

**South Fork Palouse River TMDL
Water Quality Advisory Group Meeting
July 9, 2008
10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Draft Notes**

Attendees:

Elaine Snouwaert – Ecology
Jim Carroll – Ecology
Tom Scallorn – Moscow
Roland Line
Cheryl Morgan
Rob Buchert – Pullman
Kevin Gardes – Pullman
Jean Wardwell

Les MacDonald – Moscow
Marty O’Malley – WSU
Drew Hawley – Palouse CD
Nancy Hoobler – Palouse CD
Erik Coats – U of Idaho
Erin Gerhardt – Palouse CD
John Reed - WSU

The meeting start time was delayed due to reported construction traffic delays between Pullman and Colfax. The meeting began at 10:20 a.m. with roundtable introductions.

The group reviewed the draft notes from the June meeting. They were accepted as written.

The group discussed the adoption of a name. We discussed making sure the name included the waterbody we are focusing on and the word “water.” The group chose the name “SFPR Water Quality Advisory Group.”

Elaine let the group know that she had contacted the people the group identified at the June meeting as additional interests to participate in the advisory group. She contacted Mark Storey with Whitman County Planning, Tracy Brown with Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute, Andy Rogers with city of Colfax, Ken Smith with city of Albion, Michael Baker with Whitman County Health and Ken Stinson with Latah Soil and Water Conservation District in Idaho. Andy Rogers, Ken Smith and Michael Baker said they would try to participate. Elaine did not hear back from the others.

Elaine asked the group to review the ground rules and operating procedures she drafted. They were adapted from the Palouse Watershed Planning Units ground rules and from the discussion at the June meeting. Changes to the ground rules included correcting typos (national to natural; participants to participate) and adding temperature to “the natural conditions that govern water quality” in the introduction to the rules and procedures. The ground rules and procedures were accepted as revised.

Jim started his presentation by reviewing the bacteria listings and the water quality standards that apply in the South Fork Palouse River watershed. While the water quality standards focus on bacteria concentration in water (100 colony forming units/100 milliliters), it is often helpful to examine the bacteria load (quantity or number of

bacteria) going into the stream. This can help determine where the bacteria are entering the system. Jim gave a demonstration on the difference between load and concentration.

Jim reviewed the study goals and data needs and explained the sampling strategy.

Jim reviewed the Dry Fork Creek loading analysis from the June meeting. Jim explained that there is less concentration variability at one of the Dry Fork Creek sites during the dry season. This indicates that there could be a consistent source contributing to this portion of the stream. The group discussed some possible sources and there was a discussion about sewage possibly leaking from sewer lines. It was explained that exfiltration from a sewer line to a stormwater pipe is extremely rare. If sewage is getting to the creek via stormwater pipes, it is more likely from a misconnection or an illegal connection.

Jim then showed the loading analysis from Missouri Flat Creek. In Missouri Flat Creek Ecology was able to sample several stormwater outfalls directly because they had a baseflow discharge year round. The outfall near Jack-in-the-Box accounts for 24% of the wet season load and 90% of the dry season load at the mouth of Missouri Flat Creek.

The group discussed the sewer misconnection to the stormwater system discovered in the Blockbuster complex. However, the sampling took place after this misconnection had been repaired.

Jim then showed the analysis for the South Fork Palouse River from the stateline to its confluence with Paradise Creek. During the dry season there is an 86% reduction in bacteria concentration needed at the stateline to meet Washington's standards. In the wet season no reduction is needed. The Idaho TMDL calls for a 41% year round reduction in bacteria at this location to meet Idaho's standards.

Jim will show the analysis for the rest of the watershed in September.

The advisory group will not be meeting in August as discussed at the June meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.