From: Daniel.Redline@deq.idaho.gov
To: Nickel, Brian
Cc: June.Bergquist@deq.idaho.gov
Subject: FW: Request from Sandpoint on WWTP improvements and Smart Growth
Date: Monday, September 28, 2015 1:03:58 PM

Brian,
FYI on this email. See the emails string below that involves a number of other EPA staff that probably don't have the same background that you do on these projects. Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks,
Dan Redline
Regional Administrator, Coeur d'Alene Office
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Office Phone: 208-769-1422
Direct Line: 208-666-4621
Daniel.redline@deq.idaho.gov

From: Daniel Redline
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 12:59 PM
To: Chas Ariss; Tressa Nicholas; Mary Anne Nelson
Cc: Matthew Plaisted; June Bergquist; Thomas Herron
Subject: RE: Request from Sandpoint on WWTP improvements and Smart Growth
Chas,
Just so you know, this is a complicated situation that involves a lot of players so please check with the regional staff that have been working on these projects in both Sandpoint and the Kootenai-Ponderay area.
June has been working on the 401 certifications for the draft permits that EPA (Brian Nickel) has been working on for several years for both the City of Sandpoint and the K/P Sewer District.
Tom, June and other TMDL staff have been working with these communities on a nutrient management plan for Lake Pend Oreille and the Pend Oreille River.
Matt has been in the loop on the engineering side of the discussion as well.
Over all, I think this office is supportive of the regionalization effort especially if it leads to an overall lower loading of nutrients to these two connected water bodies, one of which has a TMDL for nutrients. The city of Sandpoint has already purchase property for a potential regional WWTP and it has been a matter of timing and cost when they start to seriously plan for going that route.
Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks for keeping us in the loop.
Dan Redline
Regional Administrator, Coeur d'Alene Office
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Office Phone: 208-769-1422
Direct Line: 208-666-4621
Daniel.redline@deq.idaho.gov

From: Chas Ariss
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 12:26 PM
To: Pepper, Maureen; Tressa Nicholas; Tyler Fortunati; Mary Anne Nelson; moreilly@americawalks.org
Cc: sroberts@idahoruralwater.com; Lopez, Maria; Matthew Plaisted; Daniel Redline
Subject: RE: Request from Sandpoint on WWTP improvements and Smart Growth
Sounds good Maureen

From: Pepper, Maureen [mailto:Pepper.Maureen@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 1:25 PM
To: Chas Ariss; Tressa Nicholas; Tyler Fortunati; Mary Anne Nelson; moreilly@americawalks.org
Cc: sroberts@idahoruralwater.com; Lopez, Maria; Matthew Plaisted; Daniel Redline
Subject: RE: Request from Sandpoint on WWTP improvements and Smart Growth
Chas,
This would be fantastic, thank you! I can let Molly and Aaron know and see if that date works for them and connect you all.
~Maureen

¯`·.,,.·¯`·.¯`·.,,.·¯`·., ><((((º>
Maureen A. Pepper (Tooke)
Decentralized Wastewater Mgmt Program/SepticSmart
U.S. EPA - Idaho Operations Office(IOO)
950 W. Bannock St., Ste. 900
Boise, ID 83702
P: 208/378-5626
E: pepper.maureen@epa.gov
http://www.epa.gov/septicsmart

From: Chas.Ariss@deq.idaho.gov [mailto:Chas.Ariss@deq.idaho.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 1:12 PM
To: Pepper, Maureen; Tressa.Nicholas@deq.idaho.gov; Tyler.Fortunati@deq.idaho.gov; mary.anne.nelson@deq.idaho.gov; moreilly@americawalks.org
Cc: sroberts@idahoruralwater.com; Lopez, Maria; Matthew.Plaisted@deq.idaho.gov; Daniel.Redline@deq.idaho.gov
Subject: RE: Request from Sandpoint on WWTP improvements and Smart Growth
Maureen:
I and other DEQ staff will be in Coeur d'Alene the week of October 19th conducting water reuse training Tuesday October 20th – Thursday October 22nd . We have travel days planned for October 19 & 23 (Monday & Friday).
Since we are all driving, I would be amenable to visiting the Sandpoint WWTP on Friday October 23rd to take a look at their plant and discuss their concerns.
Chas Ariss, PE
Wastewater Engineering Program Manager
Idaho DEQ
1410 North Hilton
Boise, ID 83706
208.373.0561 Direct
208.373.0576 Fax
chas.ariss@deq.idaho.gov

From: Pepper, Maureen [mailto:Pepper.Maureen@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 11:21 AM
To: Chas Ariss; Tressa Nicholas; Tyler Fortunati; Mary Anne Nelson
Cc: sroberts@idahoruralwater.com; Lopez, Maria
Subject: Request from Sandpoint on WWTP improvements and Smart Growth
Importance: High
All,
EPA received an email from the City of Sandpoint regarding their concern about sprawl related to the impending need to upgrade/expansion of their WWTP that made its way to me. They are having compliance issues with their permit which does fall in EPA's camp but there are many components here and still is a state and local issue.
Molly's original email is below, followed by my summary of the call I had them to find out more about what the issues are and how we could help them to EPA R10 folks and then my response to Sandpoint with materials I am aware of that I thought could get them started. I am still not totally sure how it ended up in my lap but I am guessing my experience with decentralized, working with small communities, and coordinating with all of you is probably why they asked me to be the initial POC…they were looking for someone to champion this.
Where this stands now is my looking for advice on next steps as they offered to do a tour to show what their issues are. After talking to Maria Lopez it seems that this might be more in your camp at this point than in. There are several components to this, compliance, smart growth, regionalization, additional nutrient loading to Lake Pend Oreille from expansion of WWTP, impervious surfaces, etc.
Please read from the bottom up. Thank you for your time and I will follow up with EPA R10 folks in the meantime.
Regards,
~Maureen

¯`·.,,.·¯`·.¯`·.,,.·¯`·., ><((((º>
Maureen A. Pepper (Tooke)
Decentralized Wastewater Mgmt Program/SepticSmart
U.S. EPA - Idaho Operations Office(IOO)
950 W. Bannock St., Ste. 900
Boise, ID 83702
P: 208/378-5626
E: pepper.maureen@epa.gov
http://www.epa.gov/septicsmart

From: Pepper, Maureen
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 5:01 PM
To: 'Molly O Reilly'; Aaron Qualls
Subject: Following up
Importance: High
Molly and Aaron,
It was great to talk with you both on Tuesday and learn about the challenges facing the City of Sandpoint and how EPA and others can assist your city in finding a way to grow smartly.
I have sent summary to my colleagues that asked that I follow up with you and a few others that I think would provide valuable input. While I await a response I am sending you the following materials to look over that I think would get you started.

- There is a chapter in a rural smart growth publication on "using wastewater infrastructure practices that meet development goals," which would address many of the issues they are facing: http://www2.epa.gov/smartgrowth/essential-smart-growth-fixes-communities#Rural_Planning_Zoning_and_Development_Codes. (this is attached as a PDF as well)

- There is also the report from the technical assistance project we did with the Spokane Tribe to help with water and wastewater planning: http://www2.epa.gov/smartgrowth/long-term-planning-sustainable-water-and-wastewater-infrastructure-wellpinit-washington.
- WERF's information on Responsible Management Entities (RME's) for decentralized wastewater infrastructure (typically cluster/community systems) - http://www.werf.org/i/c/KnowledgeAreas/DecentralizedSystems/RMEsite/RMEs_2.aspx.
- The case studies attached are examples of each level of management (1-5) in EPA's Voluntary Management Guidelines for Onsite and Clustered Wastewater Treatment Systems. Management levels 4 and 5 call for an RME.
  Here are the Guidelines: http://water.epa.gov/scitech/wastetech/upload/septic_guidelines.pdf
- Effective and Sustainable Utility Management – This is a resource developed jointly by EPA and USDA. There are several resources and tools here: http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/sustain/watereum.cfm

There are two organizations that serve Idaho that provide technical assistance that would be good resources for you as well, they are Idaho Rural Water Association (IRWA) and the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC). I have contacts at both organizations if you would like to contact them. In addition I can connect you with the wastewater folks at Idaho DEQ. EPA currently has permit authority in Idaho but the IDEQ does do a great deal of work in this area and could provide assistance as well.

Shelley Roberts, IRWA
Chief Executive Officer
(208) 343-7001 (office)
(208) 860-9661 (cell)
sroberts@idahoruralwater.com
Chas Ariss, IDEQ
Wastewater Engineering Program Manager
(208) 373-0561
chas.ariss@deq.idaho.gov
Carol Cohen ,RCAC
(801) 505-8412
ccohen@rcac.org

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.
Regards,
~Maureen

¯`·.,,.·´¯`·.¯`·.,,.·´¯`·., ><((((º>
Maureen A. Pepper (Tooke)
Decentralized Wastewater Mgmt Program/SepticSmart
U.S. EPA - Idaho Operations Office(IOO)
950 W. Bannock St., Ste. 900
Boise, ID 83702
P: 208/378-5626
E: pepper.maureen@epa.gov
http://www.epa.gov/septicsmart

On 9/16, I followed up with and spoke to Molly O'Reilly and Aaron Qualls, Director of Planning & Economic Development with the City of Sandpoint, ID yesterday to find out what their issues are and what they are seeking EPA's assistance with. The City of Sandpoint is having some compliance issues and are facing upgrading/expanding their wastewater treatment plant. They are concerned about extending the sewer line and creating sprawl as they would like to maintain the character of their community. Growth is inevitable but they want to do it in a smart way.

Sandpoint's sewer lines are currently restricted to the city limits. Sandpoint's user rates are already quite high and they are concerned that the users won't be able to afford it if the there is an expansion/regionalization. They are further concerned about the added impervious pavement that come with the sewer line extension and therefore additional stormwater runoff and pollutant loading to Lake Pend Oreille.

That said, they are in the beginning phase of looking at solutions to this issue. They very much want to grow smartly and coordinate with two neighboring towns, the county and the Kootenai/Pend Oreille Sewer District.

I indicated that I could send them some materials electronically that I thought might be helpful as well as talk to some colleagues about other information and best practices from other communities. I suggested that they might want to host a meeting with the county, sewer district and the neighboring towns of Dover and Kootenai so that they can discuss the issue and possibly develop a plan to look at all wastewater infrastructure options for the future together. My suggestions were well received and they are offered to host a visit to the Sandpoint and talk about solutions going forward.

This request for assistance as I see it is multi-layered and I, as the initial POC, ask for your input on next steps as well as information that can be forwarded to them that would be of assistance.

From: Molly O'Reilly [mailto:moreilly@americawalks.org]
Subject: EPA is forcing my town to subsidize sprawl!

Hi Kathy,

You and I met at New Partners for Smart Growth in San Diego. My "subject" is a bit overdrawn, but truer than I'd like.

My family lives in the North Idaho city of Sandpoint. It's a town of 7,500 in a county of 40,000. Several smaller towns surround us with low density sprawl beyond that. EPA is requiring our sewage system and an adjoining one that extends into the countryside to undergo such expensive upgrades that "regionalization" is starting to look like the only cost effective answer.

As you know, restricting urban-level services is often the only way a municipality can avoid fostering sprawl beyond its borders. EPA is pushing sewer "regionalization" in other ways as well; subsidizing a technical study of combining the sewer systems but that does not consider the economic impacts of inducing sprawl. Sandpoint would have no control over future expansion of that system, and the Kootenai-Ponderay Sewer District answers to no municipality.

So, the way EPA is pursuing clean water (an essential goal) is forcing a progressive, relatively dense little town to subsidize the sprawl that will ultimately undermine our core and livability. Is there another path that could be taken?

Thank you,
Molly O'Reilly