

Coeur d'Alene Lake Tributaries Watershed Advisory Group
January 10, 2013
Coeur d'Alene Public Library, Community Room
10:30 – 2:30

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Kristin Larson, Robert Steen, Steve Wilson, Gordon Sanders, Dean Renninner, Richard Jurvelin, Bob Clark, Garry Loeffler, Adrienne Cronebaugh, David Fortier, W.C. Rust, Rusty Sheppard, Deidre Chadderdon, Debra Verbillis, Don Martin, KK Prussian, Jeanna Paluzzi, Susan Andrews Bobbie Welch, Howard Welch, Alan Asper, Larry Mundt, Miles Benker, Glen Rothrock, Rebecca Stevens, Mark Hogen, Don Martin, Janet Funk, Marie Pengilly

The meeting was split into two sessions. The first session was to get WAG feedback on the Fernan Lake Subbasin Assessment and Total Maximum Daily Load. The second session was regarding Wolf Lodge Creek.

Session 1, Fernan Lake TMDL:

There was a brief overview of the Fernan Lake TMDL, but the primary focus of this session was to get feedback from the WAG on the TMDL. The meeting was well-attended by landowners in the Fernan Lake watershed, who provided some very valuable information. A number of people had difficulty downloading the TMDL, so the WAG was given 2 weeks to review the TMDL and provide comments via email to Kristin Larson, DEQ. The following comments were raised at the meeting:

- The loading table on pages xii and 49 are incorrect. The "Load Allocation" columns reflect the load reduction necessary to meet the target concentration, not the load allocation. The load values also need to be summed at the bottom of the table. DEQ will revise this table and make it available to the group for the comment period.
- There was concern about the Fernan Creek watershed load not being better quantified in the TMDL. DEQ explained there is no existing data to accurately quantify the load from the watershed; thus, why the load allocation was assigned to the whole watershed. The TMDL needs to better explain the need for such quantification for meaningful implementation to happen. It was explained that this would be better addressed in the TMDL Implementation Plan that will follow the TMDL. It could be an effort under the Implementation Plan development
- There is concern that the operation and maintenance of the dam that controls the Fernan Lake level might be contributing to increased phosphorus concentrations during the critical summer months. It was explained a model would be the best approach to understanding this, and it would be stated in the "data gaps" section of the TMDL that this needs to be investigated.
- It was stated that outboard motors can cause significant re-suspension of sediment in the water column, so some total phosphorus samples could reflect this.
- There needs to be more explanation of potential phosphorus sources from private property on the tributary to Fernan Creek.

Session 2 – Wolf Lodge Creek

David Fortier and Katherine (KK) Prussian have spent a number of hours looking at lower Wolf Lodge Creek. They presented their findings, which included a look at restoration work done by Geomax, the US Forest Service, and others to see how they are holding up, and to identify areas of concern for future restoration work. Their results indicate lower Wolf Lodge Creek is a complex system. Some of the old restoration projects are holding up; others are causing problems. Future restoration work should be considered on a watershed-scale, as any projects implemented will have consequences downstream. The next step will be to talk with ID Soil and Water Conservation Commission Engineer.