BURP) for the 2015 season. Craig has already sent out a press announcement for applicants. There are 3 positions open for the Coeur d'Alene regional office. They usually average 40 streams a year in the monitoring season. The streams are chosen based on need. With the 5 year review in the Pend Oreille area this year's BURP crew may focus on that area.

### **Open BAG position**

The Non-Municipal Discharge position is open, after BAG discussion it was decided that Ward Cooper would best fit that position. Motion made by Adrienne Cronebaugh to move Ward from the Representative at Large position to the Non-Municipal Discharger position, motion was seconded by Bradley Kucera. Motion passed. DEQ will send out a press release to solicit interest in the Representative at Large position.

### **BAG Expired and Expiring Terms**

The expired BAG members were asked if they would like to continue on the BAG. Kennon McClintock – Timber confirmed he would like to serve another term, Scott Fields - Coeur d’Alene Tribe; confirmed he would like to serve another term, Jack Filipowski – Agriculture; confirmed he would like to serve another term until he can find a replacement, Robert Rider – Livestock; confirmed he would like to serve another term until he can find a replacement, Vince Renaldi – Water Based Recreation; confirmed he would like to serve another term. Tom will contact the BAG members who were unable to attend and ask them if they are interested in serving another term.

### **New BAG Chair elected**

Vince Renaldi informed the group that he would like to step down from the chairman position. According to the BAG rules the chair position would go to the next in line which would be mining. Since Bradley is new to the BAG, the BAG agreed they would skip the mining representative. The next in line was Dan Dining. Bradley Kucera made motion to accept Dan Dining as the new BAG chairman, motioned seconded by Scott Fields. Motion passed.

### **Next Meeting Agenda Items and Adjourn**

The BAG agreed to tentatively schedule the next meeting for May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The BAG requested an update on the St. Maries Creosote Clean-up. Adrienne Cronebaugh motioned to adjourn; Scott Fields seconded the motion, the motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.