

North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed Advisory Group

Meeting Notes

November 28, 2007

1:00 – 3:00 pm

US Forest Service Bldg., Smelterville, ID

Participants: Mary Fritz, Edward Lider, Mike Mihelich, Jeff Legg, Vince Rinaldi, Bill Hudson, Dan Guy, Fred Brackebusch, Roy Faler, George Hemphill, Bill Rust, Serena Carlsen, Bob Burke, Sandy Schlepp, Tom Herron, Kristin Keith, Tyson Clyne, Kajsa Stromberg, Bob Flagor, Suzanne Jacobson, Earl Frizzell

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. This meeting was originally scheduled as a watershed tour, but snow forced us to postpone the tour. The meeting focused on water quality improvement projects, TMDL implementation planning, and updates on TMDL development.

WAG Business:

- **TOURS:** The watershed tour will be postponed until spring/summer 2008. Kajsa suggested a series of tours in 2008 – one to the lower watershed and Beaver Cr/Prichard Cr, one to mining reclamation sites, and one to upper watershed sites with the USFS to view restoration projects. Suggestions for tours in 2008 are welcome.
- **PERMITTING WORKSHOP:** Several WAG members have suggested a workshop to familiarize the WAG and local landowners about permits required for working in streams. Bob Flagor with the Conservation District has offered to help landowners with the process. Kajsa has also offered assistance. We suggested a workshop for this spring (Feb/Mar) with the Army Corps of Engineers local staff rep and the Idaho Dept of Water Resources local staff rep. The workshop might be 2 hours in the afternoon and repeated in the evening for landowners unable to attend daytime meetings.
- **SHOSHONE NEWS-PRESS ARTICLE:** Following the Oct 31 meeting, an article was printed in the Shoshone News-Press about the WAG and water quality concerns. This is posted on the WAG website.
- **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. A revised version of the operating procedures will be posted on the website. The WAG provisionally accepted the operating procedures, and have acceptance of the procedures on the agenda for January's meeting. Please review these procedures and let Kajsa know if you have questions.
- **IDAHO STATUTES RE: WAGS:** Kajsa distributed copies of the Idaho statutes regarding the creation and duties of Watershed Advisory Groups. These are for reference and will be posted on the website.

Proposed Water Quality Projects: There are many completed and ongoing water quality projects in the NFCDA Subbasin. There are also several proposed projects for the WAG to be aware of. The USFS is proposing several projects and would like to get WAG support. These projects are Laverne Creek Project and the Short-Riley Creeks Porter Memorial Project. Ed Lider presented preliminary information about the projects and asked the group if the WAG could provide a letter of support.

Discussion followed regarding the WAG's procedures for drafting letters of support and how we will make those decisions. We concluded that we would draft letterhead and a "form letter" for the WAG to use in these cases. WAG members suggested that we focus on specific water quality goals and a determination of whether the project can be expected to improve water quality. WAG members also suggested we consider the timing of these proposals and ways to prioritize and rank projects for funding.

Jeff Legg will draft some letterhead and a form letter that we review at our next meeting. Ed Lider will give a short presentation to the WAG about the projects. We will also have a short presentation on another water quality project proposed by IDEQ for Beaver Creek removing mining tailings from stream sediments on private land.

Draft Temperature TMDL: The draft temperature TMDL prepared by DEQ Technical Services was distributed at the October WAG meeting. This will be discussed by the WAG in detail over the next few months. Kajsa proposed a timeline for the WAG:

Timeline (Discard July draft timeline)

-Incorporate WAG comments	Dec-Jan
-Temperature TMDL Workshop	Jan meeting
-WAG comments due	Feb meeting
-Prepare for public comment	Feb
-WAG approves release for public comment	Mar meeting

WAG members were concerned about the application of Idaho temperature water quality standards, the methods we could realistically use to achieve the temperature TMDL shade targets, whether we could realistically meet the cool temperatures prescribed in numeric water quality criteria, and what restrictions the TMDL would set for landowners and land managers in the subbasin. These questions will be the focus of our next WAG meeting in January.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 16, 2007 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at the US Forest Service Building in Smelterville, ID.

We plan to spend one hour on proposed water quality projects, and to spend two hours discussing the draft temperature TMDL. We will focus on the implications of the draft temperature TMDL – what will it mean for landowners and land managers? How will we implement these recommendations and comply with the TMDL? We will also talk about standards and methods. 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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