

North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed Advisory Group

Meeting Notes

January 16, 2008

1:00 – 4:00 pm

US Forest Service Bldg., Smelterville, ID

Participants: Mary Fritz, Edward Lider, Mike Mihelich, Jeff Legg, Bill Hudson, Dan Guy, Fred Brackebusch, Roy Faler, George Hemphill, Bill Rust, Serena Carlsen, Bob Burke, Sandy Schlepp, Bob Steed, Kristin Keith, Tyson Clyne, Kajsa Stromberg, Bob Flagor, Bob Clark, Mike Stevenson, Geoff Harvey, Jeff Johnson, Jon Cantamessa

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 focused on water quality improvement projects, TMDL implementation planning, and updates on TMDL development.

WAG Business:

- PERMITTING WORKSHOP: Several WAG members have suggested a workshop to familiarize the WAG and local landowners about permits required for working in streams. Kajsa has scheduled a workshop for March 5, 2008 from 1:00-4:00 pm at the USFS Smelterville Bldg. The workshop will include a panel of representatives from Army Corps of Engineers, Idaho Dept. Water Resources, Idaho DEQ, Idaho Dept. of Lands, and the local Conservation District.
- COEUR D'ALENE RIVER PRESERVATION COMMITTEE: An announcement was circulated regarding the Coeur d'Alene River Preservation Committee and its solicitation of comments regarding recreational use and environmental quality in the North Fork CDA River Subbasin. This is posted on the WAG website. For more information, contact Dewey Skaggs glk305@aol.com.
- OPERATING PROCEDURES: The WAG reviewed the latest version of the draft operating procedures. We reached agreement on a voting strategy that the group will use in case we cannot reach consensus on some issue. A quorum will be achieved when there is at least one representative present from at least half of stakeholder categories. Each stakeholder category will receive one vote. State agencies will be grouped into a single stakeholder category, and federal agencies will be a single stakeholder category. The operating procedures were adopted by consensus at the January 16 meeting.

- WATERSHED PROFESSIONALS NETWORK REPORTS: Kajsa distributed CDs containing copies of reports generated by the Watershed Professionals Network. These will also be posted on the website.
- PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT: Idaho's Integrated Report of water body assessments and 303(d) list of impaired water bodies is up for public comment through February 20. Find it here: http://www.deq.idaho.gov/Applications/NewsApp/checkNewsCache.cfm?news_id=2115
- LETTER OF SUPPORT: Jeff Legg created some letterhead for the group to use writing letters of support for projects. This was distributed for the WAG's review.

Proposed Water Quality Projects:

Ed Lider of the USFS presented two projects to the WAG: **Laverne Creek ATV Project** and the **Short-Riley Creeks Porter Memorial Project**. The ATV project on Laverne Creek will treat roads and crossings that contribute sediment to the stream. Crossings will be converted to rock fords and roads will be converted to an ATV trail with lower maintenance needs. The project is expected to provide reductions in sediment risk to the stream and funding is sought from the Idaho Dept. of Parks and Recreation. The Short-Riley Creeks Porter Memorial Project is a larger project in upper Tepee Creek in collaboration with the North Idaho Fly Casters. This project is proposed to the DEQ 319 Program. Removal of inadequate stream crossing structures and other riparian BMPs will be employed. The WAG agreed by consensus to submit letters of support for both projects.

Geoff Harvey of DEQ's Waste and Remediation Section gave a presentation to the WAG about a project proposed for the DEQ 319 program: **Mine Tailings Removal from Upper Beaver Creek**. This project would target mine tailings in upper Beaver Creek on private land just upstream of Carbon Creek. The project is in conjunction with federal CERCLA removal actions and will remove sources of metals contamination and sediment to Beaver Creek. The WAG agreed by consensus to submit a letter of support for this project.

Draft Temperature TMDL: Kajsa gave a presentation about the draft temperature TMDL for the subbasin. The presentation focused on two questions: 1) How are standards being applied? And 2) How will the TMDLs be implemented? The presentation will be posted on the WAG website. A good discussion took place and the WAG recommended additional analyses of USFS temperature data including the identification of reference conditions. DEQ will perform these analyses if possible before the next WAG meeting for discussion. The WAG is encouraged to submit comments on the draft TMDL at any time and DEQ will be incorporating these comments over the next two months in preparation for a public comment period.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 20, 2008 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at the US Forest Service Building in Smelterville, ID.

We will spend half of the meeting discussing the temperature TMDL and additional analyses of temperature data for the subbasin. We will spend another portion of the meeting discussing the metals TMDL. Please bring your questions and ideas. The draft temperature TMDL is posted on the website.

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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