

**South Fork Palouse River TMDL
Advisory Group Formation Meeting
June 11, 2008
10:00 am to 12:00 pm**

Attendees:

Elaine Snouwaert – Ecology

Jim Carroll – Ecology

Tom Scallorn – Moscow

Clay Mallett – Moscow

David Ulrick – Garfield

Mike Leonas – WSU

Roland Line

Suzanne Hamada – Palouse CD

Cheryl Morgan

Rob Buchert – Pullman

Kevin Gardes – Pullman

Larry Cochran – Palouse CD

David Harlow

Richard Perry – Senate Committee

Jean Wardwell

Darrell Booth – Pacific NW Farmers Coop

Les MacDonald – Moscow

Marty O'Malley – WSU

John Pearson

Drew Hawley – Palouse CD

Nancy Hoobler – Palouse CD

Rhod McIntosh

Jeff Ullman – WSU

Erik Coats – U of Idaho

Elaine began the meeting by explaining the purpose of the meeting and inviting round table introductions.

Elaine gave a brief refresher on what TMDLs are and why we do them. TMDLs are required by the Clean Water Act for water bodies not meeting water quality standards. They are plans for how to bring a water body back into compliance with the standards. They determine how much of a pollutant a water body can handle and then divide that amount up by the sources or geographically. TMDLs examine at all sources, both point sources and nonpoint sources.

Elaine showed the locations of know water quality impairments (the 2004 303(d) listings) that these TMDLs will be addressing.

Jim reviewed the 3 studies that have been conducted over the past two years: fecal coliform bacteria; temperature; and dissolved oxygen and pH. He showed the sampling locations and the goals for the studies.

Discussion resulting from questions followed the presentations.

- Jim explained that Ecology's sampling strategy was designed so that we can determine bacteria increases from various jurisdictional areas (such as at the city limits).
- Jim also explained that Ecology specifically sampled some storm events and that stormwater samples were taken as the water exited a storm pipe, not after it was mixed with stream water.
- Jim told the group that the majority of Ecology's sampling focused on fecal coliform bacteria since that is what Washington's water quality standards are

based on. *E. coli* was collected at the state line sites to be compared with Idaho's standards.

- When asked if there were any “dead zones” like people hear about in the oceans, Jim explained that those are usually due to extremely low or absent dissolved oxygen levels and that we have not observed anything like that in the Palouse watershed.
- When asked about the temperature standards and whether or not Ecology will use something other than the numeric criteria, Jim explained that the scientific analysis will compare our findings to the numeric criteria. The water quality standards state that the criteria are the numeric values or natural conditions. Elaine also added that as part of the implementation planning for temperature we will be able to discuss the appropriateness of the numeric criteria and how to deal with temperature in effluent dominated streams.

The group then listed the interests that need to be represented on the advisory group:

City of Colfax	Riparian landowners
City of Pullman	Idaho/Moscow
WSU	Concerned citizens
City of Albion	Whitman County (including Health)
Senate Committee	Palouse Clearwater Environmental
Livestock owners/Cattleman	Institute (Environmental)
Palouse Conservation District	Latah Soil and Water District
Agriculture	

The group listed the roles of the advisory group:

- Review technical findings
- Ensure final report is consistent with the Clean Water Act and other applicable laws
- Review natural conditions (“natural laws”) that govern water quality (such as phosphorus and nitrogen cycles)
- Review technical assumptions
- Provide feedback on data gaps and provide local information to make technical assessment better
- Make recommendations for the implementation strategy or plan
- Help with how to best divide the load allocations (TMDL pie)
- Provide common sense review
- Provide input on local history, customs, and culture.

The group discussed how we should run our meetings. It was determined that Elaine would organize and facilitate the meetings. She will put together a dedicated email list for communications so information can quickly be shared by email with the advisory group rather than the larger mailing list.

We discussed whether meetings should be during the day or in the evening and most felt that day meetings were better. However, if the subject of a meeting is likely to be of greater interest to landowners and agricultural interests we will try to schedule those

meetings for evening. We will also not have a meeting in August as it's a very busy time for many interests and a busy vacation time.

We will continue to try to have the meetings on the same day as the Planning Unit meetings to save time and travel costs. However, Suzanne pointed out that some times the Planning Unit may have an all day meeting and we would have to schedule the TMDL meeting for a different time.

The group decided that we would use consensus for decision making. In the event that consensus can not be reached we will develop a voting procedure. We reviewed the Planning Units ground rules. Elaine will make changes to those ground rules to remove things that are specific to the planning unit and update them for this process. She will present them at the next meeting for the groups review, discussion and adoption.

The group also brainstormed possible names for the group:

- Keep it clean
- Poop group
- Watershed Advisory Group
- Environmental Strategists
- South Fork Palouse TMDL Advisory Group
- SFPR Water Quality Advisory Group

Since there was a little time remaining Jim showed an example of bacteria loading analysis on Dry Fork Creek in Pullman.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.