

Panhandle Basin Advisory Group Meeting  
April 24th, 2014  
9AM-12PM  
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
2110 Ironwood Parkway  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

**Draft AGENDA**

- 9:00** Introductions  
Review / Approval of January 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes  
Selection of BAG Representative at Large
- 9:20** DEQ Updates Spokane River Metals TMDL update, 2014 Water Body Assessments,  
BURP Monitoring Sites for 2014 Field Season
- 9:55** TMDL Prioritization, LMP Update
- 10:20** Break
- 10:30** Permit Updates: Public Comment for Certification changes based on New Rules
- 11:25** Cost effective restoration techniques for highly unstable stream channels and  
floodplains.--- Mike Stevenson -- BLM
- 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  
 April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
*Approved Meeting Notes*

<b>Members and Alternates Present</b>	<b>Guests Present</b>
W. C. Rust - Mining	Tom Moorehouse
Vince Rinaldi-Water Based Recreation	June Bergquist
Jack Filipowski-Agriculture	Tom Herron
Robert Rider - Livestock	Kristie McEnroe
Patty Perry – Kootenai Tribe	Craig Nelson
	Kajsa Stromberg
	Wayne Fitzpatrick
	Robert Steed
	Craig Cooper
	Kristin Larson

The Panhandle Basin Advisory Group (BAG) meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM at the Department of Environmental Quality in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, by Chair Vince Rinaldi. Introductions were made around the room.

The minutes were reviewed from the January 8, 2014 BAG meeting. Jack Filipowski made a motion to pass the minutes; the motion was seconded by Bill Rust. Motion passed.

**Review of Agenda**

The agenda for today's meeting was reviewed by the BAG Members.

**DEQ Updates for Spokane River Metals TMDL and Monitoring Efforts**

Bob Steed from DEQ made a presentation on the Spokane River Metals TMDL and the monitoring DEQ has done. Spokane River has tested positive for the identified pollutants: cadmium, lead and zinc between the Coeur d'Alene Lake and the Idaho/Washington State Line. While they were developing water quality certification permits for the local wastewater facilities they determined that the river would be a lot cleaner if they had TMDLs in place for those pollutants.

The Idaho portion of the Spokane River has been listed on the Integrated Report. In 1994 it was listed for just metals and over the years they have been able to identify which metals were making the most impact. The Spokane River has remained on the list for some time. In 2000 a TMDL was developed for dissolved metals in the Coeur d'Alene

Basin so that included the entire area from the South Fork downstream to Coeur d'Alene Lake and the Spokane River. There was a petition filed for judicial review that stated that the TMDL was invalid because of its failure to comply with formal rule making. Idaho Code §39-3611 states that DEQ must follow rule making provisions for that area. Our attorney had informed us for years that our TMDL for the Spokane River could not involve data from the watershed further upstream because of this rule.

Currently, DEQ is working on NPDES permits for the City of Coeur d'Alene, Hayden Area Sewer Board and the City of Post Falls; while working on these the attorney informed DEQ that it would be a lot easier to write future permits if there was a TMDL in place. DEQ now has new pressures to put a TMDL together by the next permitting cycle that includes allocations and loads. The permits are very close to being approved which would give DEQ a 5 yr. window to finalize a TMDL for Spokane River Metals.

Bob then showed the BAG Members slides of water quality in the Coeur d'Alene Lake and the Spokane River compared to the criteria associated with metals. Which showed that both cadmium and dissolved lead were occasionally above criteria in both the lake and the river, while zinc was frequently over criteria. So there really is a justification for DEQ to work on a TMDL for the Coeur d'Alene Basin and the Spokane River.

The Coeur d'Alene Management Plan, USGS, Washington Ecology and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe have been collecting metals data which can be used for the TMDL. DEQ's strategy will be to collect water quality samples at upstream and downstream locations, help the cities in monitoring storm water run-off and use all data that is already available to supplement other monitoring efforts to create the TMDL.

### **2014 Water Body Assessment**

Bob Steed spoke to the BAG about the 2014 Water Body Assessment. Bob just attended a workshop in Boise on the Water Body Assessment. The call for public comment has gone out for the 2014 Integrated Report. During the assessment process they looked at all the B.U.R.P. sites that they have received and do assessments on all the B.U.R.P. monitoring that has been done in the last 2 years. Then they will meet with each of the Watershed Advisory Groups that have those waters in them. They use this data to find out the status of the small wadeable streams. They also look at all the streams that are on the upcoming TMDLs. There about 60 sites they will be working on. Once the assessments are made they then go on the DEQ website for public comment.

### **2014 Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Program (B.U.R.P)**

Craig Nelson made a presentation to the BAG Members on this year's B.U.R.P program. He had a large map that showed all the current sites. The focus for this season is the Pend Oreille Watershed. There many reasons why this area was chosen; there is a 5 yr. review going on in this area, several un-assessed streams, as well as TMDL's that needed additional monitoring.

Craig gave the BAG information on how to access the B.U.R.P. data viewer on the DEQ website. This viewer has information on all previous B.U.R.P. data results organized by

year. 72 sites have been selected to sample however depending on conditions; size, stream flow, and accessibility they may only be able to sample ½ of those. Last season they focused on the Upper Coeur d'Alene, Spokane and Lower Clark Fork. Out of the 97 sites they had selected to sample only 42 met sampling criteria. We have 2 returning members from last year's B.U.R.P. team so we will only need to hire 1 new person for this season.

### **TMDL Prioritization**

Bob Steed discussed the TMDL Prioritization with the BAG. Idaho Code §39-3611 states that part of the BAG responsibilities is to assist the DEQ Coeur d'Alene regional office on selecting the priority TMDLs. The Boise Watershed Advisory group for the Boise River has been challenging DEQ's implementation of §39-3611. Saying they are not adequately informing the public of what is going on. As the office works on putting together the 2014 Integrated Report it is Bob's hope to get the BAG's opinions on priorities. Current projects include the Priest TMDL, Kootenai Moyie Temperature TMDL, South Fort Coeur d'Alene TMDL, North Fork Coeur d'Alene TMDL and the Spokane River. This means that Hangman, Clark Fork and the St. Joe do not have as much attention right now.

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

Craig Cooper gave the BAG a quick update on the Coeur d'Alene Management Plan (LMP). So far LMP has had 2 sampling events; one in March with the rain on snow event and another just 2 weeks ago they also have one planned for the end of April, so the sampling season is under full swing collecting samples at their main sites. They are in the process of getting out the annual report. They are also starting a process to look at nutrient inventory at Wolf Lodge Bay, planning detailed nutrient and metals monitoring at Cougar Bay that has in the past gone anoxic, they plan to track stratification of the lake and what flows out into the Spokane River, they are continuing a Land Use Analysis on the St. Maries watershed, and they are working on updating the Lake\*A\*Syst manual for the Coeur d'Alene Lake.

### **Spokane River Dischargers Permits**

June Bergquist spoke to the BAG members regarding the Wastewater Discharge Permits for the Spokane River Dischargers. These permits are for the City of Coeur d'Alene, the Hayden Area Sewer Board and the City of Post falls. They are out for the second round of public comment of the draft certification permits. The public comment period ends on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The reason for the second round of public comments is because some of the rules changed in the water quality standards that were associated with the Idaho code that was also changed. The rule change is not yet final but the Idaho code change is. The rule and code changes it cause 2 significant changes to the three certifications and if you have a significant change you have to back out to public comment.

In July of 2013 the EPA sent DEQ a letter disapproving a portion of the Antidegradation Rules. In response Idaho initiated rule making almost immediately and that resulted in the revised code and rule regarding the Antidegradation. June revised each certification to reflect the newly revised rule and code. However there were other changes to the rules

that were unrelated to the EPA disapproval letter, those really created some significant changes to the permits. Those changes were from the 055 .04 rule which placed a load restriction on each of the permits for cadmium, zinc and lead. By mid-June DEQ should have the final certification ready to and will send them to EPA who will issue the final permits.

### **North Fork, South Fork and the Restoration Partnership**

Kajsa updated the BAG on the North Fork, South Fork and the Restoration Project. The North Fork Coeur d'Alene Temperature TMDL was finally approved last week with 54 assessments. DEQ will continue to monitor and help with all ongoing projects. Some of the sediment de-listings are still pending and are part of the 2012 Integrated Report that is still pending EPA's approval. We have more sediment de-listings that the WAG is still looking at. They are hoping to propose more de-listing in the 2014 Integrated Report. In the process of getting the South Fork TMDL online the North Fork has limited their WAG meetings to once every other month. They have completed a temperature strategy paper for the South Fork and are now working on data compilation and trying to put together a WAG. The time line is to get a WAG together by the fall for the South Fork Temperature TMDL.

The Restoration Partnership is in the process of completing a Draft Plan. They are trying to have it completed for they internal reviews in May. They plan to work on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) this summer, and planning for the public review of the Draft Plan and the Draft EIS in the fall. The plan includes restoration of wetlands, streams and lakes that have been impaired as a result of the release of mine waste historically in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. The funds for the plan will come from settlements from mining companies. They have a really great website at [www.RestorationPartnership.org](http://www.RestorationPartnership.org)

### **Selection of BAG Representative at Large**

The BAG members discussed the candidates who applied for the Representative at Large position within the BAG. Those BAG members that were unable to attend sent their votes to attending Members. The BAG voted and the votes were tallied by Kristie McEnroe of DEQ. The BAG elected Ward Cooper to fill the Representative at Large position.

### **PCBs**

Bob Steed spoke to the BAG about PCBs. While some of them are very useful they can also be a dioxin. They end up in the food chain items like fish. Washington State has put together the Spokane River Toxin Taskforce rather than writing a TMDL. Their objective is to look for the source of PCBs and address those. The current data is listed in picogram which is roughly 1 drop in 20,000 Olympic sized swimming pools. While manufacturing of PCBs was supposed to stop in the 70's they are an inadvertent by-product in the production of other items so we are still getting it into our ecosystem. Our criteria is about 170 picograms per liter. The detection limit is currently 10-1,000 PCBs per liter which varies from the type of PCB. With the data we are able to collect and process we are unable to detect whether or not the PCBs exceeds our criteria.

Tom suggested an update from the Pend Oreille Basin Commission as an agenda item for the next meeting. The next BAG meeting was scheduled for July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 9:00 AM at the DEQ Coeur d'Alene Regional office.

Vince Renaldi motioned to adjourn; Robert Rider seconded the motion, the motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:22 PM.