

Panhandle Basin Advisory Group
 Department of Environmental Quality
 2110 Ironwood Parkway
 Coeur d'Alene, Idaho DEQ
 February 17th, 2017
Draft Minutes

Members and Alternates Present	Guests Present
Dan Dinning – Chairman	Tom Herron – DEQ
Vince Rinaldi – Water Based Recreation	Kristie McEnroe – DEQ
Kennon McClintock – Forestry	Kristin Larson – DEQ
Patty Perry – Kootenai Tribe	Denny Webster
John Beacham – Representative at Large	Craig Nelson – DEQ
	Rebecca Stevens – CDA Tribe
	Bob Steed – DEQ
	June Bergquist - DEQ

The Panhandle Basin Advisory Group (BAG) meeting was called to order at 9:16 a.m. by Dan Dining at the Department of Environmental Quality in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Introductions were made around the room. Changes to the minutes were suggested but could not be voted on at this time because there wasn't a quorum.

BURP Season Update/Priest Lake PNV – Craig Nelson

Craig passed out a map indicating the selected sites for the assessment units for the upcoming season. This year the watershed focus is Priest Lake which is in a 5 year review period. A lot of the sites this year are part of the five year review in the Priest Lake watershed there are also a scattering of other sites around the watershed. Some of these sites have never been assessed due to weather conditions during the summer months, the stream may have been dry or too low to sample. Having that data is valuable to document for future assessments.

The dots on the map indicate BURP sites in the past 5 years. The assessor will use BURP data collected in the past 5 years for the 5 year review. Assessment units are organized into orders depending on function. 1st, 2nd and 3rd orders lumped together. Each assessment unit requires a BURP site within it. There are several reasons sites are added to the BURP agenda for the season, a couple of the sites outside the watershed such as Shoshone creek and Pack River are for de-listing samples, another site just off Coeur d'Alene lake called Kidd Creek, is a site with additional monitoring for a TMDL. The list of sites for this season will be submitted to the state

office by the end of the month. They group all the regions together and create an annual work plan to for all the streams which is submitted for the electrofishing permits. The positions are open right now for both BURP and Stream Shade.

There will be 2 crews for Stream Shade data collection one out of Boise and one from the Coeur d'Alene region. The shade data will be used to support the new Forest Practices Shade Rule. The State office will also be working on the EPA national survey of lakes and will be around Idaho monitoring lakes with 2 crews. The monitoring revolves around wetlands, lakes, streams, rivers and coastal areas. Last year the focused on wetland monitoring.

Water Body Assessments and the 2016 Integrated Reports – Bob Steed

Every 2 years we have about 80 assessments we need to perform on BURP data, if other agencies or entities supply us with data we also do those during our assessment period and we report the finding in the 2016 Integrated Report. We've had high turnover on who's running the Integrated Reports. Now we have Jason Pappani who's running it and he seems really motivated to and on top of it to get it done in a timely manner. We've got to have our assessments done by the end of the month and that's just the draft. Then we have a whole schedule of talking to the WAGs about our findings; eventually bring them to the BAG before going out for public comment with the outcomes of the assessment. So, the draft should be out by the end of the month, after that there is a bunch of back and forth review with Jason bringing the ones he feels may be contentious with EPA to attention so everyone can get feedback before we submit the report and work through those because the Integrated Report is an EPA approved document. The 2014 Integrated Report was submitted to EPA on the 15th of this month. With Jason at the head things may move a little faster but the hang up as always been rule changes, the back and forth with EPA and that is what really takes the time.

Most of the assessments are on wadeable streams. In 2014 we positioned through the Spokane WAG the delisting of cadmium of one of the pollutants. It was too late in the process for DEQ and the EPA to get it into the 2014 report so it will be included in the 2016 report. Bob as written justification and demonstration that the Spokane River has not exceeded criteria for cadmium in the last 10 years. Why that matters is that we are working on the TMDLs at the same time. If you are writing a TMDL to a pollutant that is below criteria you have no allocations, which mathematically doesn't make sense. The driving force for the Spokane TMDL will be for zinc. We are using the new Water Body Assessment Guidance III (WBAG III) for performing the assessments and haven't given that a good work out yet, so we will see what kind of differences we get. Typically the data Bob has looked it, WBAG III will be less stringent than version II so he anticipates having more full support streams than not when compared to version II.

Spokane River Metals TMDL WAG – Bob Steed

The last meeting was cancelled because Bob wasn't prepared to talk to the group. So the information has not been shared with them yet. One of the hurdles to overcome is how to get to the next step and what is our strategy for writing the TMDL? There are a bunch of different ways to write these and the discharges are concerned that we are going with load based limits on the

TMDL and will have load based allocations. They have been assured that we will do concentration based effluent limits. If we design a strategy on how we are going to do it first and apply it, we really don't know what the results are so Bob jumped ahead and wanted to know what the results were going to be on load based. The only load was for zinc. In a high-flow event we are getting between 5,000-8,000 pounds per day out of the lake and into the river. He now needs to do the same thing for lead and cadmium to understand it better. But, when he adds the total possible amount that could be generated by the dischargers it is less than 10 pounds per day so it doesn't make a lot of sense to work this hard on something when common sense tells you that the dischargers are not affecting concentrations in the water by the time it gets to the state line. Even more than that, we see in the data that the state line has lower concentrations. During the low flow period when we typically write the TMDLs to make sure the dischargers are not affecting the aquatic resources is during the low flow period of time, and during low flow the criteria is not being exceeded. Bob told the WAG he was going to work on the strategy paper redefining how they were going to proceed with this data but he's trying to jump ahead and complete the analysis so they can look at the load tables to see where they want to put their time. Bob is proposing a load based TMDLs but the limits would be the concentrations that are currently in the limits in the dischargers permits. The river is still above criteria so the reduction would have to come from upstream sources in the watershed to meet criteria. As long as there are 8,000 lbs. coming out of the lake and the goal is 2,000 lbs. during high flow events we're a long way from that target.

South Fork Coeur d'Alene TMDL – Tom Herron

There hasn't been much progress on the South Fork TMDL. The data has been through tech services for the PNV TMDL and the shade curves are available and the load reductions are tabled. Kajsa has put together a roster of potential WAG members but there haven't been any meetings to date. In terms of the sediment part of that there hasn't been much data collection. We won't be doing metals TMDL until we get passed the Supreme Court decision that precludes us from doing one in that watershed.

Restoration Partnership – Rebecca Stevens

The draft Environmental Impact Statement and Restoration Plan are still out for public comment. There was a request from four counties to extend the comment period another 30 days past the January 13th deadline. That was done at a local level and issued public media releases however the official notice of availability that needs to be posted on the federal register just so happened to occur the week of inauguration and the new administration put a freeze on all postings on the federal register. Even though this is just an extension of a comment period it's still a federal register thing so it still has not been officially posted to extend the comment period. It may happen in the next week or so. They have already received close to 60 comments. The interdisciplinary team that's working on the NEPA side are categorizing those and getting them ready for a response to comments. The website will be updated to reflect the 30 day comment extension.

Boyer Slough – Kristin Larson

Boyer Slough is a tributary to Pend Oreille Lake. It's a small tributary with a lot going on with a waste water discharger for the city of Kootenai-Ponderay that discharges in the lower part of the slough. Boyer slough is listed for total nitrogen and total phosphorous. There is a lot of aquatic vegetation in the slough and algae. DEQ is embarking on a TMDL, just this week they finished instrumenting flow gauges in the slough. They went out again because of the rain event and collected data. They will get data from the discharges for the waste load allocation. It is a 2 year project for data collection. They will be collecting nutrient and flow data during the spring flow twice to get an accurate representation on what's going on. They are also going to characterize the use and impairment to looking at algae growth in Kootenai Bay. They just talked to Frank Wilhelm with the U of I to shore up what they are going to do there. They will put artificial substrates off the bottom of the lake at about 12 feet at a few sites to characterize what's going on in the bay as well. This TMDL is interesting because the discharge is pulsed. They only discharge in the winter and land apply during the growing season so that will all be taken into account for the TMDL. The monitoring will be pretty extensive, they will be going out for significant rain events even past the run off season and the rain on snow, monitoring for summer pool, and collecting depth data for the whole slough.

5 Year review for Lake Pend Oreille Tributaries – Kristin Larson

The 5 year review was completed a year ago and submitted to tech editing and Kristin got it back a month ago with all of their comments. Kristin is working on finishing out their comments and hopes to have it done in the next month or so but Boyer Slough and it's time sensitive monitoring has pulled her off that project for now.

LMP update on Field Work and projects – Tom Herron

LMP has finished the field work for sampling the lake and now are waiting for rain on snow event. They will probably go out the middle of next week. The USGS will be sampling next week. The rain on snow events are important to capture because that is the maximum loading into Lake Coeur d'Alene.

The LMP is looking into a couple different projects, one in particular is a monitoring station on Wolf Lodge Creek that will be stationed there for a couple of years to collect data. The plan is to develop the restoration plan that was done with River Design Group and one of the features that help that watershed wide plan is a monitoring station near the lower end of Wolf Lodge Creek at the campground. That will have telemetry, real time sampling, turbidity and cisco samplers that automatically draw samples for collection. They are also looking to do a watershed evaluation at Mica Creek. That was one of the projects proposed at that October meeting. They will continue to work with the Kootenai Shoshone water district to put something together. There are also a lot of hands on education and outreach activities going on right now. The next Our Gem symposium will be held on November 14th, 2017.

NPDES Permits for Sandpoint and Kootenai/Ponderay

On February 3rd, DEQ sent the final certification to EPA for the Sandpoint permit. They have a compliance schedule with either a 5 or 10 year option. They are unsure whether to develop at their current site or build a new plant on the land that they purchased so those two options were given to EPA. EPA then will take out final certification and write the final permit and it should happen within the next few months.

DEQ issued a draft certification for Kootenai Ponderay in July of last year. That has a 10 year compliance schedule for ammonia and phosphorus. They would like more options so they stopped everything and asked about discharging into Lake Pend Oreille. With that there are different scenarios: discharging into deep water, discharging to the nearshore area and discharging to multiple locations on the lake. Monday the Kootenai Ponderay board was supposed to discuss the options but DEQ hasn't had any updates from them. Currently they discharge into a small tributary of Boyer Slough. That tributary at sometimes during the year it has no flow so they have a land application system. That site has shallow ground water so they have difficulty making July-September discharge. The lake discharge depending on where they discharge to the lake they could possibly discharge year round. Unfortunately, it would take miles of pipe to get to deep water that which would be the optimum discharge to prevent flow to the nearshore areas. Deep water is described in the TMDL as 52 feet. So there is a lot of study that needs to be done. The other option is regionalization with Sandpoint which would solve their lagoon seepage testing problems.

June and Kristin are working together with the TMDL point source discharging, sampling design, discharge areas and talking with the permit writers.

319 Ranking Meeting, Mica Creek Project – Kristin Larson

During the 319 ranking meeting one of the projects that was presented was the Mica Creek project an eastern tributary to Coeur d'Alene Lake. It ranked #3 there were issues about the upper watershed that came up that might have been the reason it ranked lower. Since that meeting DEQ has been trying really hard to get at least the lower portion of the project funded. Post Falls applied for a loan this year for another project and there is a program where the interest on the loan can go towards the funding of a non-point project. Kristin asked the BAG if they would consider supporting the project with no cost to the City of Post Falls and if the city would agree to sponsor the project. The upper portion of the original 319 Grant application would not be part of this project. There is a history of successful grant work there and this would be a continuation of that. The BAG clarified that they don't need to sponsor the project because they don't have purview over the SRF funds this would come from. Kristin clarified that what she was looking for was more if there would be opposition to that project getting funded through another source

Next Meeting Agenda Items and Adjourn

The next BAG meeting tentatively scheduled for May 19th, 2017, with the request to send out a poll to select the next meeting date because there were so many members missing today. Meeting was adjourned by Dan Dinning at 11:06 A.M.