

Proposed Operating Procedures
For use until Black lake WAG adopts Operating procedures
Prepared by Coeur d'Alene Regional Office DEQ
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Black lake Watershed Advisory Group Proposed Operating Procedures

Introduction

Citizen stakeholder Watershed Advisory Groups are vital to the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) water quality program to develop and implement Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for impaired water bodies in the state of Idaho. The creation and duties of each Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) are codified in Idaho Statute (§§ 39-3615 and 39-36-16) and described briefly here.

Creation of the Watershed Advisory Group

Members of the WAG shall be representative of the interests and industries affected by management of the watershed. The WAG shall, where appropriate, include a representative from each of the following: agriculture, environmental interests, forest products, livestock, local government, mining, Native American tribes, point source discharges, resource management agencies, and water-based recreation.

Potential members of the WAG were identified by the Panhandle Basin Advisory Group (BAG) and DEQ, and DEQ will solicit involvement from all relevant interest groups (Table 1.). Formal appointments of the WAG members will be recommended by the BAG for approval by the Idaho DEQ Director. The WAG is coordinated by staff of the DEQ Coeur d'Alene Regional office who will participate as non-voting WAG members.

Duties of the Watershed Advisory Group

WAG members contribute vital local knowledge and experience. The WAG shall be responsible for recommending necessary pollution control actions so that, within reasonable periods of time, designated beneficial uses are fully supported and other state water quality plans are achieved.

The WAG's responsibilities include consultation with Idaho DEQ staff to:

1. provide qualitative and quantitative data, and address the relevance of anecdotal information;
2. advise DEQ and the Tribe on the appropriateness, attainability, and status of existing and designated beneficial uses and water quality criteria in the watershed;
3. participate in the development of TMDLs, subbasin assessments, and other state water quality plans for water bodies within the watershed; and
4. develop and recommend actions needed to effectively control sources of pollution.

Watershed Advisory Group Meetings

Any citizen has the right and is encouraged to observe and participate at WAG meetings. As public meetings, all WAG meetings will be in accordance with Idaho's Open Meeting Law (Idaho Code §§ 67-2340 through 67-2347).

Generally, WAG meetings will be held once a month and will be scheduled one month in advance, if possible. Draft copies of meeting agendas will be available to the Watershed Advisory Group and the public one week in advance.

Meetings will be fairly informal discussions based on mutual respect of all parties. DEQ staff will facilitate meetings and attempt to ensure all viewpoints are heard and there are ample opportunities for questions and comments. Decisions will be made by consensus whenever possible. If consensus cannot be reached, the WAG will follow informal Robert's Rules of Order with IDEQ facilitating as a non-voting member.

DEQ staff will post meeting notes, agendas, presentations and other relevant materials on the WAG website in a timely manner to ensure adequate access for WAG members and the public. The DEQ Black Lake Watershed Advisory Group Website is located at: http://www.deq.idaho.gov/about/regions/black_lake_wag/index.cfm

Watershed Advisory Group Decision-Making

The WAG will operate using consensus decision-making as much as possible. A consensus decision is reached when all participants present at the meeting are reasonably satisfied with, or have no strong objections to, the recommendation or action and will support the decision. Any WAG member may propose a motion, with another member seconding the proposal. DEQ will facilitate and determine whether consensus exists (100% in agreement) on the motion. If a consensus has been reached, the decision is made. If a member does not agree, but does not have a major concern, that member may choose to abstain.

If any member is in opposition to the motion, a DEQ representative will facilitate the group and will follow Robert's rules of Order for development of motions and voting. When consensus cannot be reached with reasonable time and effort, then the WAG will employ voting to get a majority-rule decision. A quorum of 50% voting members must be present, or present by proxy, to vote on any formal items introduced during a meeting.

Similar to the Panhandle BAG, voting shall be conducted according to affiliation. The Black lake WAG has some affiliations with multiple representatives. In cases where appointed members vote, representatives of each affiliation should caucus and provide a single vote.

Table 1. Black Lake Watershed Advisory Group Members July 17, 2009

Name	Representing	Stakeholder Category	Voting Member?
John Katovich	Landowner	Agriculture	Yes
Casey Amy	Kootenai School District #274	Other	Yes
Bob Martinson	Private Landowner	Concerned Citizen	
Ken Ockfen	ID Dept of Lands	Agency	Yes
Marianne Lariviere	Private Landowner	Concerned Citizen	
Larry Lariviere	Private Landowner	Concerned Citizen	
Tom Bell	Private Landowner	Concerned Citizen	
Ken Olsen	Private Landowner	Concerned Citizen	