

**Portneuf Watershed Advisory Group  
March 18, 2008**

***Group Memory***

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Snake River Conference Room, Pocatello Regional Office  
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Pocatello Regional Office hosted a Portneuf Watershed Advisory Group meeting on Tuesday, March 18, 2008 in the Snake River Conference Room at the Regional Office located at 444 Hospital Way, Suite 300 in Pocatello, Idaho.

Meeting participants included the following voting members of the Portneuf Watershed Advisory Group: Kim Gower (JR Simplot Company), Jon Herrick (alternate, City of Pocatello), Brad Higginson (Caribou-Targhee National Forest), M. Keene Hueftle (Southeast Idaho Environmental Network), Kevin Koester, John Sigler (City of Pocatello), Candon Tanaka (Shoshone-Bannock Tribes), Roger Thompson (Southeast Idaho Flyfishers ), and Elliot Traher (Natural Resources Conservation Service).

The following non-voting members were also in attendance: Greg Mladenka (Idaho Department of Environmental Quality [DEQ]), Andrew Ray (DEQ), and Lynn Van Every (DEQ).

Visitors attending: Doug Anderson (Hoku Materials) and Monty Johnson (JR Simplot Company).

Members who were absent from the meeting included: Larry Ghan (alternate, Bannock County Commission), Wilder Hatch (Caribou Soil Conservation District), Jim Mende (Idaho Fish and Game [IDFG]), Bud Smalley (alternate, Southeast Idaho Flyfishers), Hannah Sanger (Portneuf Greenway Foundation), Louis Wasniewski (alternate, Caribou-Targhee National Forest), and Lin Whitworth (Bannock County Commission).

Wendy Green Lowe of P2 Solutions facilitated the discussion. This "group memory" documents discussion and decisions that occurred.

***Review and Approval of February Group Memory***

Corrections were noted to the February Group Memory. Changes will be made in accordance with those corrections and the final Group Memory will be posted to the Portneuf Watershed Advisory Group's website.

***Pocatello City Ordinances Described***

John Sigler presented a brief summary of the proposed City of Pocatello's stormwater ordinances and discussed how they apply to the Oil and Grease discussion of the previous meeting. John reported that the City has no stormwater ordinances specific to oil and grease at this time. John noted that oil and grease storage practices associated with restaurant operations are administered by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. The City's Water Pollution Control (WPC) facility addresses oil and grease in wastewater by establishing pre-treatment standards for this pollutant.

Jon Herrick mentioned that the WPC has a "can the grease" program that provides containers to citizens and promotes alternatives to grease storage and instructions for the proper disposal of cooking grease.

John Sigler said the City has proposed three ordinances in the stormwater plan that will be effective this year; the ordinances will be reported in the City's annual report to the USEPA under Permit No.: IDS-028053.

***Total Suspended Sediment Loads and High and Low Flow Discussion***

During the 19 February meeting, **Andy Ray** requested that the WAG provide feedback on the general approach employed for reporting TSS loads and waste loads. Andy noted that no comments were received after the February meeting. The WAG generally agreed this approach was an adequate way to describe loads and waste loads at each permanent monitoring location.

**Kevin Koester** requested that high flow months at the Portneuf River above Marsh Creek and Marsh Creek sites change from February to May, used in the current load estimates, to March to May. His recommendation was proposed to reflect that during most years low flow conditions exist through February. The WAG agreed that this change was appropriate and should be applied to all pollutants.

## ***Total Phosphorus Load and Waste Load Discussion***

**Andy Ray** presented tables summarizing total phosphorus (TP) loads at the permanent monitoring stations (see [www.portneufriver.org](http://www.portneufriver.org) for a map of the monitoring stations) from 2004-2006. Each table presented point sources of TP above each monitoring stations as well as TP contributed by non-point sources. Actual TP loads were calculated on a monthly basis using water sample data and average flows. These were compared to targets determined by using low flow (0.07 mg/L) or high flow (0.125 mg/L) TP concentration targets approved in a previous WAG meeting. To capture variability among years, the average of 2004-2006 measured loads were then compared with target loads calculated using TP targets and conservative estimates of flow (flow values used are lower than 90% of all flows measured at each USGS gage<sup>1</sup>) for each monitoring site and reductions were reported on a monthly basis.

In response to questions, **Andy Ray** and **Greg Mladenka** explained that:

- Each table presented all point sources of TP as well as the combined TP contribution from non-point sources
- Point source contributions (waste loads) were estimated using NPDES permit compliance data and from targeted sampling approaches which used samples at, above, and below each discharge point.
- Elevated concentrations of TP most often correspond with elevated concentrations of total suspended solids (TSS) and occur during spring run-off.
- Although the City of Lava's waste load will not change the City will have to modify current practices to discharge waste loads during periods that are approved in their NPDES permit and when the river near Topaz is below the TP target (October through March). By modifying their practices the City can keep their current load during the current TMDL cycle and plan for future growth.
- The City of Inkom will require some TP reductions in their waste load. Improvements range from 0 to 71% depending on the month. Concentrations were generally lower during the months of June to October when average reductions required to meet their NPDES permit are 23%. In contrast, average reductions needed from November to May were 59%.
- The largest load reductions in Marsh Creek are needed during the winter and spring months. A considerable amount of implementation work has been done in the watershed and hopefully this work will lead to fewer reductions necessary to meet targets during future TMDL cycles.

**Andy Ray** requested that the WAG provide feedback on the TP load and waste load summaries. **John Sigler** indicated that the City of Pocatello would need to look over the material before offering their

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<sup>1</sup> The period of record for flows varies by site but represents 93 years of continuous record at the USGS Pocatello gage, 52 years at the Lower Marsh Creek gage, 89 years of record at the Topaz gage, and 15 years of record at the Tyhee gage.

support. John indicated that the City would meet with the DEQ prior to the April meeting to discuss specific concerns.

Kevin Koester observed that the WAG was reluctant to finalize TP and TSS loads because they were choosing to be polite rather than make difficult decisions on loads and waste loads. Kevin told the WAG that as a group we are running out of time if we are really trying to adhere to a schedule. Kevin also noted that the WAG was making the rest of their job harder by putting off finalizing loads.

Candon Tanaka expressed continued uneasiness with the TP targets for the river and he was also concerned with the TP waste load allocation for the City of Pocatello; like the river TP target, he felt the waste load allocation was too high.

The WAG agreed phosphorus is the highest priority for this next meeting, and since there was still some uneasiness with TP loads and waste loads, they decided not to address *E. coli*, oil and grease, or total nitrogen next meeting unless time allows.

### ***Next Meeting***

The next meeting of the Portneuf Watershed Advisory Group will be at 7:00 p.m. on March 18, 2008 in the Snake River Conference Room at the Regional Offices located at 444 Hospital Way, Suite 300 in Pocatello, Idaho. The meeting will be designed to accomplish the following objectives:

- Review and approve TP load allocation summaries.
- Discuss the processes used for developing total nitrogen, *E. coli*, and oil and grease loads (if time allows).

### ***Documents Relevant to the March 18, 2008 Meeting***

Six documents were provided to participants during the meeting. All can be found on the project website located at:

[http://www.deq.state.id.us/about/regions/portneuf\\_river\\_tribs\\_wag/index.cfm](http://www.deq.state.id.us/about/regions/portneuf_river_tribs_wag/index.cfm)

The six documents are:

- Estimated and target daily Total Phosphorus (TP) loads for the Portneuf River at Topaz
- Estimated and target daily Total Phosphorus (TP) loads for the Portneuf River above Marsh Creek
- Estimated and target daily Total Phosphorus (TP) loads for the Portneuf River at Edson Fichter Nature Area
- Estimated and target daily Total Phosphorus (TP) loads for the Portneuf River at Batiste Road
- Estimated and target daily Total Phosphorus (TP) loads for the Portneuf River at Siphon Road
- Estimated and target daily Total Phosphorus (TP) loads for Lower Marsh Creek

### ***Next Steps***

The following next steps will be completed:

1. Andy Ray, Greg Mladenka, and Wendy Lowe will prepare the draft Group Memory for review and approval at the next meeting.
2. Andy Ray will post the draft Group Memory on the project Portneuf WAG website.
3. Andy Ray will post handouts from the March meeting on the Portneuf WAG website.
4. Andy Ray will revise Portneuf River above Marsh Creek and Marsh Creek TSS and TP loads to reflect changes to the high flow period (February was changed from a high flow to low flow month) at these monitoring sites.

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