

North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed Advisory Group

Draft Meeting Notes

April 30, 2015

1:00 – 3:00 pm

US Forest Service Bldg., Smelterville, ID

Next meeting: May 21, 2015 1:00-3:00 pm

Please visit the WAG website:

<http://www.deq.idaho.gov/north-fork-cda-river-subbasin-wag>

Contact Kajsa Van de Riet with any questions:

(208) 666-4633 or Kajsa.VandeRiet@deq.idaho.gov

Participants: Sandra Raskell, Rodney Cochrane, Chad Petersen, Matt O'Donnell, Kajsa Van de Riet, Barb Hansen, Bill Rust, Mike Fitzgerald, Melissa Hendrickson

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.

- Introductions, review agenda, & distribute previous meeting notes
- North Idaho Fly Casters – The 2015 Conservation Festival will be Saturday **June 13th**. It will include a tree planting at a USFS restoration site in the Moose Drool Project Area (headwaters of the Little North Fork Coeur d'Alene watershed), and there will be a demonstration from Jim Ekins (UI Extension) for the IdaH2O stream monitoring program. Details are in the attached flyer. If you plan to participate, please RSVP to Ed so the NIFC will know how much food to prepare for lunch. Also, recommend bringing a chair.
- Moose Drool Watershed Restoration Tour – Please mark your calendar! We set a date for a tour of the Moose Drool Watershed Restoration Project with the Forest Service. The selected date is **July 23**, not the 16th as previously discussed. Details TBA. At the June meeting, we will have an overview presentation of the project in preparation for the field trip.
- WAG Operating Procedures – The group reviewed the latest draft of revised operating procedures and adopted them with easy consensus. We will continue to try to involve a representative of the private timber industry, ideally one managing land in the NFCDA Subbasin. Kajsa contacted Stimson and will continue to work with Rodney to find the right person(s).
- New Forestry BMPs Field Guide – Rodney (IDL) brought in several copies of the new full-color Idaho Forestry BMPs Field Guide. The updated field guide is newly available through both the website and at IDL's office.

- WQ Rulemaking – Kajsa described several water quality rulemaking processes underway by DEQ. These include rules to address Use Attainability Analysis, the new Idaho Pollution Discharge Elimination System (IPDES) permit program for point source discharges, and studies of how many fish people consume related to toxics standards. Kajsa wanted to ensure the WAG was aware of ongoing rulemaking, how to engage in the process, and how to find out more. She offered future presentations if there was interest from the WAG, but the WAG did not want to pursue that.
- USFS Seasonal River Ranger – Barb Hansen said that Colter Smart has been hired on with a local Fire Department and will not be available as a seasonal river ranger again this year. Colter was the river ranger for the past two years and did a great job. Barb also said it was unlikely that the USFS would be able to hire someone in time for this summer's season.
- TMDL Implementation Plan – We had excellent brainstorming session about the North Fork CdA River Subbasin TMDL Implementation Plan. As a group, we drafted a goal statement and discussed the contents and structure of the plan. We each jotted down ideas on post-it notes to get the conversation started and share ideas. Then we had a group discussion about the ideas and came up with a list of things we would like the plan to be or to contain. We also came up with a list of things we do not want the plan to be. This is

At the May 21st meeting, we hope to:

- Discuss the Bottom Canyon Project and any WAG comments (if the draft EA is ready for public review at that time)
- Discuss contents for the North Fork CdA Subbasin WQ Plan / TMDL Implementation Plan
- Draft an outline for the plan and discuss assignments and timing

At the June meeting, we hope to:

- Discuss Respect the River projects and 2015 River Cleanup
- Discuss the Bottom Canyon Project and any WAG comments (if the draft EA is ready for public review at that time)
- Have a presentation about the Moose Drool Watershed Restoration Project in preparation for the July 23 tour
- Brainstorm water quality best management practices and watershed restoration activities to include in the North Fork CdA Subbasin WQ Plan / TMDL Implementation Plan