

**Steering Committee #2 Meeting Minutes
North Fork Payette River Watershed Coalition
Valley Soil & Water Conservation District
USBR WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program**

Date: August 24, 2023

Time: 9:00 - 11:00 am

Location: Valley Soil & Water Conservation District Office - 209 North Idaho St. Cascade, ID

Meeting was also available via Zoom

Participants:

In-person:

Melissa Jayo - USBR

Lenard Long - Friends of Lake Cascade

Art Troutner - Chairman, Valley Soil & Water Conservation District

Judy Anderson - Supervisor, Valley Soil & Water Conservation District

Colt Brown - Supervisor, Valley Soil & Water Conservation District

Kaylee Tuning - NFPRWC Project Administrator

Remotely:

Judy Nissula - City of Cascade Mayor

Maureen Pepper - NRCS

Dani Terhaar - IDEQ

Julie Manning - Sawtooth Law Group

Wes Keller - Nez Perce Tribe Watershed Project Leader

Kara Utter - Dynamic Visions GIS GIS & Mapping Specialist

McKenzie Kraemer - Micael McKenzie Creations Inc.

David Nichols - Planning Facilitator, Sisu Consulting & Training

Tools: Systems Thinking for Social Change / Summary of Historic Work in NFPRW

Systems Thinking

- Kaylee provided an overview of Systems Thinking for Social Change as a tool to help us understand and solve chronic, complex problems where diverse stakeholders find it difficult to align their efforts despite shared intentions. (Based on Systems Thinking for Social Change by David Peter Stroh)
- See attached presentation for more information

Historic Studies & Project documents for the NFPRW - available for background information

- See attached timeline document
- The historic timeline and associated documents emphasize the importance of using Systems Thinking as a Coalition
 - Lots of studies and reports about the problem, and some periods of progress, but not sustained change over time. The problems we're facing today are similar to ones faced 20+ years ago with additional pressures due to expanding development, greater public use, and additional land use activities.
 - How can we make sure that the watershed restoration plan the Coalition aims to complete doesn't just end up on a shelf with no implementation?
- **The historic list is not complete.** It is a working document to use as a tool for the VSWCD and the Coalition members. Please contact Kaylee to add important events or reports to timeline

What motivates people to become involved? – developing clear and consistent messaging of benefit the NFPRWC provides.

NFPRWC Booth at the Valley County Fair & Rodeo

- We had an interactive display at the Valley County Fair. The public could write down their water concerns or add a sticker to a thought they agreed with. 44 people interacted with the display.
 - In response to a public comment recorded during this event, Lenard clarified that Idaho Power's intake for the power plant on the Cascade Dam is 45-48 ft deep at high water. He also clarified that there is a thermocline that exists in Lake Cascade every season.
 - See attached presentation for more information

Developing messaging to encourage the largest range of stakeholders to participate in the coalition.

- Using the results of the display and list of potential benefits the NFPR provided by Lenard, the committee broke into sessions to brainstorm some key messaging.
- It was emphasized that the Coalition is an incredible opportunity for change in the watershed. We have the opportunity to be part of something big to improve our communities and we need to get a clear, correct message out to engage the most people.
- After discussion as an entire steering committee, it was decided that the messaging should convey urgency of water quality issues in our area, emphasize that the power of the Coalition is that we're representing the entire watershed, and that there should be core & universal messaging for stakeholders. Messaging should also be developed to specifically attract the following groups:
 - Local units of government (municipalities, developers, Valley County, water districts, associated agencies that support these groups)
 - Agriculture & Forestry Producers (and their associated agencies)
 - Recreation (fishermen, boaters, business owners, and the agencies that serve those constituents)
 - Citizens of the NFPRW
- It was decided that a "marketing" subcommittee should meet to develop this messaging. This subcommittee will meet next week and consists of the following steering committee members:
 - Maureen Pepper
 - Julie Manning
 - Judy Nissula
 - Lenard Long
 - Kaylee Tuning
 - McKenzie Kraemer
 - Durena Farr

Identify potential "sub-watershed leads" for each stakeholder group

- The "marketing" subcommittee will create the general messaging and messaging to target the identified groups

NFPRWC Outreach

Progress to Date:

- We had an article published in the Valley Soil & Water Conservation District June Newsletter. This went out to all Valley County citizens that have agriculture or forestry property exemptions.
 - See attached newsletter for more information
- We had a booth at the Payette Land Trust Conservation Day with a follow-up article in the Star News.
 - See attached presentation for more information
- We had a booth at the Valley County Fair and Rodeo. This booth included:

- A tri-fold board with newspaper headlines and photographs of Cascade & Payette Lake water quality issues from the last 4 years.
- A map of the NFPR Subbasin 2022 Waterway Conditions. Kara developed the map using GIS data gathered by IDEQ that is used by both IDEQ and EPA. The map shows several waterways in the NFPR Subbasin that are impaired due to nutrient loading, sediment inputs, and/or loss of cold water habitat (See Attached)
- A brief call for the public to join the Coalition by signing up for our mailing list
- A tri-fold brochure with the same information was also available to the public. This trifold also included a list of reasons the public might care about water quality issues in Valley County
- See attached presentation for more information
- The NFPR website is up and running.
 - <https://valleyswcd.org/north-fork-payette-river-watershed-coalition/>
 - Kaylee is adding important historic reports to the “Prior Work” page
 - McKenzie is working on getting an interactive list of coalition stakeholders added to the website
 - There is a place to add resources for each stakeholder group as we identify those resources
 - Meetings and event information can be found on the website
 - Stakeholders & the public can sign up to be on the Coalition mailing list on the website
 - Durena, Kaylee, and McKenzie are working on the best way to send out mass emails
- Social Media
 - Facebook and Instagram posts can be made through Valley Soil & Water Conservation District accounts: Coalition messaging needs approval by VSWCD before posting

Action Items:

- In the last meeting it was discussed to have BBQs as initial outreach before the Coalition meeting. It was decided that we don’t have time to have 3 BBQs before the meeting. The “marketing” subcommittee will meet as soon as possible to develop coalition messaging that can go out to the public.

Draft Coalition Agenda and Set Date for First Coalition Meeting

Coalition Meeting Date

- We have contacted Governor Little’s office to see if he can be a keynote speaker for the kickoff coalition meeting. We requested a date Sept 19-21 or Sept 26-28. We should hear from his office any day. If we have not heard from his office by September 1st, The Project Manager, Durena, will decide a date for the Coalition meeting for the first or second week in October.
- Concerns were raised about having the meeting in October instead of September
 - Arguments for September meeting date
 - Having the Coalition meeting before September 30th keeps us on track with the approved quarterly grant schedule
 - We asked Governor Little to come to a September meeting
 - We want to have the meeting before part-time Valley County residents head South for the winter
 - Arguments against September meeting date
 - It’s a big ask to pull together such a huge meeting in a month
 - We could ask the governor to record a keynote speech to play at the meeting

- Melissa Jayo advised that it is okay to delay the Coalition meeting until after the first quarter as long as we provide reasoning as to why we didn't have it in the first quarter (for example, we were dependent on Governor's schedule)

Coalition Meeting Venue

- Kaylee contacted Donnelly Elementary School to see if the event could be held in their new gym. She has not heard back from them or heard if the construction has been completed.
- Alternatively, the Donnelly Bible Church has adequate meeting space available. They have set aside time at the end of September for the meeting. Suggested donation amounts for use of this venue can be discussed at the next steering committee meeting.

Coalition Meeting Agenda

- A draft agenda outline was developed. It was determined that we need to have another steering committee meeting to work out the details of the Coalition meeting. This meeting will occur the 2nd week of September. Kaylee will send out a meeting poll to determine the exact date and time. (See attached draft agenda outline below)

GIS Mapping Update

ESRI Licensing

- VSWCD has access to non-profit licensing rates. Durena is working out the final details.

Mapping Options

- Kara provided a potential list of information/features she can provide through GIS
 1. IDENTIFY VULNERABLE AND HIGH RISK GROUNDWATER AREAS
 - We can utilize GIS software with NRCS Soils and ESA Land Cover data to run a Groundwater Analysis that looks at Drainage Class, Hydrologic Group, and Water Table Depth (i.e. how impervious is the soil and how far does a pollutant have to travel to meet the groundwater). This can help to identify those areas most at risk using recent data. We can also account for other variables that we need to discuss and decide on, such as where irrigated pastureland and croplands are, where recent burn areas have been, timber areas, etc. But I don't think we should use the old maps that Durena gave me because that is old data. We have new data and new methods to make that map even more accurate and up-to-date.
 2. LIST OF LANDOWNERS AND SUBDIVISIONS WITHIN DISTANCE OF WATERWAYS OR HIGH-RISK AREAS
 - Once we identify the high-risk and vulnerable areas, we can run a buffer at a specified distance from those areas to find all the parcels that are within an influential distance to the waterways and high-risk areas. This will give us a list of landowners that we want to reach out to.
 3. LIST OF LAND USES AND OWNERSHIP TYPE BY ACREAGE WITHIN EACH SUBWATERSHED AND HIGH-RISK AREA
 - We can run a statistics summary in a GIS that will show what type of land ownership exists within each watershed and what acreage they cover (i.e. private, Fed, State etc.) to define stakeholder percentages within each area. Once we define the boundaries of the high-risk and vulnerable groundwater areas, we can do this same thing for those.
 4. SITE PRIORITIZATION ANALYSIS ONCE VULNERABLE AND HIGH-RISK AREAS ARE IDENTIFIED
 - Even when high-risk areas are known, resources to reclimate those areas could still be low. Resources such as time, staff, money, etc. to complete projects. This means that prioritizing high-risk areas is important. To do this, we can run a weighted site prioritization analysis that takes into

consideration key factors of importance, such as proximity to drinking water sources and level of risk calculated. Not all factors are weighted equally, so these would need to be weighted by level of importance.

5. CREATE AN ONLINE FORM AND MAP TO SHOW PROJECT WORK BEING COMPLETED

- We can create a Survey123 form that organizations can fill out showing the location of their projects, details on the work and who is completing the work, any links to important resources surrounding the project, etc. This online form will feed data directly into an online, interactive map that can be publicly available for people to be able to explore and click on points to view more details and information. This interactive map can show other reference data surrounding the NFPRW Coalition, such as identified high-risk areas, information about the analysis that calculated the level of risk, land ownership boundaries, watersheds and subwatersheds, etc.
- After briefly discussing these options, it was determined that the only immediate mapping needs from Kara was a list of landowners within a certain distance of waterways so that it can be ensured that these landowners are specifically invited to join the Coalition.
 - Lenard added that the IDEQ 2000 implementation plan included tiered system for priority on installing BMPs (for example within 150 ft of waterway)
- Kara also asked for a “mapping” subcommittee to be formed to give future detailed support and professional input on mapping efforts. The following steering committee members volunteered for this subcommittee:
 - Maureen Pepper
 - Durena Farr
 - Lenard Long
 - Kaylee Tuning

Coalition Schedule Progress Tracking

- The first quarterly grant financial and progress reporting period ends September 30th. These reports are due October 30th.
- Quarter 1 Milestones included with grant application
 - Project management, administrative support, contracting, purchasing & quarterly reports
 - Announcement & Initial Stakeholder Notice
 - Stakeholder Meeting
 - Lenard expressed concerns about currently being a few weeks behind schedule. Melissa Jayo assured that we are doing fine as long as we communicate that we are waiting on the Governor’s response to be the kickoff keynote speaker at the first Coalition meeting.
- The Coalition Schedule submitted with the grant application can be found on the NFPRWC website, in the first Steering Committee meeting agenda, and is attached below.

Coalition Budget Tracking

- Of the total award amount, we have spent \$14,482.99. We have \$183,737.01 remaining.
 - This amount does not include Durena’s or Kara’s time-to-date or a few tablecloths/tri-fold boards.
 - Lenard helped prepare the proposal budget and stated that we are on budget.
- See attached presentation for more information

New Business/Good of the Order:

- Colt Brown expressed concern about why we aren’t more concerned with the BPLRWSC Retention Pond Liner leaking treated wastewater into the NFPR.
 - Lenard responded that it is a concern being addressed by IDEQ. The facility is under a Compliance Administrative Schedule. They are required to have a corrective plan completed by the end of December.

- Judy Anderson expressed that part of the reason we're having these conversations about water quality issues over and over again is because of Climate Change. Water quality and quantity are going to be more and more urgent issues. There are lots of funding sources for climate smart issues.
 - Maureen Pepper brought up that the messaging around Climate Change is controversial, and that we should speak more simply.
 - Wes Keller echoed Maureen's sentiments. He suggested that you can accomplish what Judy is saying simply by displaying the data. Showing trends over time in precipitation and water temperature and frequency of algae blooms may be a way to get the message across without making it political and communicating urgency.
 - Judy Nissula expressed that a lack of human resources/manpower is a big problem in implementing real change.
- We need to ensure we are capturing every stakeholder in the watershed and a method to review if we're missing anyone at the table.
 - Judy Anderson expressed that the Payette National Forest really needs to be involved: they manage where the water comes from
- Melissa Jayo reminded the group that this grant is about writing the watershed restoration plan with input from the community and stakeholders.
- Lenard Long suggested that the steering committee lean heavily on the 2000 Implementation Plan for the Cascade Reservoir Phase II Watershed Management Plan by IDEQ. In the Appendices: there are pre-defined groups with suggested best management practices to reach TMLS.
- Judy Anderson stated that the reason the Coalition is so exciting is because it is framed as tackling whole watershed problems. Historically, stakeholders in Valley County have had rivalries with each other. This group provides tremendous opportunities to bring everyone together to move forward to make progress as a watershed.
 - McKenzie Kraemer agreed that this might be the most powerful messaging the Coalition could use because some past messaging has vilified stakeholder groups. The unifying messaging is what will make this program successful.
- Judy Anderson mentioned that it would be great to also involve schools in Coalition/outreach. Our local youth are the future of these efforts.

The next steering committee meeting will be the second week of September. The time and date will be determined by a poll of steering committee members.

Recording of the meeting available at: (Due to technical difficulties, no audio was recorded)

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Bd_Uy-hRqzf2xRsBkrSrucgjsPk_yN5ayES29lOnd_gA96C0IA2poqzTWZtuwSID.6waxe81lOV3SOVHM Passcode: #94rJ.=d

Draft Coalition Agenda Topics

Kickoff by Governor

Keynote Address

- Why we're here
- Call to action – need to work together
 - Note – Use unifying messages (not vilifying certain groups)

Icebreaker activity – Mission on the Move

Introductions

- Name (& organization if relevant)
- Why I want to be involved

Maps – What area are we talking about?

Background

- Grant
- Organization
- History
 - What have been the barriers to progress?
 - What successes have we had in the past 20 years?

Current state

- IDEQ presentation by Dani Terhaar
- Growth
- Include clarification about the coalition and the VSWCD

Build principles of engagement

Small Group Activity – Building a vision & mission

- If we achieve what we hope, what will the future look like?
- What do you want this group to work on?
 - What should be the core of our mission?

Governance Topics

- TBD

Future communications

- What speakers/topics do coalition attendees want to see at meeting?
- How do you want to contribute?

How do we add more stakeholders? Who is missing?

Next steps

Draft Timeline of Historic Work/Projects in the NFPRW

North Fork Payette River Historic Water Quality-Related Events

1890-2023

Year	Event
1890	US Fish Commission notes Sockeye Salmon & 27' water clarity in Payette Lake
1910	First major sawmill at McCall built. Payette Lake used as a mill pond & for log drives. Timber harvest increases.
1923	Cascade Mill opens
1924	Little Payette Lake and Black Canyon Dams Built
1948	Cascade Dam Completed Clean Water Act (Federal Water Pollution Control Act) enacted
1957	Valley SWCD forms. Starts land-leveling projects & reorganizing irrigation systems
1964-1969	Health Dept studies show bacterial contamination of Payette Lake from septic systems
1968	Boulder Meadows Dam completed
1969	Gold Fork Flume Rebuilt
1972	Clean Water Act reorganized and expanded
1973	ID Dept Health: Cascade Reservoir Water Quality Survey - Documents blue-green dominated algal blooms. Recommends every effort should be made to reduce nutrient flow to the reservoir and sewage treatment practices should be followed to prevent bacterial contamination of the reservoir.
1975	Payette Lake - EPA study finds 68% of P coming from NFPR inflows & nearshore impacts Lake Cascade - ID Dept Health Clark & Wroten Report finds algal blooms. Identifies Boulder Creek & McCall wastewater treatment lagoons as major coliform contaminant sources. Advocates reason to maintain water quality is for recreational value of reservoir. EPA - Water Quality Studies, Payette River Basin and Cascade Reservoir Idaho
1977	Waste treatment plant completed in Donnelly to improve water quality flowing from Boulder Creek into Cascade Reservoir
1977	EPA National Eutrophication Survey - Considers Cascade Reservoir eutrophic. Identifies seepage of shoreline recreational homes, excessive algal growths, low oxygen levels in deeper waters, minor fish kills, and shoreline growth due to nutrient contamination as problems of significance Mill closes on Payette Lake
1981	Falter study finds nearshore nutrients and bacteria in Payette lake and oxygen deficiency in deep water
1982	Payette lakeshore sewer line built - eliminates shoreline septic systems
1983	USBR Zimmer Report - Phosphorus Loading & Bacterial Contamination of Cascade Reservoir
1984	Min. Pool Storage set to 60% at Cascade
1985	Idaho Power Modifies Powerhouse Intake at Lake Cascade Lake Cascade - IDHW Assessment of WQ Impacts Idaho adopts new septic regulations
1986	One of the first gravity pipelines installed in Valley County Lake Irrigation District study identifies alternatives to better utilize and improve irrigation water management
1989	CHD Privy Sanitation Survey of West Mountain Area - Report 72% of privy are substandard
1991	Cascade Reservoir Resource Management Plan by Entranco Engineers - formal program and policy guidelines to USBR Cascade Reservoir Watershed Project Water Quality Management Plan published by VSWCD, IDEQ, & Entranco Engineers - multi-agency effort to reverse the trend of increasing algae blooms and water clarity in Cascade Reservoir by reducing phosphorus loading North Fork Payette River from Cabarton Bridge to Banks designated as state recreational river by IDWR
1993	Cascade Reservoir - Health Advisory, 23 Cattle Died & Fish Kill Big Payette Lake Act passed, Water Quality Council forms
1994	Cascade Reservoir - Health Advisory & Fish Kill Payette Lake - Wildfire burns 52% of watershed
1995	North Lake Rec Sewer & Water Dist. Established & Wetlands Constructed
1996	South Lake Rec Water & Sewer Dist. Established McCall NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) Permit Issued IDEQ - Cascade Reservoir Phase I Watershed Management Plan EPA TMDL APPROVAL (1st) - Cascade
1997	IDEQ technical report on the Water Quality of Big Payette Lake published - finds that 1994 fire effects include nitrogen spike, higher temps, algae blooms, oxygen deficits, anoxia, and symptoms of eutrophication Cascade Reservoir Restoration project - 20 projects implemented by landowners around Lake Cascade

- 1998 Big Payette Lake Management Plan adopted by Idaho Legislature
IDEQ - Cascade Reservoir Phase II Watershed Management Plan
Mahala Ditch Irrigation diversion and fish ladder completed on Lake Fork Creek
- 1999 North Fork Payette River from Headwaters to Payette Lake Inlet designated as state recreational river by IDWR
- 2000 IDEQ Implementation Plan for Cascade Reservoir Phase II Watershed Management Plan - identifies and describes specific pollutant controls and management measures to be undertaken
J-Ditch Completion
VSWCD helps with 33 landowner contracts in Boulder, Mud, and Willow Creek Watersheds
- 2001 USBR Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan and Environmental Assessment published
Boise-Cascade Mill closes in Cascade
- 2002 USBR Lake Cascade Resource Management Plan - outlines how BOR will manage Lake Cascade
Irrigation & Pasture BMP Effectiveness study completed
Groundwater monitoring network established in Valley County
- 2004 Lake Cascade Northern Pike Minnow Eradication
- 2007 IDEQ - North Fork Payette River Watershed TMDL Implementation Plan
- 2009 IDEQ Lake Cascade Phase III Water Quality Management Plan - finds that phosphorus was reduced by 70% of the goal (only have 30% reduction to go)
New NLRWDS wastewater treatment facility completed
- 2011 IDEQ Cascade Reservoir Tributary TMDL Addendum - developed sediment TMDLs for Gold Fork River, Boulder Creek, & Mud Creek
- 2013 McCall wastewater treatment plant liner leak into NFPR
- 2017 IDEQ 5-year Review of Lake Cascade published
IDHW & IDEQ develop HAB Response Plan
- 2018 Lake Cascade - CHD Health Advisory issued
- 2019 Lake Cascade - CHD Health Advisory issued
Payette Lake algae blooms emerge, lake water clarity down to 14-20'
- 2020 Lake Cascade - CHD Health Advisory issued
- 2021 Lake Cascade - CHD Health Advisory issued
Payette Lake - IDEQ HAB Alert
- 2022 IDEQ Lake Cascade Monitoring Report finds total P, pH & chlorophyll-a targets are not being met & beneficial uses are impaired due to nuisance algae growth
IDHW Potential Toxic Algae Alert - Lake Cascade to Black Canyon Dam (NFPR)
- 2023 Valley County adopts waterways management plan
Petroleum product discovered in Payette Lake

Information thanks to research of: Dave Simmonds, Big Payette Lake Water Quality Council; Lenard Long, Friends of Lake Cascade; and Kaylee Tuning, North Fork Payette River Watershed Coalition

