

Minutes of March 25 303(d) Public Meeting

The meeting convened at 10 a.m. in the Roaring River Conference Room of the Department of Natural Resources' Elm Street Complex. In attendance were: Rob Morrison (Barr Engineering Inc.), Robert Brundage (Newman, Comley and Ruth PCs), Phil Schroeder, John Ford, Rich Burdige and Robert Voss (Missouri DNR, Water Pollution Control Branch).

The proposed 2010 303(d) list was reviewed and the following comments were made:

- Robert Brundage: Willow Branch, an unclassified stream in Putnam County, appears on the 2008 303(d) List but is not on the 2010 proposed list or the 2010 list of waters proposed to be removed from the 2008 list. John Ford noted that DNR is not proposing to place this stream on the 2010 list and it will be added to the list of waters we are proposing to de-list in 2010.
- Rob Morrison: A portion of the new nutrient criteria for lakes has been misinterpreted in the 303(d) listing process. The nutrient criteria were then reviewed by all meeting attendees and there was agreement that an error in interpretation of the criteria had been made. DNR will correct this error, which may result in some changes in assigning the appropriate nutrient criteria for some lakes and possibly changes in the 303(d) list.

The proposed 2012 Listing Methodology Document (LMD) was reviewed and the following comments were made:

- Rob Morrison, Phil Schroeder: Assessment procedures for Tier Three waters need to account for water quality changes due to permitted wastewater discharges that pre-dated the implementation of anti-degradation provisions in state water quality standards. DNR will review this issue and propose some additional wording for the LMD.
- Robert Brundage: requested that the discussion of the assessment of toxics in the LMD specifically state that the most recent three years of data will be those used. DNR staff agreed and will revise the wording accordingly. There was a general discussion about use of older data for assessing toxics, and general agreement that if there was good evidence that activities related to that pollutant had occurred that should reduce the pollutant load, data pre-dating those activities would not be used for 303(d) listing purposes.
- Robert Brundage: can DNR explain why they used the 75 percent level when comparing aquatic habitat scores from test and control streams. DNR will investigate.

- Robert Brundage: Shouldn't biomonitoring of small streams use small control streams rather than larger bioreference streams as controls? DNR staff noted that we should not fully rely of small control streams because we lack a formal set of metrics and scoring system specifically developed for these small streams. However DNR routinely uses both bioreference and small control streams to interpret macroinvertebrate data from small streams. Development of formal metrics and biocriteria for macroinvertebrates in small streams is a program goal for DNR but probably requires another five to six years of data before development of metrics could begin. Where macroinvertebrate communities in small streams are scored against both bioreference streams and small control streams, that information will be presented in the information worksheets and used in the interpretation of the data.

Action Items:

- DNR will add Willow Branch in Putnam County to the list of waters we propose to remove from 303(d) list in 2010.
- DNR will re-calculate lake nutrient criteria where needed and make any appropriate changes to proposed 2010 list.
- These changes will be forwarded to stakeholders in an e-mail prior to the April 22 public meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.