

Panhandle Basin Advisory Group Meeting
January 8th, 2014
9AM-12PM
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
2110 Ironwood Parkway
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

AGENDA

- 9:00** Introductions
Review / Approval of October 23, 2013 (319) Meeting Notes
Review today's agenda
- 9:15** DEQ Updates—2012 Integrated Report, Spokane River NPDES Permits and Metals TMDL, Lake Pend Oreille and River monitoring: 2013 and 2014, LPO Nearshore TMDL 5 Year Review
- 9:50** TMDL Updates: Status of North Fork and South Fork Coeur d'Alene River Temperature TMDLs, Priest Lake and River Tributaries WAG and TMDLs for Temperature, Kootenai River Tributaries Temperature TMDL
- 10:20** Break
- 10:30** Fish Tissue Consumption Rule Making, provision that exempts, from Tier II antidegradation review, Activities or discharges determined to be insignificant (de minimus exemption).
- 11:25** Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force --- Dan Redline
- 11:35** Fernan Lake TMDL Implementation and U of I Study-- Kristin
- 11:50** Next meeting agenda topics and date selection
- 12 noon** Adjourn

Panhandle Basin Advisory Group
 Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
 Coeur d'Alene, Idaho DEQ
 January 8th, 2014
Approved Meeting Notes

Members and Alternates Present	Guests Present
W. C. Rust - Mining	Bob Clark
Kennon McClintock - Timber	June Bergquist
Jack Filipowski-Agriculture	Tom Herron
Adrienne Cronebaugh - KEA	Kristie McEnroe
Patty Perry – Kootenai Tribe	Janet Conlin
Vince Rinaldi-Water Based Recreation	June Bergquist
	Victoria Zeischeggs
	Robert Steed
	Dan Redline
	Kristin Larson
	Kajsa Stromberg

The Panhandle Basin Advisory Group (BAG) meeting was called to order at 9:10 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 October 23rd, 2013 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. Adrienne Cronebaugh formally replaced Mike Mihelich as the Environmental Representative. She also described her new role in the Water Keeper position.

DEQ 2012 Integrated Report

Bob Steed from DEQ made a presentation on the 2012 Integrated Report. The report has gone through public comment and the staff have worked out almost all the issues that arose through the public comment period. Once the final comment is addressed it will be ready to be sent to EPA for approval. EPA's approval timeline varies. The Integrated Report includes priorities for watersheds for each basin DEQ is working on. Bob spoke to the BAG members about their role in determining what watersheds need to be assessed. The staff is currently working on putting together the 2014 integrated report. DEQ just sent out requests for more information.

Bob also gave a short presentation on the metals TMDL for the Spokane River. The Spokane River is one of the waters that are identified in the integrated report. The 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 goal is that within the next 5 years, which is the permit cycle for these waste water facilities, the staff hopes to have TMDLs in place for the Spokane River. They have come up with a strategy for both sampling and quality assurance to collect data for the TMDL. DEQ intends to initiate a 2 yr. monitoring program shortly.

Wastewater Discharger Permit

June Bergquist spoke to the BAG members regarding the Wastewater Discharger Permits for the Spokane River Dischargers. The draft permit has been out for public comment. The public comment period closed on October 3rd. Right now EPA and DEQ are working on response to comments. Once the response to comments is complete they will start revising the permits and certifications. EPA will send DEQ a final permit. Once the final permit is received DEQ will write the final certification which gets sent back to EPA and that will complete the permit process. She would hope that the permits will be issued this coming summer. There are quite a few issues, but DEQ has been able to resolve them quite well. The way the permits and certifications read allows the dischargers to meet their limits and they have a 10 year compliance schedule so that they can develop a phosphorus treatment that will allow them to meet the requirements in the TMDL. There is some angst regarding the metals limit but the rules are changing and should provide relief in that regard.

In other permitting news, the Smeltonville permit has been finalized and issued with a 20 year compliance schedule for metals. Hopefully with this effort they will be able to improve the function of the system and reduce their metals. DEQ has draft permits for the Sandpoint Waste Water Treatment plant and for the Kootenai Ponderay Waste Water Treatment plant. They are in various stages of revision.

Lake Pend Oreille Monitoring

Bob Steed spoke to the BAG regarding Lake Pend Oreille monitoring. Bob handed out the preliminary results for 2013. Since 2006 DEQ has been going out and taking samples during 4 monitoring events on Lake Pend Oreille. Measurements were taken for Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Chlorophyll A, stratification and Secchi depth. Budgetary restrictions don't allow for a thorough investigation but, these results will allow DEQ to assess any changes in the Pend Oreille system. DEQ plans on continuing monitoring in 2014 once the weather permits. So far the monitoring program has been beneficial and is producing good results. Bob went over the results with the BAG and explained what high and low measurements would be and how Lake Pend Oreille fits into those categories. So far, the results show Lake Pend Oreille coming back consistently low.

Nearshore Pend Oreille TMDL

In 1990 there was a study conducted on the Lake Pend Oreille and a larger study done on the entire Clark Fork system. The results showed the Clark Fork System to be the major contributor for phosphorus in Lake Pend Oreille. The nearshore portions of the lake, particularly the developed areas were high in algae growth. The nearshore TMDL was written in 2000 and approved by EPA in 2002. It addressed the run off from the band of land immediately adjacent to the lake. It doesn't address point source or tributary allocation. DEQ is now embarking on a 5 yr. review of the entire Pend Oreille Watershed. The first year of monitoring will focus on just the nearshore portion and the lake. EPA has given DEQ some monitoring money to help with the effort. DEQ has convened a group of limnology experts and a big concern that came out of the meeting was the low phosphorus values. Is it actually really low or are all the nutrients being consumed? DEQ is going to repeat the original study done in 1990 and include a storm water study. Because DEQ received money from EPA they are under strict time lines, all the monitoring will have to be done in 2014 and a report will need to be generated by early 2015. Once that is over they will start to focus on the other parts of the watershed.

Fernan Lake TMDL

The TMDL was approved in November. DEQ was in close communication with EPA and the TMDL was approved within a week. In the process of making the TMDL there was a lot of interest from the local land owners, local agencies and the University of Idaho. U of I, Boise State and Idaho State University were awarded a twenty million dollar EPSCoR Grant (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Resource), the grant funds are to be spent over a 5 year period. With the interest gained during the Fernan TMDL, U of I has decided to run its pilot study in the Fernan Watershed. They will be looking at the human impact in the environment and they will be focusing on the Blue Green Algae and the Phosphorus in the lake. Between the grant money and local interest they have accumulated two hundred thousand dollars to fund the study.

Short Riley Creek 319 Project Update

Bob Clark from the North Idaho Flycasters gave an update to the BAG regarding the Short Riley Creek 319 funded project. The project decommissioned 12 miles of old Forest Service roads; they removed 19 nonfunctioning culverts that blocked fish passage. Based on the TMDL the sediment was reduced by 2 tons annually and the estimated total risk reduction was approximated 2,614 tons. A new bridge has been erected to replace a failed culvert that was a barrier to fish passage. Already they have seen an increase in fish fry. They believe the project has been a success and they will continue to monitor the results of the project.

North Fork Cd'A River

Kajsa updated the BAG on the Temperature TMDL for the North Fork. It was submitted to EPA in July and DEQ is still waiting for it to be approved. DEQ is still working on the Sediment 5 Year Review results. The project that Bob Clark presented was one of the success stories of that 5 Year Review. DEQ is continuing implementation projects for the North Fork. They have been primarily recreation based, that has been a priority for the WAG. In July DEQ and the Forest Service set up a Facebook page. Already there are

over two thousand participants. In September DEQ, the WAG and the Forest Service had their second annual clean up. Close to four thousand pounds of garbage was collected by volunteers. Over the summer they were able to collect over three hundred pounds of aluminum using the WAG organized recycling stations. They would like to use the money collected from the recycling to start a “Respect the River” fund through the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Donations. Through that fund they are hoping to use the money to support the projects on the recreation plan. A new vault toilet was installed through a partnership with the county. DEQ is looking to replace WAG members; they have lost both the forestry and the environmental representatives.

South Fork Cd’A River

Kajsa also spoke to the BAG about forming a WAG for the South Fork Cd’A Subbasin to help with development of the Temperature TMDL and the 5 Year Review. There are 13 water bodies that are listed for temperature. They would be looking at doing a PNV TMDL; there are 15 point source discharges for the South Fork Subbasin. They are hoping to time the start of this WAG at the same time that the Restoration Plan for the Coeur d’Alene Basin is coming out. Kajsa is working on the data compilation now. Next would be to get the web site put together and soliciting WAG members. After that they would do a data request to see if there is other data out there. Then they would go into the regular cycle with the WAG on TMDL development. DEQ is hoping to have that TMDL complete by the end of 2015. Kajsa asked the BAG for any suggestion or comments regarding the WAG solicitation or the TMDL.

Priest Lake WAG

Bob Steed spoke to the BAG again regarding the Priest Lake WAG. Bob met with the WAG on January 6th and the majority of the meeting was spent discussing WAG roles and responsibilities. It is a Temperature TMDL which the WAG seems to be really vested in. The Pend Oreille Basin commission is updating the Priest Lake map; it identifies access points and boat pump out stations with information panels on the back. They have offered to help with an article on the Golden Algae bloom that happens in the north end of the lake in the spring. The algae while non-toxic, it does smell. The article will provide better awareness to the public.

Kootenai Moyie WAG

Bob Steed spoke to the BAG regarding the Kootenai Moyie WAG. The PNV TMDL is finished; it has gone through technical editing and internal review. There is a meeting next week where Bob intends to go to public comment on the TMDL. The goal of the next meeting is to start looking at future monitoring. And to put together a long term plan on what to do with the data.

Fish Tissue Consumption

In an effort to comply with EPA the DEQ created a taskforce in 2012 to address PCB and other exotic pollutants. One of the focuses of the taskforce was to put together a fish consumption survey. The work on survey implementation will begin in January 2014 when the pilot survey will roll out. After the survey is out and we can identify how much

fish the public is consuming and where the fish originated will help in governing DEQ's NPDES permits.

Spokane Regional Toxic's Taskforce Update

Dan Redline spoke to the BAG regarding the Spokane Regional Toxic's Taskforce. The taskforce was formed as a result of the Spokane River being listed for PCB's in Washington. Once the Spokane River gets into Washington it has exceeded Washington's water quality standard for PCB's and other exotic pollutants. They have been tasked with starting a TMDL, rather than do that they decided to go straight to implementation. DEQ has been identified as a potential member for the taskforce. Dan has been attending the meetings representing DEQ.

Open BAG Member Position

There is one BAG Member position for Representative at Large. Vince Renaldi has received one letter of intent for that position. The BAG would like to solicit more interest. DEQ will put out an ad in the local papers in the 5 northern counties to solicit interest and will present the results to the BAG members.

Super BAG

Kennon McClintock updated the BAG on the Super BAG meeting held in December, 34 projects were selected to move forward to the Super BAG from the regions. Of those 34 projects, 11 were funded. The number one recommendations from each of the 6 regions were able to be funded. On the number 2 selections, 5 were selected. Both of our 319 projects were selected for funding if enough funding is available. The final total of funds available won't be confirmed until late May or early June.

The next BAG meeting was tentatively scheduled for April 23rd, 2014 at 9:00 AM. To meet again at the DEQ Coeur d'Alene Regional office.

Bill Rust motioned to adjourn; Adrienne Cronebaugh seconded the motion, the motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM.