

**Portneuf Watershed Advisory Group
February 19, 2008**

Group Memory

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, February 19, 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), Hannah Sanger (Portneuf Greenway Foundation), John Sigler (City of Pocatello), and Candon Tanaka (Shoshone-Bannock Tribes).

The following non-voting members were also in attendance: Greg Mladenka (Idaho Department of Environmental Quality [DEQ]), Andrew Ray (DEQ), and Sue Skinner (US Environmental Protection Agency [EPA]).

Visitors attending: Doug Anderson (Hoku Materials).

Members who were absent from the meeting included: Kevin Koester, Jim Mende (Idaho Fish and Game [IDFG]), Roger Thompson (Southeast Idaho Flyfishers), Larry Ghan (alternate, Bannock County Commission), Wilder Hatch (Caribou Soil Conservation District), Bud Smalley (alternate, Southeast Idaho Flyfishers), Elliot Traher (Natural Resources Conservation Service), 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 January Group Memory

Corrections were noted to the January 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.

Oil and Grease Situation Described

Andy Ray presented a brief history of the target determination for and neighboring states' rules applying to oil and grease. In addition, Andy presented some oil and grease data summaries from sampling recently completed in the Portneuf River above and below Pocatello and in storm drain outfalls. Data indicate oil and grease is definitely present in the Portneuf River and is variable in space and time. A discussion ensued on how to determine and control sources of this class of pollutants. As part of its stormwater permit, the City of Pocatello will continue to sample for these constituents to further refine our understanding of the situation.

In response to questions, Andy explained that:

- Most sampling occurs after rain events and the results can vary depending on the intensity, duration, and length of time after the event.
- The targets were established using a methodology developed using available literature.

- Oil and grease is found during both runoff (associated with rainfall events) and nonrunoff (NOT associated with rainfall events) events suggesting there is some background level of oil and grease in the river or sufficient runoff from other sources to mobilize oil and grease in the stormwater drainage system.
- Testing procedures currently being employed do not allow determination of the type or source of oil and grease.
- Dumping of oil and grease is a “reportable release” under federal law no matter where it occurs.

John Sigler agreed to bring the relevant citations regarding oil and grease from Pocatello city ordinances to the next WAG meeting.

Total Suspended Sediment Loads Discussion

Andy Ray presented tables summarizing loads at the permanent monitoring stations (see www.portneufriver.org for a map of the monitoring stations) from 2004-2006. Each table presented point sources of TSS above each monitoring stations as well as TSS contributed by non-point sources. Actual TSS loads were calculated on a monthly basis using water sample data and average flows. These were compared to targets determined by using low flow (35 mg/L) or high flow (80 mg/L) TSS 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 TSS targets and conservative estimates of flow (flow values used are lower than 90% of all flows measured at each USGS gage¹) for each monitoring site and reductions were reported on a monthly basis.

Andy went on to explain that the approach used was recommended by US Environmental Protection Agency Region X staff; it is widely used throughout the Pacific Northwest.

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

- Each table presented all point sources of TSS as well as the combined TSS 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 TSS during spring run-off commonly occur because of the mobilization of surface sediment in overland flow of poorly vegetated streambanks, direct introduction of sediment from failing streambanks, and/or the mobilization of sediments deposited during low-flow.
- Elevated concentrations of TSS during periods other than spring run-off may be associated with agricultural returns (irrigation canals), rapid changes in discharge, or because of brief or sustained human or animal activity in the river.

¹ 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.

- Estimated loads tend to be lower at PR at Siphon Road than the PR at Batiste Road due to the large contribution of sediment-free groundwater in that segment of river
- DEQ's State Office provides statewide oversight of TMDLs, while the US EPA provides regional guidance and coordinates multiple TMDLs addressing impairments in the same/related waters.

Andy Ray requested that the WAG provide feedback on the general approach employed and the specific approach used for estimating waste loads. The WAG agreed this approach (to present loads) would be appropriate for other constituents addressed in the TMDL. The WAG further agreed that the method clearly illustrates periods when and locations where gross reductions are needed.

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 TSS load allocation summaries.
- Review total phosphorus load allocation summaries.

Documents Relevant to the February 19, 2008 Meeting

Five 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

The five documents are:

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

One more table will be posted later as DEQ had not completed it before the meeting; it will present similar information at Portneuf River above 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 February meeting on the Portneuf WAG website, including the Portneuf River above Marsh Creek.
4. Andy Ray will post the revised TMDL completion schedule to the Portneuf WAG website.
5. John Sigler committed to reporting on Pocatello City ordinances that relate to oil and grease during the March meeting.

6. Andy Ray will endeavor to have TP loads and wasteloads posted to the Portneuf WAG website prior to the March meeting.

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