

**North Fork Payette River Watershed Coalition
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**

Date: June 20, 2023

Time: 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Location: Valley Soil & Water Conservation District Office - 209 North Idaho St. Cascade, ID
Meeting also available via Zoom

Participants:

In-person:

Dave Bingaman - Valley County Parks & Recreation
Durena Farr - Valley Soil & Water Conservation District, NFPRWC Project Manager
John Lillehaug - Valley Soil & Water Conservation District
Lenard Long - Friends of Lake Cascade
Ken Roberts - Local Rancher and Businessman
Kaylee Tuning - NFPRWC Project Administrator
Kara Utter - Dynamic Visions GIS

Remotely:

Lance Holloway - IDEQ Boise Region Surface Water
Wes Keller - Nez Perce Tribe Watershed Project Leader
McKenzie Kraemer - Micael McKenzie Creations Inc.
Thomas Tidwell - Big Payette Lake Water Quality Council

Little Salmon River Watershed Collaborative - Insights from Wes Keller

Background:

- They were awarded same USBR WaterSMART CWMP grant 3 years ago
- Their mission was to improve water quality in the Little Salmon River Watershed
 - TMDLs for EColi, sediment, and water temperature

Lessons Learned:

- Having a clean, well-defined purpose that draws everyone in is essential
 - What is the purpose of the Coalition?
 - Why are we doing what we're doing?
 - How does it impact everyone in the watershed?
- Get everyone involved
 - Hybrid meetings are great to include as many people as possible
 - In the beginning, doing more listening than talking helps paint the picture of why everyone is coming to the table
 - Need a strong facilitator
 - Everyone should have a voice
 - Alternating meetings between day and evening times allowed for a larger number of people to participate in meetings. Not everyone can take time off to attend meetings during the workday and agency personnel may not be able to attend meetings outside of office hours.
 - Use the best science you have and then work together to come up with the best solutions
- Outreach
 - Approaching outreach by landowner type that live closest to waterways may be very effective
 - Having good ambassadors for different stakeholder groups was key to building trust and project buy-in

- Use all the tools in our toolbox for getting out messages. In-person, flyers, word-of-mouth, social media, newspaper, radio, etc.
- A clean, simple, easy-to-navigate website with interactive maps, archives, and images helps people interact and learn more about the project while providing transparency to the movement. It helps people feel included even if they haven't been involved since the beginning. You can view the Collaborative's website at <https://littlesalmonriverwatershedcollaborative.com/>
- It seemed that the most progress with landowners was made during tours/field days rather than during meetings
- The phrases "water quantity" and "water quality" can become contentions quickly because of water rights. They had to quickly make good assurances that water rights would not be affected while water quantity and quality issues were being addressed.
- Don't underestimate the power of imagery and keep messaging simple
- Consider having a symposium as initial outreach before the coalition meeting to get people interested and give people a chance to talk informally

2022 Lake Cascade Monitoring Report by DEQ - Summary by Lenard Long

(See attached report for more information)

- Targets for total phosphorus, pH, and chlorophyll-a are not being met
- Cyanobacteria blooms pose a health risk to people, animals, and wildlife, and are occurring often
- Total phosphorus needs to be reduced by 37% for at least 5 years from external sources to improve water quality conditions

Current North Watershed Issues

- United Payette
 - Addressing island development issues
- Valley County (Dave Bingaman)
 - Working out the details of implementing the Valley County Waterways Management Plan
 - Long-Term Campers having high-impact use on creeks and rivers around Payette Lake and education efforts are underway for recreationists such as interpretive signage
 - We will share information on how the Collaborative implemented quantifiable projects (surveys of campgrounds and wild areas) to determine priority areas
- Big Payette Lake Water Quality Council
 - Developing Lake Assist program to address the impact people living around Payette Lake are having on the lake
 - Working with homeowners, construction companies, and landscapers
 - Thomas will forward information about the program to be included on NFRPWC website
 - Durena will include some information about this project in VSWCD newsletter to expand outreach efforts
 - Educating water users about cleaning boat ballasts to prevent invasive species introduction to the lake and about stirring up sediment in shallow water
 - Durena will include some information about this project in VSWCD newsletter to expand outreach efforts

Source Water Protection High Priority Area Designation - Summary from Durena

(For more information, view the USDA handout [here](#))

- NRCS has designated most of the NFPRW as a Source Water Protection High Priority Area
- This can increase cost share amount available to landowners implementing certain BMPs through EQIP program up to 90%

Website & Social Media Development

- NFPRWC website will be hosted under VSWCD website
- McKenzie shared what she has initially developed for the website
 - We need to start building out resources page
 - Durena, Kaylee, and Lenard will work to compile a list of reports and documents that should go on the website
- McKenzie and Kaylee will meet to create social media accounts and to train Kaylee on updating the website

GIS Mapping

- Kara shared that she could create maps with land owner and land use information within meaningful distances of waterways to help identify priority areas
- Kara will work on obtaining GIS licensing for VSWCD for the NFPRWC to use
- Lance and Kara will contact Emily and Keana of the IDEQ mapping database to get sampling data shared with the NFPRWC

Review Grant Task A - Watershed Group Development

- To stay on schedule for the grant, the first Coalition meeting needs to happen around the end of August - beginning of October (first quarterly reporting period ends Sept. 30th)
 - At the first coalition meeting, attendees will need guidance to develop a mission with goals, bylaws, protocols, organizational chart and milestone mapping.
 - We're setting the stage: Why build a coalition? To address increasing water quality challenges through combining knowledge, energy, and resources and creating credibility for future project funding.
 - After Labor Day would probably be a great time to have the Coalition meeting, but need to consider meeting day of week, time of day, and a balanced location between N and S of watershed
 - Kaylee will look into venues in Donnelly that can host 150+ attendees
- Team building and skill sharing including a field trip to observe watershed impairments.
 - Lake Cascade has typically closed for HABs mid Aug-mid Oct over the last five years - would be a good opportunity for a field trip
- Outreach to establish diverse membership, including diversity in each watershed segment, and build various focus teams.
 - It may be beneficial to break the watershed into 3 or 9 segments/workgroups
 - Either by Upper Payette, Cascade, Lower NF Payette River or by USGS defined sub-basins
 - As first outreach, before coalition meeting, we will host 3 separate BBQs as informal gatherings that are approachable to more people
 - Need to be broken up by watershed group to increase attendance
 - Need to nail down venues in Cascade, Donnelly, and McCall as well as dates in September

- To engage the community, we need to be able to clearly and concisely communicate the problem and how it impacts each individual.
 - This is why this issue matters to you and why we want you to be part of the solution.
 - At the next steering committee meeting we will work on this messaging so that we are consistent and clear
 - Kaylee will share the historical timeline summary of past work done across the watershed. This presentation will also include preliminary information on why improving water quality may matter to each stakeholder group.
 - We need to make sure we include downstream water users such as water right holders and the city of Horseshoe Bend
- Creation of a recruitment team with outreach plan
 - Good, strong subwatershed leaders for stakeholder groups need to be identified before outreach begins
 - Needs to be broken down by land ownership to create clarity about how each group can have an impact on this complex issue
 - Public (USFS, State, BOR, Municipalities)
 - Homeowners, full and part-time residents
 - Recreationists
 - Ag/land group - ranchers, production agriculture, and timber

The next steering committee meeting date will be in July. The time and date will be determined by a poll of steering committee members.

Recording of the meeting available at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/mRGyErPh_ImwE0NTV-857ysPVq5Buyy1TZSQEw9SmhMLyLzB1BU61Mb61St2EO7P.869tagi3SYoz6PF0 Passcode: F=0z@^zg