

Missoula City-County Water Quality District Board  
November 18, 2010

**Board Members Present:** Dr. Garon Smith (Chair), Dr. Alan Gabster (Vice Chair), Jean Curtiss, Teresa Henry, Ross Miller, Renee Mitchell, and Rob Roberts

**Board Members Excused:** Eileen Sansom

**Staff Members Present:** Health Administration: Ellen Leahy and Julie Mohr; Environmental Health (Air Quality): Sarah Coefield and Ben Schmidt; and Water Quality District: Peter Nielsen

**Legal Counsel Present:** Marnie McClain (Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney)

**Others Present:** Kelly Hart, Ruth Licitra, Dixie McLaughlin, and Ron Scholl

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Dr. Smith called the meeting to order at 12:18 p.m.

**ITEM 1 APPROVE OCTOBER 21, 2010 MINUTES**

The motion was unanimously approved to accept the minutes as submitted.

**ITEM 2 UPDATE ON MILLTOWN DAM REMEDIATION AND RESTORATION AND THE STIMSON MILL CLEANUP**

- **Attachment A**, “Milltown Remediation And Restoration” (PowerPoint)
- **Attachment B**, “Stimson Cooling Pond PCB Cleanup Project: DEQ Update - September 2010”

Peter Nielsen, Water Quality District, displayed photos and summarized activity (mostly performed in 2009-2010) by the EPA, its chief contractor—Envirocon, and others at the Milltown/Clark Fork River site:

- The remediation phase of activity involved removal of the Milltown Dam and contaminated sediments in order to restore the Milltown Aquifer, the water quality down river, and the confluence area’s trout fishery.
  - Two-thirds of the contaminated sediments were excavated and moved to on-site repositories. They have good growth of vegetation thus far. Only one-third (2.2 million cubic yards) was shipped to Opportunity Ponds near Anaconda. Clean fill will likely be required in order to improve growth of vegetation there.
  - Due to arsenic contamination in groundwater, early warning and compliance wells were established during the project. The early warning wells are no longer monitored. The compliance wells will be monitored until compliance is achieved.
- The restoration phase includes returning the river to its natural channel, reinforcing its banks, reestablishing natural vegetation, restoring the floodplain, and creating wetlands.

- The berm that currently diverts the river into the bypass channel will likely be breached during the week of December 6th to allow the river to flow in its final channel. Water levels will gradually drop in the bypass channel.
- Logs salvaged from the Blackfoot were used to help protect the banks of the river.
- Rock grade control structures have been placed in the riverbed.
- Progress continues toward redevelopment of the Milltown area through creation of a state park with a trail system that will connect Missoula, the Milltown area and other nearby communities.

Mr. Nielsen also showed historic photos of the Stimson Mill site and its cooling pond, which extended into one-third of the river’s channel, and described clean-up activities underway to remove sediments contaminated by PCBs that were once used in hydraulic oil for machinery.

- The focus at present is on the sediments by the cooling pond that are closest to the river.
- Plans show areas of excavation: cells are color coded to identify which soils are clean enough to be left onsite, which must be removed, and so forth. As of today, 65,000 cubic yards of sediment have been removed.
- The project was to be completed by the end of November but the volume of concrete, wood, and other debris encountered has slowed the project. The goal is to finish by February.
- As work progresses, other areas of contamination have been found throughout the site, which will necessitate additional cleanup projects.

The group discussed the sale of logs salvaged from the Blackfoot and the current results of monitoring of drinking water wells in the Milltown area. There have been some localized changes—increases in manganese levels but not arsenic levels.

**ITEM 3 PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

No comments were given.

**ITEM 4 BOARD AND STAFF COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Mr. Nielsen provided information on a two-year, \$30,000 grant the Water Quality District has received to evaluate riparian management areas.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Dr. Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Ellen Leahy  
Health Officer

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Garon Smith  
Chair