

**South Fork Palouse River TMDL
Water Quality Advisory Group Meeting**

March 10, 2009

1:30 to 3:30 pm

Notes

Attendees:

Rob Buchert – City of Pullman
Jim Carroll – Ecology
Kevin Gardes – City of Pullman
Matt Hammer – City of Colfax
Roland Line – Pullman resident
Les MacDonald – City of Moscow

Cheryl Morgan – Landowner (SFPR & Hatley Ck)
Marty O'Malley – WSU
John Reed – WSU
Mary Rosen – Palouse Conservation District
Elaine Snouwaert – Ecology
Michael Yount – Pullman resident

The meeting began at 1:35 am with round table introductions. The group reviewed the February meeting notes. The group discussed several items in the notes:

- John asked about the location of the old incinerator site mentioned in the meeting notes. It's downstream the treatment plant, past SYG nursery, along the banks of the river.
- Kevin asked why inflow and infiltration (I/I) to the WWTP was included in the section that listed brainstormed sources since as long as the WWTP meets the permit limit further reduction is not needed. Elaine explained that the topic came up during brainstorming and a discussion ensued that explained that I/I was more likely to result in leaks from sewer lines going to storm sewers rather than the other way around. As long as the WWTP is meeting the limit additional actions to reduce bacteria from the WWTP are not needed so no language addressing I/I to the WWTP was included in the draft implementation strategy.
- Marty explained that he checked the WSU campus maps and the WSU dairy is not in the South Fork Palouse watershed. It's in the Union Flat Creek watershed. Elaine will remove references to the dairy from the TMDL.
- Michael mentioned that he's heard running water in a storm drain near the intersection of Irving and State Street. Rob said he would check it out. He also discussed that there are a lot springs in Pullman which will make illicit discharge detection and elimination more challenging.

The meetings were approved as written.

The meeting was opened up for announcements. Mary announced that the WRIA 34 Watershed Planning Unity Meeting would be held tomorrow (March 11th) at the CETC Building in Colfax.

Michael discussed an EPA sponsored conference in Portland Oregon (<http://www.epa.gov/nps/outreach2009/>). The focus of the meeting is nonpoint pollution and stormwater education and outreach. Budget restrictions will probably prevent anyone from Pullman, WSU or Ecology being able to attend.

Mary announced that the Palouse Conservation District is moving to the Green IT Building on Henley Court in the Port of Whitman Industrial Park.

Kevin announced that the water re-use grant Pullman received from Ecology includes funding for a mitigation project (between \$100,000 - 200,000). The mitigation would involve a riparian project such as vegetation enhancement or stream bank restoration. The city has talked to Cheryl about a project along her property downstream of town.

Elaine asked Rob and Marty to give a short overview of what each entity was doing for education and outreach for their stormwater programs. Rob passed out a handout that outlined the education and outreach requirements of the stormwater permit. He discussed what the city is currently doing and their plans for the future. At this time the city's website (<http://www.pullman-wa.gov/DrawOnePage.aspx?PageID=1002>) is their primary outreach tool. Marty discussed WSU's outreach including their website (<http://www.ehs.wsu.edu/PH/SW/Stormwater.html>).

Elaine mentioned that Ecology has a program called "Washington's Waters – Ours to Protect" that has various outreach tools that can be used by others (http://www.ecy.wa.gov/washington_waters/).

Elaine began the discussion about the report by explaining that she and Jim had updated the technical report based on the comments and editorial suggestions they received. She has also sent the draft report to EPA to make sure we won't encounter problems after it is submitted to them. Elaine invited the group to discuss the most recent implementation language that was sent out last week and asked that substantial comments also be sent in writing so Ecology can address and track them.

Marty said that WSU would send comments. Marty recommended that the implementation strategy discuss the sources in a prioritized order. The group discussed this option and other ways to list the sources and decided it would be best to list the sources in alphabetical order. Marty also suggested adding a separate section on pets, pet waste and boarding.

John suggested that the section on "load from across the border" be changed to "Idaho Contributions". The group discussed that some of the unknown load entering Paradise Creek between Perimeter Road in Idaho and the Stateline may be from storm drain outfalls from the Mall or other land uses across the highway.

Marty asked if a stormwater outfall could be higher than the standard if the water it was discharging to was below the standard. The stormwater permit does not allow for a mixing zone, therefore the reductions were calculated based on meeting the standards at the end of pipe. A mixing zone is a portion of a water body adjacent to an effluent outfall where dilution of effluent results from the mixing with the receiving water. Mixing zone boundaries for an outfall are specified in the discharge permits.

Cheryl asked about stormwater from industrial facilities. Elaine explained that these facilities are listed in the report but that fecal coliform bacteria are not expected to be discharged from these facilities. The industrial stormwater permit has monitoring and reporting requirements.

The group discussed the implementation strategy's section on the schedule for achieving standards. There was some concern about what the goal of meeting 50% of the reductions by 2013 meant. Elaine will attempt to clarify this language. Mary suggested including a feedback loop diagram which included the 2013 date since it is intended as date to assure progress is being made.

The group decided that the other sections that listed entities should also be listed in alphabetical order.

Roland suggested moving the section on monitoring progress up to follow immediately after the section on the schedule for meeting standards.

Elaine outlined the remaining schedule for the bacteria TMDL. The Advisory Group will submit comments and edits to Elaine by March 31st. Elaine will continue to revise the document from the suggestions at the meeting and the comments she receives. After this is completed the document should be ready for the public comment period. Once the public comment period is complete it will be submitted to EPA for approval.

Cheryl raised the concern about people in and along the streams with high bacteria levels. She feels the stream should be posted with warnings. Elaine explained that she is talking to Michael Baker at Whitman County Health Department to determine if a general health alert can be issued. The difficulty with posting signs is that these types of warnings are usually done at public parks or other public access points. Most people, if they are accessing the streams, are doing it from private property. Cheryl suggested posting a warning on the city's river walk. Elaine also mentioned that when the document goes to public comment Ecology will issue a press release. She will make sure the press release highlights the elevated the level of bacteria and the dangers that can pose to people, especially children playing in the water. The newspapers and radio stations have been good about covering these stories and often conduct interviews.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.