Attachment A: Public & Stakeholder TMDL Outreach Plan

Lower Gallatin TMDL Planning Area

1.0 TMDL PROGRAM AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires states to identify water bodies within its boundaries that do not meet state water quality standards, and to develop a list (the 303(d) list) of impaired water bodies. The Federal Clean Water Act and the Montana Water Quality Act (Section 75-5-703) require development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for impaired water bodies that do not meet Montana water quality standards. A TMDL is a pollutant budget identifying the maximum amount of a particular pollutant that a water body can receive without causing applicable water quality standards to be exceeded.

The Lower Gallatin TMDL Planning Area is one of more than 90 TMDL planning areas in the State of Montana in which water quality is listed as impaired. State law (**Appendix A**) directs DEQ to consult with 'watershed advisory groups' and local conservation districts prior to and during TMDL development, and solicit participation and representation from stakeholder and interest groups to act in an advisory capacity with the DEQ and local conservation districts.

Development of TMDLs in the Lower Gallatin TPA is a multi-year process involving technical assessments and information gathering, synthesis and reporting of data and information, and information dissemination and outreach. Technical advisors, stakeholders and interested parties, state and federal agencies, interest groups, advisory committees, and the public are solicited to participate in differing capacities through out the TMDL development process.

This document acts as a blueprint for stakeholder involvement and public participation, and outlines the process by which DEQ consults with and keeps informed stakeholder groups and the general public regarding TMDL activities in the Lower Gallatin TPA. The documentation of public and stakeholder involvement in the TMDL process will ensure that State of Montana statutory requirements (MCA 75-5-703, MCA 75-5-704 – Appendix A) are met.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF PARTICIPANTS & ROLES

2.1 State and Federal Agencies

2.1.1 Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality is a state agency whose mission is to 'protect, sustain, and improve a clean and healthful environment to benefit present and future generations'. State law (MCA 75-5-703) directs the DEQ to develop all necessary TMDLs. Responsibility and accountability for developing TMDLs within the legislatively mandated timeframe lies solely with the DEQ. The Department has provided resources toward this effort in terms of FTEs, funding, internal prioritization and planning.

Where appropriate, DEQ partners with other state or federal agencies, local conservation districts and/or watershed organizations to conduct technical assessments and data collection, coordinate local outreach activities, act as a liaison to local stakeholders and communities, or conduct other activities that may assist and facilitate TMDL

development. Partnerships may take a variety of forms: direct contracts with the DEQ, agency Memorandums of Understanding, or other formal or informal agreements.

2.1.2 United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The EPA is the federal agency responsible for administering and coordinating requirements of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Section 303(d) of the CWA directs States to develop TMDLs, and EPA has developed guidance and programs to assist states in that regard. In Montana, EPA has provided funding, development and technical assistance to the state's TMDL program and in some planning areas has taken the lead in TMDL development. EPA's role is largely administrative for the remainder of TMDL development in the TPA; adoption of the completed TMDL is contingent, however, on final EPA approval and must meet EPA requirements for acceptance.

2.2 Local Organizations & Stakeholder Groups

2.2.1 Greater Gallatin Watershed Council (GGWC)

The Greater Gallatin Watershed Council is a locally-led non-profit watershed group focusing on the health of the greater Gallatin Watershed from its headquarters in Bozeman, Montana. GGWC's mission is to "promote the conservation and enhancement of our water resources while supporting the traditions of community, agriculture and recreation." Along with its education/outreach and fundraising efforts, the watershed group strives toward three primary goals: coordination of water quality restoration planning, a volunteer water quality monitoring program and cooperative on-the-ground projects.

The GGWC maintains '319 contracts' with the DEQ to conduct tasks related to TMDL development: coordinate local public and stakeholder outreach activities, and conduct technical assessments related to TMDL development. Outreach activities are those that facilitate local involvement, disseminate information, and assist in coordination and collaboration among technical advisors, stakeholders and the public. Technical assessments are typically defined in scope by the DEQ, and implemented by consultants hired by GGWC.

2.2.2 Gallatin Conservation District

The DEQ will provide the Gallatin Conservation District with a consultation role opportunity during TMDL development in the Lower Gallatin TMDL Planning Area consistent with State Law (75-5-703). This will include CD comment opportunities during the various stages of TMDL development, and an opportunity for CD participation in the Watershed Advisory Group defined below.

2.2.3 Lower Gallatin TMDL Watershed Advisory Group (WAG)

Representatives of applicable interest groups have been requested to participate in a *Lower Gallatin TMDL Watershed Advisory Group* (WAG) to work with the DEQ and the Gallatin Conservation District in an advisory capacity per State Law (75-5-703 & 704). WAG participation is requested from the interest groups defined in MCA 75-5-704, and may include additional stakeholders, landowners, and resource professionals with an interest in maintaining and improving water quality and riparian resources. WAG involvement is voluntary and the level of involvement is at the discretion of individual WAG members. The WAG acts strictly in an advisory capacity during TMDL development and does not retain decision-making authority regarding TMDL activities. Communications with WAG members are typically conducted through email and

scheduled meetings by the TMDL Project Manager. Opportunities for review and comment will be obtained from the WAG at varying stages of TMDL development, including opportunities for TMDL draft document review prior to the public comment period. DEQ TMDL Project Manager is the primary WAG contact and is responsible for WAG solicitation and coordination of all WAG interactions and meetings during TMDL development.

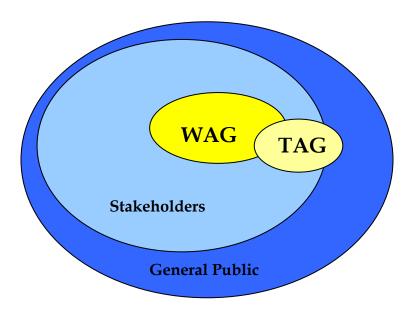
Participants in the Lower Gallatin TMDL WAG are given in **Appendix B**.

2.2.4 Lower Gallatin TMDL Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

The *Lower Gallatin TMDL Technical Advisory Group (TAG)* consists of selected resource professionals and technical advisors who possess a familiarity with water quality issues and processes in the Lower Gallatin TPA. Individuals may include representatives from State and Federal agencies, local resource professionals, or members of local government, including CD members that have an appropriate level of relevant technical knowledge.

The Lower Gallatin TMDL TAG provides comment and review of technical TMDL assessments and reports The DEQ TMDL Project manager resides over the TAG and schedules TAG meetings as necessary to facilitate and solicit feedback on technical TMDL development issues. TAG members participate at their discretion, and in an advisory role in the TMDL process. TAG involvement typically includes participation at TAG meetings and review of TMDL technical documents and reports. Typically draft technical documents are released to the TAG for review under a limited timeframe. Comments are compiled and evaluated, however final technical decisions regarding document modifications reside solely with the DEQ.

Participants in the Lower Gallatin TMDL TAG are given in **Appendix C**.



2.3 Stakeholders & General Public

Stakeholders are those persons or groups of persons with an interest in the Lower Gallatin TMDL, and have chosen to be informed and/or involved in the TMDL process. The GGWC and DEQ solicit stakeholder involvement early in the TMDL process through formal and informal means, and maintain contact with stakeholders throughout the process through a variety of information distribution and dissemination methods. Level of involvement is the discretion of the stakeholder; participation and responsibility may vary depending on the stakeholder and the issues at hand. Typically, communication with stakeholders is carried out through local watershed group meetings, email, and website distribution of information and reports. The Greater Gallatin Watershed Council maintains a contact and distribution list of watershed stakeholders and provides avenues for information dissemination and feedback through public outreach events, meetings and the GGWC website, http://www.greatergallatin.org.

Though not directly involved in TMDL development, the general public plays a vital role with regard to eventual implementation of improvement actions. It is important that the general public is aware of the process and given opportunities to participate, and as such will be kept informed via public meetings and through information dissemination through the GGWC and the DEQ. In addition, the general public will have the opportunity for review and comment of the final TMDL document during the formal Public Comment Period. The general public is encouraged to participate throughout the TMDL development process by attending meetings and events, reading local news articles, engaging in educational events, and keeping up-to-date on TMDL progress in their watershed.

3.0 INFORMATION DISSEMINATION & MANAGEMENT

TMDL development involves the development of a variety of planning and technical documents, field data collection and assessment, data analysis and interpretation, and reporting and submittal of results and determinations. Technical documents may include sampling & analysis plans, water quality analyses, watershed modeling reports, or other technical information. Non-technical reports may include project planning summaries, status reports, meeting minutes, presentations or other materials in support of TMDL development and outreach activities.

Dissemination of information and documents related to TMDL development will be conducted by both the DEQ Project Manager and through the Greater Gallatin Watershed Council. Methods of information and document dissemination include:

- Public Meetings
- Email
- Websites: GGWC, DEQ
- WAG Meetings
- TAG Meetings
- Media publications: press releases, newsletters, brochures,
- Local workshops and events
- Official DEQ TMDL 30-Day Public Comment Period

3.1 Information Dissemination & Management Requirements and Responsibilities

3.1.1 Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

DEQ maintains responsibility for carrying out the consultation requirements set forth in MCA 75-5-703&704, requiring the solicitation of interest groups to participate in the Lower Gallatin TMDL Watershed Advisory Group. Development, oversight, scheduling and records management* related to the Lower Gallatin TMDL WAG is the responsibility of the DEQ TMDL Project Manager. WAG meetings shall be conducted at a minimum of once per year, more often if circumstances require.

In addition to WAG development and coordination, the DEQ maintains responsibility for developing and coordinating the activity of the Lower Gallatin TMDL Technical Advisory Group (TAG). While not required by state law, the TAG performs a vital role in TMDL development (see 2.2.4). Technical and planning records* related to TAG activity shall be managed by the DEQ TMDL Project Manager. TAG meetings are scheduled by the DEQ Project manager as circumstances warrant.

Upon completion of the draft TMDL document, and prior to EPA submittal, the DEQ issues a press release and enters into an Official 30-day Public Comment Period. During this time frame, the draft TMDL document is made available for general public comment, and DEQ addresses and responds to all formal public comments. The 30-day public comment period follows the process set forth in DEQ document, *Montana DEQ Formal TMDL Public Review and Stakeholder Notification Procedure – WQPB WSM-001*.

*Official TMDL records, reports and planning documents are maintained by the DEQ Project Manager, and selected technical and planning documents can be accessed from the GGWC website at http://www.greatergallatin.org/resources/documents.aspx.

3.1.2 Greater Gallatin Watershed Council (GGWC)

In support of TMDL outreach and stakeholder involvement, the GGWC conducts a variety of annual activities with the purpose of involving stakeholders and the public in TMDL development, and ultimately implementation of restoration and water quality improvement initiatives. GGWC outreach and information dissemination activities include public meetings, workshops and tours, GGWC website, media publications and regular contact and email updates for local stakeholders and interested parties (Table XX).

Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Audience
Annual Public Meeting	Inform public of TMDL process, progress, and implications. Respond to feedback opportunity.	Annual	General Public
Website: GGWC	Provide public access to reports, documents and outreach material	Continual	General Public
Media Publications Newsletter Brochure WQ Report	Produce and disseminate printed materials in support of TMDL and water quality outreach activities.	Annual	General Public
Annual Workshop, Event, or Tour	Conduct field or seminar events aimed at hands-on educational outreach	Annual	General Public
Project Updates	Keep stakeholders informed of TMDL project progress through email updates.	3x/year	Stakeholders

Outreach activities conducted by GGWC are dependent upon available funding. Detailed annual outreach work plans and associated funding are provided in **Appendix D**.

Appendix A: 'Montana TMDL Law'

MCA 75-5-703. Development and implementation of total maximum daily loads.

(1) The department shall, in consultation with local conservation districts and watershed advisory groups, develop total maximum daily loads or TMDLs for threatened or impaired water bodies or segments of water bodies in order of the priority ranking established by the department under 75-5-702.

MCA 75-5-704. Watershed advisory groups.

- (1) In implementing the consultation requirements under 75-5-702(4) and 75-5-703(1) and (2), the department shall request the participation of representatives of the following interest groups to work in an advisory capacity with the local conservation districts and the department:
 - (a) livestock-oriented agriculture;
 - (b) farming-oriented agriculture;
 - (c) conservation or environmental interests;
 - (d) water-based recreationists;
 - (e) the forestry industry;
 - (f) municipalities;
 - (g) affected or potentially affected point source dischargers;
 - (h) mining;
 - (i) existing local watershed groups;
 - (j) federal land management agencies;
 - (k) state trust land management agencies;
 - (l) the tourism industry;
 - (m) the hydroelectric industry, if applicable; and
 - (n) fishing-related businesses.
- (2) In implementing the consultation requirements of $\overline{75-5-702}$ and $\overline{75-5-703}$, the department shall:
- (a) prior to consultation with the statewide TMDL advisory group pursuant to <u>75-5-702</u>(7) and (8), schedule meetings with appropriate local conservation districts and the watershed advisory groups at a location within their affected geographic area to review and revise the list of water bodies provided for in <u>75-5-702</u>; and
- (b) at a meeting held pursuant to subsection (2)(a), request whether there is new information that may affect the listing or priority ranking on water bodies within the affected area and solicit comments on revising the list.
- (3) Based upon the information provided pursuant to subsection (2)(b), the department shall revise the list according to 75-5-702.
- (4) Prior to and during the development of a TMDL within a particular watershed or basin, the department shall schedule a meeting or meetings with appropriate local conservation districts and watershed advisory groups at a location within the affected geographic area in order to solicit comments on developing the TMDL and information on sources that may be contributing to water quality impairment.

Appendix B: Lower Gallatin TMDL Watershed Advisory Group (06/27/08)

Interest Group	WAG Representation	Affiliation	email	Phone
livestock-oriented agricu	ılture			
	arcie Murnion	Gallatin CD	marcie.murnion@mt.nacdnet.net	522-4011
	ik Suffridge	NRCS - Bozeman Field Office	erik.suffridge@mt.usda.gov	587-6849
farming-oriented agricul	lture			
AC	GAI Rep	Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators	salesranch@theglobal.net	570-2128
conservation or environment	mental interests			
Sc	ott Bosse	Greater Yellowstone Coalition	sbosse@greateryellowstone.org	586-1593
Ri	ck Arnold	TU Gallatin/Madison Chapter	rarnold@resslermotors.com	539-4350
water-based recreationis	sts			
?? M	ike Garcia	Northern Lights Trading Company		
forestry industry				
??		Montana Logging Association	mla@logging.org	752.3168
??		Montana Wood Products Association	woodproducts@mt.net	443.1566
Municipalities				
	eidi Jensen	Belgrade Planning	belgradeplnr@qwest.net	388-3760
	ave Crawford	Manhattan	david.crawford@tdhbozeman.com	586-0277
	arren Vaughan	Gallatin County Planning	warren.vaughan@gallatin.mt.gov	582-3130
	an O'Callaghan	Gallatin County Planning	sean.ocallaghan@gallatin.mt.gov	582-3130
	fected point source dischargers			
	ebbie Arkell	Bozeman Public Works	darkell@bozeman.net	582-2315
Str	uart Cooper	Manhattan Public Works	sandysturat@bresnan.net	284-3278
mining				
N.	· -			
existing local watershed	<u> </u>			
	arlyn Izurieta	Greater Gallatin Watershed Council	sgizuri@gmail.com	219-3739
	ristin Gardner	Blue Water Task Force	kristin.k.gardner@gmail.com	993-2519
federal land managemen				
	se Castro & Mark Story	Gallatin National Forest - District Ranger	jcastro@fs.fed.us	522-2520
state trust land managen				
	arry Williams	DNRC - TLMD - Central Field Office Mgr	gwilliams@mt.gov	458-3501
the tourism industry				
	obin Hoover	ED - Yellowstone Country Regional Tourism Commission	<u>yellowstone@montana.net</u>	556-8680
the hydroelectric industr				
N/	A			
fishing-related business				
	bin Cunningham	Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana	foaminfo@foam-montana.org	763-5436
Other Interested Parties				
	ruce Rich	FWP	brrich@mt.gov	994-3155
	Pomnichowski	HD63 Representative	pomnicho@montanadsl.net	587-7846
	om Adams	Bozeman WWTP Superintendent	tadams@bozeman.net	586-9159
Ke	erri Strasheim	DNRC	kstrasheim@mt.gov	556-4504

Appendix C: Lower Gallatin TMDL Technical Advisory Group (06/27/08)

Name	Affiliation	Phone	email
Alan English	Gallatin Local Water Quality District	582-3148	alan.english@gallatin.mt.gov
Mark Story	Gallatin National Forest	587-6735	mtstory@fs.fed.us
Kerri Strasheim	DNRC	556-4504	kstrasheim@mt.gov
Tom Adams	City of Bozeman WWTP	586-9159	tadams@bozeman.net
Stuart Jennings	Local Resource Professional	624-6616	sjennings@reclamationresearch.net
Erik Suffridge	NRCS - Bozeman Field Office	587-6849	erik.suffridge@mt.usda.gov
Mike Vaughn	FWP	994-6938	mvaughn@mt.gov
Peter Skidmore	Local Resource Professional	600-8536	restoringrivers@yahoo.com
Dustin Johnson	City of Bozeman – Engineering/Stormwater	582-2280	djohnson@bozeman.net
Barb Campbell	Local Resource Professional	585-4166	dbltree1@qwest.net
Buddy Drake	Local Resource Professional		bdrake@montanadsl.net
Tony Thatcher	Local Resource Professional	585-5322	tony@dtmgis.com
Clain Jones	MSU Extension	994-6076	clainj@montana.edu
Clayton Marlow	MSU Range Mgmt	994-2486	cmarlow@montana.edu
Tom Bass	MSU Extension	994-5733	tmbass@montana.edu

Appendix D: Greater Gallatin Watershed Council Annual Outreach Work Plan

The GGWC has incorporated Community Outreach, Involvement and Education into the goals and vision of the organization. Section 4.4 in the GGWC's Five-Year Strategic Plan, 2007 to 2011, states that the GGWC will *Implement a comprehensive water resources education, involvement and outreach program.* The Gallatin Community Outreach Program is the outgrowth of this requirement. The Annual Outreach Work Plan and budget for 2009 is projected here.

The following table provides a summary of typical annual outreach activities conducted by the GGWC, and includes the activity, objective, audience, timeframe and projected annual budget for 2009. Annual outreach activity conducted by GGWC is dependent upon available funding.

Activity	Objective	Audience	Timeframe	Cost estimate
Annual Public Meeting	Inform public of TMDL process, progress, and implications. Respond to feedback opportunity	General Public	Annual	\$3500
Advisory Group Meetings	Comment and review TMDL documents	WAG/TAG participants	Continual	\$250
Media Publications Newsletter Brochure Water Quality of the Gallatin Watershed Report News Releases	Produce and disseminate printed materials in support of TMDL and water quality outreach activities	General Public	Annual and/or Semi- Annual	\$10,000
Website www.greatergallatin.org	Provide public access to reports, documents and outreach materials	General Public	Continual	\$2500
Annual Event, Workshop or Tour	Conduct field or seminar events aimed at hands-on educational outreach	General Public	Annual	\$1250
Project Updates	Keep stakeholders informed of TMDL and other GGWC project progress through email updates	Stakeholders	3x/year	\$500
Educational/Awareness activities • Local events	Participate in community outreach events to promote GGWC and water quality assessment projects to general population	General Public	Continual	\$1500
Training, Conferences, Symposiums	Conduct an annual event supporting water quality activities, e.g. minisymposium	General Public	Annual	\$1500
Gallatin Stream Team Program	Gallatin Stream Teams, a volunteer water quality monitoring program to collect water quality data to support data collected for water quality assessment projects	General Public	Annual	\$10,000

Appendix D: Greater Gallatin Watershed Council Annual Outreach Work Plan

Annual Public Meeting – The Annual Meeting is held in January. The meeting is used to inform the public of GGWC activities from the previous year. Programs include updates on the progress and implications of the TMDL process, Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring, and Stormwater Management. The public meeting provides residents of the Gallatin watershed the opportunity to respond and comment on the GGWC programs.

Advisory Group Meetings – As TMDL milestones are reached and project components are completed, the GGWC will schedule and facilitate meetings with the Watershed Advisory Group and Technical Advisory Committee.

Media Publications – The goal is to produce printed materials to meet the requirements of the GGWC's goals and vision. Materials are designed to educate and inform residents of the watershed regarding programs, activities, and events. Water quality outreach is a major component of most GGWC programs. Mediums include a semi-annual newsletter, distributed via email, newspapers, and post. A goal of the GGWC in the coming year is to re-design a brochure to better educate the public regarding the work of the GGWC and water resources in the watershed. TMDL reports will be distributed via the GGWC website, CDs, and, when applicable, by mail. News releases will be used to announce public meetings, outcomes, and other water quality activities.

Website – The GGWC website is used to provide information to the public regarding activities and TMDL processes and documents. Website upgrades are needed to provide a user friendly format to visitors to the website. TMDL documents and other water quality information is available on the website.

Annual Event, Workshop or Tour – A field tour and/or seminar will be coordinated on annual basis. Events are aimed to be experiential and provide hands-on educational activities.

Project Updates – Stakeholders in the watershed will be kept apprised of TMDL processes and water quality activities, typically through email and/or mailings.

Educational/Awareness activities – Local events will be used to promote water quality in the watershed. The goal is for stakeholders to become involved with programs. The events promote GGWC programs, such as the Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program. Events include a local watershed festival, film festivals, etc. A GGWC travelling kit will accompany GGWC Representatives to each event.

Training, Conferences and Symposiums – Events supporting the TMDL project, volunteer water quality monitoring program, and stormwater program, etc. will be conducted to educate stakeholders. For example, an annual mini-symposium to update residents on the volunteer water quality monitoring program and the TMDL process and how the data collected by volunteers can be used for the TMDL process.

Gallatin Stream Team Program – The Gallatin Stream Teams, the volunteer water quality monitoring program, collects water quality data to support data collected for TMDL projects. The goal is to collect long-term data and to provide an educational opportunity to stakeholders to learn how data is collected and used for future restoration on streams in the watershed. The program also provides stakeholders with an opportunity to become stewards of their local streams.