

Interview Summary

1. What outcomes in terms of policies or standards would you like to see as the result of the team's deliberations?

Numeric standards specific to different situations/categories, e.g., irrigation lakes vs. mountain lakes.

1st step: Agree on categories which should include 80% with the remaining 20% being unique.

2nd step: Use the standards already developed in terms of TMDL

Policies:

Balance between Water Quality and the cost of treatment, between cost and changing standards

Numeric standards for similar bodies in different states

Small groups develop specific standards for specific bodies that have existing models

Develop a range for standards for others with monitoring

Invest discretionary funds in treatment and monitoring vs. endless studies with marginal value

Use common sense: Don't force nutrients into a landfills; focus on utilization and recycling

Standards are already in place (NRCS) Give credence to existing standards

EPA allows a lot of flexibility. Place based and several factors. Look at different states with similar geological groupings

Look at those waters with identified concerns. Prioritize

There are many non point sources and just a few point sources therefore, do not use specific numeric standards; look at the impact on specific situations

We are not the first state to face this. We should pay attention to other states responses.

A. Biome bounded, natural processes

B. Landscape, land processes, combination of vegetation, soils, water, agriculture, range lands, e.g., watershed not municipal or geographic boundaries

Establish standards based on designated or beneficial uses. Get evidence then establish a range to get to a standard.

Establish standards that are achievable and reasonable for all parties that are balanced and realistic. Look for benchmarks in other states.

We need cooperation with DEQ where N is in watersheds and is an issue. NRCS helps agriculture to conserve natural resources

We have to look at categorization systems.

Our standards are based on recreational suitability; inviting, comfortable, appearance, clean

In agriculture, we have standards for everything except for P which may be impossible. Maybe an indicator or a range is doable.

Standards need to be based on good science.

A range of appropriate values of site specifics including beneficial use.

Standards need to be reasonable including physical characteristics of different water bodies. Establish attainable use with site specific standards blended with reasonable economic impact.

The state has to decide if they are going to be a player vs. a victim. Then, prioritize on the basis of achievability.

2. What recommendations do you have for the process to achieve those outcomes?

Get all the stakeholders together and ask: What is the right thing, not necessarily the easy thing for the environment?

Standards are already in place; use them.

Use broad based, societal funded or incented programs

Look at classifications on sources: Class 1's, secondary, agriculture, stream segments.

Be careful about overall or general standards. Set trigger points at certain locations.

It is important to lay out what principles are at the center of these issues:

- economic
- scientific
- evidentiary
- societal
- regulatory including EPA/other states
- DEQ leadership position

Have all impacted parties at the table

Give agriculture a stronger environmental ethic

Agree first on a minimum standard relative to costs and a maximum expenditure

Define what "good" is

3. Who else do we need to include in our discussions to achieve those outcomes?

Policy people

Health DOH given that there are Nitrates in drinking water

Groundwater/other sources: septic tanks, Federal Government (BLM and Forest Service)

Industry

The team in the room is sufficient. The BLM and Forest Service could be included. Maybe the Farm Bureau.

Urban landscaping companies to encourage voluntary participation
Fertilizer manufacturers

Address air quality. N has an air component

Right people there now
Include the private nonprofits: anglers, fishermen

Watershed coordinators. Keep them current, and get impacts from the extension services, conservations agencies or agriculture

Governor's office: Greg Bell and the right legislators

Other Comments

Identify which systems are most sensitive and then prioritize
Incent recycling not just containment

Be careful about overall or general standards. Set trigger points at certain locations

We don't want to be the poster child for poor water quality. Make sure we message carefully

Areas of Agreement

1. Use different standards for different situations
2. Categorize different situations
3. Use standards that already exist, have been modeled, based on evidence and good science, based on ranges that are a blend of intended use, impact, natural processes (biomes), common sense, costs, societal impact, and attainable use.
4. We have most of the people who are stakeholders: maybe include BLM, Forest Service, Farm Bureau, Governor's office, legislators; involve others as standards and policies are developed
5. Better to use voluntary programs and incentives that include recycling

Areas of Disagreement

1. Numeric standards (minority opinion in that there were just a few who opined about numeric standards)

Recommendations

- Assign a subgroup to draft a categorization system then bring to larger group for discussion
- Once sufficient agreement on categorization system is achieved, assign a subgroup to review benchmarks for standards for these categories.
- Review benchmarks for factors which include: good science and evidence, intended use, economic impact, attainable use, societal benefit, etc.
- Prepare draft standards for each category or unique situations
- Establish communication process to outreach and gain input from stakeholders on categories and standards, particularly Governor's office and legislature
- Integrate input into categorization and standards
- Propose categorization and standards to legislature as DEQ policies/rules with ongoing monitoring and improvement process recommendations
- Establish either an ongoing stakeholder group or integrate into Water Quality Board to monitor progress