

North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed Advisory Group

Draft Meeting Notes

June 26, 2013

1:00 – 3:00 pm

US Forest Service Bldg., Smelterville, ID

Next meeting: TBD

Please visit the WAG website:

<http://www.deq.idaho.gov/north-fork-cda-river-subbasin-wag>

Contact Kajsa Stromberg with any questions:

(208) 666-4633 or Kajsa.Stromberg@deq.idaho.gov

Participants: Kajsa Stromberg, Bob Clark, Dan Guy, Ed Lider, Leslee Stanley, Carol Lapan, Wade Jerome, Ingrid Madsen, Larry Yergler, Fred Brackebusch, Jim Best, Sandy Podsaid, Caj Matheson, Claire Pitner, Colter Smart, Tarita Harju, Gordon Sanders

Meeting Purpose: To convene the Watershed Advisory Group for the purposes of water quality improvements and protection in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Subbasin through Total Maximum Daily Load development and implementation.

Introductions, review agenda, & distribute previous meeting notes

Updates and Planning

- Draft temperature TMDLs - The comment period for the draft temperature TMDLs closed June 10, 2013 and 14 comments were received. Kajsa is responding to those comments now and will send the draft temperature TMDL to DEQ's state office for finalization and submittal to EPA. The only substantive change will be the addition of stormwater language at EPA's request. Once approved by EPA, the temperature TMDLs will take effect.
- 2012 Integrated Report - The draft 2012 Integrated Report of statewide water quality is available for review and comment. DEQ has extended the public comment period until August 9, 2013. Kajsa distributed a handout about the report and comment opportunity.

The only major changes in status for this subbasin are the sediment delisting proposals for Steamboat Creek, Yellowdog Creek, and two segments of Tepee Creek. Kajsa encouraged WAG members to submit comments on the Integrated Report.

- USFS Beaver Creek Project - The USFS Beaver Creek Project draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is out for public review and comment through July 22, 2013. Wade Jerome (USFS) provided two maps and described some of the differences between the two action alternatives. No one from the planning team was available on the 26th. WAG members discussed holding a meeting the week of July 15th with someone

from the USFS planning team to provide more detailed information. The goal would be to develop a consensus statement from the WAG about the Beaver Creek Project.

- DEQ 319 grant - Several projects have been identified as possibilities for water quality improvement projects and cost-share through a DEQ 319 grant. Ed Lider described preliminary progress in identifying projects and drafting conceptual plans and budgets. He and Bob Clark said North Idaho Fly Casters will sponsor a grant application. Bob Flagor from the Conservation District was supportive and involved in some of the planning. Ed said selections should be made by July 11 in order to have time to prepare the application. These selections will be brought to the WAG at the July meeting for discussion.
- Peak's Perch – The memorial bench for Joe and Rose Mary Peak was installed Friday June 28. A dedication ceremony will take place later this summer.

Recreation: Updates from Kajsa (DEQ), Claire Pitner (USFS), Colter Smart (USFS), and Shoshone County Commissioners

- One banner was printed by Silver Valley Sign Works before the Memorial Day holiday weekend. It was in color and 3 x 10 feet as recommended by the WAG. Once it was installed, with assistance from Shoshone County, many believed it was too small for that location. It was taken down after the holiday weekend and will be moved to another location. The cost was covered by North Idaho Fly Casters and Avista.
- A second banner will be printed by Silver Valley Sign Works before the 4th of July holiday weekend. This one will be in color and 4 x 30 ft. The cost will be covered by North Idaho Fly Casters and Avista. It will be installed on the silver bridge over the road with assistance from Shoshone County and will be highly visible over the holiday weekend.
- Claire said she's seeking volunteers for the 4th of July weekend to hand out mesh bags and encourage recycling. 4,000 mesh bags were donated by Jim Driscoll.
- A series of newspaper advertisements are being developed to run monthly on different topics during the summer and fall in CdA Press, Shoshone News-Press, and Spokesman Review. This is pending Avista's approval for the expense.
- The River Cleanup Day will be Saturday Sept. 7th. Colter has contacted Divers Northwest to get a small group of divers into the river to clean up deep water areas.
- Signs have been ordered for the recycling bins built by the Boy Scouts in 2012.
- Two vault toilets may be ordered and installed by Shoshone County this year. The USFS Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) provided funds for one and Shoshone County will fund the other. Locations are being developed and plans are underway.

Restoration Partnership: Kajsa (DEQ) and Caj Matheson (Restoration Partnership)

Kajsa and Caj gave a presentation about the Restoration Partnership, which was followed by discussion and a Q&A period. The PowerPoint will be posted on the WAG website.

Local residents can help shape natural resource restoration in the Coeur d'Alene Basin by providing comments and suggestions to the Restoration Partnership. The Partnership is developing a strategic plan to return natural resources harmed by past releases of mine waste contamination to a healthy condition.

The Restoration Partnership was formed through a collaborative effort led by the Coeur d'Alene Basin Natural Resource Trustees which are the U.S. Department of Interior, represented by the Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management; the Coeur d'Alene Tribe (Tribe); the U.S. Department of Agriculture, represented by the Forest Service; and the State of Idaho, represented by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. Developing a restoration plan is the next step in this restoration effort, which is one of the largest ever in Idaho.

The Restoration Partnership is working toward natural resource restoration with settlement funds from parties responsible for natural resource degradation. There are numerous ways restoration can occur, and so the Restoration Partnership is seeking input from the public as it develops the Restoration Plan and prepares an Environmental Impact Statement. The Partnership will collect input over a 60-day scoping phase slated to run through August 12, 2013. During this time citizens and organizations can provide input to the Restoration Partnership online at www.restorationpartnership.org, by mail at Restoration Partnership, 424 Sherman Ave., Suite 306, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814.

Visit www.restorationpartnership.org for more information.

Members of the WAG are encouraged to contact Kajsa Stromberg as DEQ's representative on the planning team.