

North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed Advisory Group

Meeting Notes

November 20, 2008

1:00 – 4:00 pm

DEQ Superfund Office, Kellogg, ID

Participants: Kajsa Stromberg, Tyson Clyne, Mike Mihelich, Bill Rust, Earl Frizzell, Bob Burke, Larry Runkle, Jason McGaughey, Bob Flagor, Dewey Skaggs, Ed Warner, Jon Cantamessa, Ed Lider, Ryan Glynn, Bob Clark

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. The meeting reviewed a log debris removal project, placer mining water quality compliance, grant funds for watershed projects, and temperature data evaluation.

DEQ 319 Grant Program – Tyson described the timeline for this DEQ grant program. Pre-applications are due Feb 9, 2009. If you have project ideas that will improve water quality from non-point sources of pollution, bring your ideas to our January meeting. Call us if you have questions and refer to this website:

http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/prog_issues/surface_water/nonpoint.cfm#management

River Management Plan – Ed Warner and Dewey Skaggs have been working to develop a river management plan for the lower North Fork CDA, with a focus on recreation. Ed had some new ideas for working with the University of Idaho and AmeriCorps.

<http://www.bioregionalplanning.uidaho.edu/> and <http://www.pcei.org/pcc/>

Log debris removal – Kajsa gave a PowerPoint presentation with photos of the debris jam at Castle Rock on the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River. The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security issued a mission assignment to Idaho Department of Lands to remove the debris jam as a threat to infrastructure. Bob Burke with IDL led the project. We discussed the removal process and lessons learned. DEQ will conduct post-project photo-monitoring.

Placer mining water quality compliance – Kajsa gave a PowerPoint presentation introducing concepts and photos of placer mining. There are many placer mining techniques employed in the North Fork CDA Subbasin and a complex structure of rules and regulations. Some activities can adversely affect water quality, especially when permitting requirements are not followed.

Grants – We have received a grant of \$140,000 from the Governor's Office of Species Conservation to conduct projects on private land. This will be a partnership of DEQ and the Conservation District with cost-share agreements for private landowners. We will provide more detail at the next meeting, including potential opportunities for landowners to participate.

DEQ and the USFS are also seeking funds from EPA to help verify the effectiveness of TMDL implementation activities and watershed restoration. We want to do monitoring activities in summer 2009 to determine if fisheries and beneficial uses have been restored to impaired streams.

Roads and crossing structures – There are plans for road improvements and repaving of the main river road and Beaver Creek road. We discussed the need to address failing culverts, remove fish passage barriers, and improve stream crossing structures. We'll follow up with an inventory of problem areas.

Next Meeting: January 29, 2009 details TBA.

Please visit the WAG Website:

http://www.deq.idaho.gov/about/regions/north_fork_cda_river_wag/index.cfm

Contact Kajsa Stromberg with any questions:

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