

Coeur d'Alene Lake Tributaries Watershed Advisory Group
Friday April 15, 2011
U.S. Forest Service
Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District Office, Room B
2502 E. Sherman Ave. (near Fernan Lake)

Next Meeting: Friday May 6th, 2011

Contact Kristin Keith with any questions:
(208) 666-4606 or Kristin.keith@deq.idaho.gov

Participants: Gordon Sanders, Mary Pinozotti, David Gabrielsen, Bob Clark, Sandy Schlepp, Rusty Sheppard, Denna Grangaard, Terry Harris, W.C. Rust, Chris James, Rebecca Stevens, Becki Witherow, Robert Steed, Kristin Keith, Tom Herron and Kristie McEnroe

Meeting Summary

Discussions:

Voting: Consensus vs. Vote- continued form last meeting

The purpose of the WAG is to advise DEQ of the action is should take. DEQ does not believe voting is necessary and a consensus should meet the Idaho open meeting law guidelines. There are still some concerns on consensus vs. majority. The point was brought up that if there is no consensus then the WAG should not make recommendations. Some felt majority vote would be appropriate for recommendations. DEQ will go back to legal there and clarify what voting standards need to me legally met, there was no final decision on voting vs. consensus and it will be visited again at the next meeting.

Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan Workshop

The Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan will be hosting a workshop on Wednesday, May 4th. The 2 hour program will begin at 5:30 with PowerPoint presentation and hands-on science. Topics for discussion include: metal pollutants (lead, zinc, and cadmium), oxygen, phosphorus, algae, the food web and milfoil. It will be free to the public and held at the Coeur d'Alene library in the community room at 702 Front Ave.

Black Lake TMDL

Kristin Keith from DEQ filled the WAG in on the Black Lake TMDL. With the groups guidance they have gotten a joint TMDL written with the CDA Tribe and just last week the TMDL was submitted to the EPA. In the meantime the 298 acres of Black Lake was foreclosed on and there has been some interest by the Idaho fish and wildlife service to purchase the land and turn it into a natural wetland. DEQ is hoping to take the TMDL

to the bank and realtor to show the best use of this parcel is to turn it into a natural wetland. Becki from the tribe mentioned that the Black Creek Lodge is also up for auction. They are working close with fish and wildlife to explore some other options.

CDA Lake and River TMDL presentation continued from last meeting

Kristin Keith continued this presentation from the last meeting. The CDA Lake and River TMDL, was written in 1999 and approved by EPA in 2000. Kristin has also posted the link to the TMDL on the website.

The WAG had a quick overview of what was gone over from the last meeting. Clarified what Natural Background and the Margin of Safety are. There was a question about coarse cobble bedload and the definition of sediment. Sediment would be any solid materials in the water body sediment; this would be any rock, sand and/or debris in the water body. Bedload consists of any sediment that can be moved along the stream bed.

Going with the discussion from last meeting with what was man made damage and what was natural as in the case of Latour creek which was brought up at the last WAG meeting as an example; the bottom line is these creeks have a high bedload of sediment which makes the streams unstable. With the increased bed load you lose the rivers beneficial use and it's ability support fish. According to the Forest Service the cutthroat population has decreased dramatically.

WAG Purpose

The question was brought up what is the purpose of this WAG, is it to just pinpoint the causes on why the erosion is happening or are we trying to find a solution to fix some of these problems. The DEQ and WAG would love to focus on finding solutions to do implementation to fix the problems. The WAG wants to increase the understanding of why these issues are coming up but would love to start implementing responsible land management that relates to some improvement on the ground.

Part of the implementation process would be to work with the Forest Service on upcoming projects that affects the TMDL and the focus of the WAG. The Forest Service would love to come in and present new projects to get the WAG feedback. One of these upcoming projects is called Red Beauty. Some of the WAG members were also very interested in doing "field trips".

TMDL 5 Year Review Process

The question was asked, when is the five year review process scheduled to be over? The hope is within the next one or two WAG meetings. The 5 yr review document will become an addendum to the existing TMDL. Kristin will give the WAG copies of the Sub basin assessment before the next meeting and present it to the WAG at the next meeting. Kristin will also present on streams where implementation has been effective and have been removed from the list at the next meeting.

Next is scheduled for Friday May 6th.

