

Coeur d'Alene Lake Tributaries Watershed Advisory Group
Thursday, June 26, 2014
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Large Conference Room
2110 Ironwood Pkwy
Coeur d'Alene

10:00 – 12:30

Meeting Notes

Introductions

Update on Idaho's 2014 Integrated Report and Triennial Review of Idaho's Water Quality Standards

Section 303 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) requires states to modify and improve their water quality standards (WQS) at least once every three years. Under this triennial review process, states are to review, and modify and adopt as appropriate, applicable water quality standards, taking into consideration public concerns, EPA guidance, and new scientific and technical information.

Idaho is currently in the process of assessing data for the 2014 Integrated Report. If stakeholders have any data they wish to be assessed under this cycle, please submit data to DEQ.

Idaho EPSCoR Grant/Fernan Lake MILES project. Mark Solomon, Water Research Scientist -Idaho Water Resources Research Institute, University of Idaho

MILES is an NSF/EPSCoR-funded project “to advance the understanding of feedbacks between social and ecological systems and ecosystem services in mid-sized cities in the face of climate change and urban growth. The program builds Idaho's capacity to study complex social-ecological processes, especially those associated with water demand and valuation of ecosystem services. This research characterizes patterns and identifies social drivers of urban growth and ecological change, including valuable ecosystem services. Outcomes will include an integrated modeling framework and visualization and virtualization tools”.

Under the first year of this program, the Fernan Creek watershed was identified as the pilot watershed. Science under the project is the following: Lake phosphorus loading, hillslope loading, stormwater loading, wildfire modeling, rain-on-snow modeling, social characterization, vulnerability assessment, model integration, and virtualization.

Update on the Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Program. Jamie Brunner, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

Jamie Brunner gave an update on the Coeur d'Alene Lake Management program. Since the retirement of Glen Rothrock, there is a new Limnologist with Idaho DEQ (Craig Cooper), and Jamie and Laura have been active being the Lake Management Plan coordinators – Jamie with DEQ and Laura with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe.

Science under the Lake Management program includes water quality monitoring and modeling and aquatic vegetation surveys. The program has finished up a nutrient source inventory and the results are being synthesized. Results show that the St. Maries and St. Joe watersheds are the biggest loaders of phosphorus into Coeur d'Alene Lake.

The Lake Management program has been involved in much education around the lake and has also been involved with nutrient reduction projects.

Western Competitive Grant update. Bob Flagor, Kootenai-Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District and Diane Partridge, Idaho Department of Lands

The Kootenai-Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District was awarded partial funding for a grant to conduct a watershed assessment and implement forestry plans and education in the Wolf Lodge, Blue Creek, and Fernan Creek watersheds. The watershed assessment will include collection of LIDAR data, and a road inventory. Lidar will be flown this fall.

Collaborative stormwater mitigation project in Coeur d'Alene – Adrienne Cronebaugh, Kootenai Environmental Alliance

Adrienne gave an update on a stormwater project located by the North Idaho College campus. It includes a rain garden and stormwater infiltration pond. The project is a collaborative between several partners including the University of Idaho, North Idaho College, and the Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Program.

Other