

Draft Meeting Record TDML Sub-Committee Meeting
Boundary County Annex Building
October 26, 2023 10:00 a.m.

Agency/Others in Attendance:

Caleb Davis, Office of Rep. Fulcher
Diosa Bahe, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI)
Don Allenberg, Corp. Ag/Landowner
Emily Bonsant, Bonners Ferry Herald
Jenna Ditzel, Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission.
Jennifer Ekstrom, Idaho Conservation League
Jonathan Luhnnow ,IDL
Karissa Huntsman, Idaho Conservation League
Kevin Greenleaf, Private Citizen
Kierstin Cox, KTOI Administrative Assistant
Lily Conrad, DEQ
Merritt Horsmon, IDFG
Shawn Young ,KTOI
Theresa Wheat, KTOI, KVRI Facilitator
Tim Bertling, Boundary County, KVRI Co-Chair
Todd Higen, Idaho DEQ

Theresa Wheat called the meeting at 10:00, she facilitated introductions around the room as well as for Zoom attendees.

Selenium Update:

- Selenium levels in the Columbia River into the ocean were discussed, with detectable levels around 0.8 micrograms or parts per billion.
- The presence of selenium in various parts of the river system was highlighted.

Temperature Discussion:

- Concerns about water temperature criteria were raised, with an emphasis on the need for criteria that reflect natural conditions.

TMDL Support Funding:

- The possibility of additional TMDL support funding from EPA was discussed.
- The timeline for TMDL development may be impacted by funding outcomes.

Proposed Changes in Criteria:

- A proposal to change the water temperature criteria for the benefit of real-life applications and environmental conditions was discussed.
- Collaborative efforts between DEQ and stakeholders were highlighted.

International Joint Commission Activation:

- The need for international cooperation in addressing transboundary pollution, particularly in light of proposed mining activities, was emphasized.
- Support from local and state officials for the International Joint Commission referral was recommended.

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Support from the Idaho Conservation League:

- The Idaho Conservation League expressed its willingness to support DEQ's efforts in securing funding and addressing urgent priorities related to selenium and water quality.

Upcoming Actions:

- Future actions discussed included sampling the wastewater treatment plant in Bonners Ferry and checking the Tribes' hatchery outfalls.
- Further collaboration within the group to address selenium concerns and gather data was proposed.

The meeting concluded with a call for continued monitoring and research to protect the health of the Kootenai River ecosystem.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Meeting Record prepared by Kierstin Cox