

Meeting Summary – Jessie Lake TAC – October 11, 2007

Downstairs conference room, DNR office Grand Rapids, MN



Present – Nolan Baratono (MPCA), Don Carlson (MPCA), Chantal Cook (USFS), Karen Evens (MPCA), Noel Griese (Itasca SWCD), Harold Goetzman (JLWA), Karl Koller (MN DNR), Bill Nelson (JLWA)

Nolan reviewed the reorganization of the contract and the phase 1 process of TMDL completion for Jessie Lake. MPCA staff will be organized as a team, with Don Carlson as project team leader and Nolan and Karen serving in team support roles.

Karen handed out and reviewed the binder notebooks that included: the revised TMDL contract, steps in the TMDL process and the re-organized contract we have taken thus far, and the future needs of a completed TMDL – checklist and sample document. TMDL Phase I deadline: June 30, 2008. Final TMDL Document deadline: 2009.

Don Carlson reviewed in greater detail each work plan element of the revised contract and laid out expectations for the advisory group. He reviewed specific expected deliverables of better education about a TMDL process, a clear public participation plan, 3 TAC meetings and tasks, complete review and web posting of all known data about Jessie Lake, and a final contractor RFP that will lead to a completed TMDL in phase 2 of the project (MPCA has budgeted for and will send out an RFP to hire a contractor in 2008 for Phase II.).

Action item: Noel related that he would have all Jessie Lake data compiled and in a reviewable format for distribution and preliminary review at the next TAC meeting on November 28th.

Don also stressed the importance of careful budget and report tracking, posting minutes or meeting summaries to websites such that we document our committee decisions for ourselves and other interested stakeholders, show funding accountability, and maintain good communication among ourselves and other citizen groups.

Nolan led the group through a discussion of public participation and additional contacts to invite to the next meeting. A lengthy list was produced that included: a member of the Big Fork River Board, 2 county commissioners, county Environmental Services Board, DNR Division of Waters, DNR lakes consultant, DNR Ecological Services, an ICOLA member, a USFS research level staffer (Chantal to follow-up).

Action item: Noel volunteered to follow-up and invite each of the identified participants to the next TAC meeting.

Discussion continued regarding the outreach to citizens without computer connections or expertise. More discussion will need to occur on the best public outreach method as the project moves forward.

Karl expressed concerns about a need for additional professional input/peer review of data collected in order for TAC to be able to make informed decisions. Karl also expressed a need for a coordinator to keep the process moving forward.

Harold expressed concerns about the Natural Resources Research Institute's lapse in MDH Lab Certification and how that might affect the usability of the data collected during that period. Nolan stated the data can be used but cannot be entered into STORET.

Discussion held for next TAC meeting format. Chantal recommended meeting to be held in 2 sessions: Morning session to educate elected officials and public. Afternoon session for technical staff to provide input. TAC agreed with format.

Action item: Karen to amend current TMDL contract to include lake association as a cooperator at Harold's request.

Bill asked about the past discussion about taking the route to delist Jessie Lake from the Impaired Waters List and if it is something we should pursue in light of recent data. Karen indicated that a decision was made at the last TAC meeting to move forward with the TMDL process which would take about 2 years vs the delisting route which would take approximately 3 years.

Action Item: Harold G. to follow-up with lake association newsletter article to be sent out this fall.

Action Item: Don asked that all TAC members review provided TMDL examples/worksheets and send comments/questions to him by November 21st for integration into the TMDL training provided at the November 28th TAC meeting.

Next meeting date: Wednesday, November 28, 2007 10:00 am – 2:30 pm
Location: Upstairs conference room, DNR offices Grand Rapids, MN.