STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor
John H. Tippets, Director

May 20, 2016

Pat Trainor
Friends of the Weiser River
PO Box 262
Council, ID 83612

Re: Reference No. NWW-2010-000348
Weiser River Trail, Bank Stabilization

Dear Mr. Trainor:

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has considered water quality certification for construction related to the referenced project. DEQ is issuing the attached 401 Water Quality Certification subject to the terms and conditions contained therein.

This certification shall remain in effect until December 30, 2016, at which time construction must be completed.

If you have any questions or further information to present please contact Julia Achabal at 208-373-0321 or via email at Julia.Achabal@deq.idaho.gov.

Sincerely,

Aaron Scheff
Regional Administrator
Boise Regional Office

JRA

ec: Christen Marve Griffith, COE, Boise
Nicole Deinarowicz, DEQ State Office
TRIM 2016AKF36

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Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

Final §401 Water Quality Certification

May 20, 2016

404 Permit Application Number: NWW-2010-00348, Weiser River Trail, Bank Stabilization

Applicant/Authorized Agent: Friends of Weiser River Trail

Project Location: Near the confluence of the Weiser River and Grizzly Creek in Washington County, near Cambridge, Idaho. Latitude 44° 37' 19.5"N ; longitude -116° 36' 37" W

Receiving Water Body: Weiser River

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 401(a)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), as amended; 33 U.S.C. Section 1341(a)(1); and Idaho Code §§ 39-101 et seq. and 39-3601 et seq., the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has authority to review activities receiving Section 404 dredge and fill permits and issue water quality certification decisions.

Based upon its review of the joint application for permit, received on April 14, 2016, DEQ certifies that if the permittee complies with the terms and conditions imposed by the permit along with the conditions set forth in this water quality certification, then there is reasonable assurance the activity will comply with the applicable requirements of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Clean Water Act, the Idaho Water Quality Standards (WQS) (IDAPA 58.01.02), and other appropriate water quality requirements of state law.

This certification does not constitute authorization of the permitted activities by any other state or federal agency or private person or entity. This certification does not excuse the permit holder from the obligation to obtain any other necessary approvals, authorizations, or permits.

This certification shall remain in effect until December 30, 2016 at which time construction must be completed.

Project Description

This project will stabilize approximately 180 linear feet of the Weiser River bank adjacent to the Weiser River Trail. Existing rock bank barbs will be modified and eroded banks between barbs will be rebuilt by installing a rock toe, root wad with backfill material and willow plantings into the Weiser River.

Antidegradation Review

The WQS contain an antidegradation policy providing three levels of protection to water bodies in Idaho (IDAPA 58.01.02.051).

- Tier 1 Protection. The first level of protection applies to all water bodies subject to Clean Water Act jurisdiction and ensures that existing uses of a water body and the level of water quality necessary to protect those existing uses will be maintained and protected (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.01; 58.01.02.052.01). Additionally, a Tier 1 review is performed for all new or reissued permits or licenses (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.07).
- Tier 2 Protection. The second level of protection applies to those water bodies considered high quality and ensures that no lowering of water quality will be allowed unless deemed necessary to accommodate important economic or social development (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.02; 58.01.02.052.08).
- Tier 3 Protection. The third level of protection applies to water bodies that have been designated outstanding resource waters and requires that activities not cause a lowering of water quality (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.03; 58.01.02.052.09).

DEQ is employing a water body by water body approach to implementing Idaho's antidegradation policy. This approach means that any water body fully supporting its beneficial uses will be considered high quality (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.05.a). Any water body not fully supporting its beneficial uses will be provided Tier 1 protection for that use, unless specific circumstances warranting Tier 2 protection are met (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.05.c). The most recent federally approved Integrated Report and supporting data are used to determine support status and the tier of protection (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.05).

Pollutants of Concern

The primary pollutants of concern for this project are sediment and temperature. As part of the Section 401 water quality certification, DEQ is requiring the applicant comply with various conditions to protect water quality and to meet Idaho WQS, including the water quality criteria applicable to sediment and temperature.

Receiving Water Body Level of Protection

This project is located on the Weiser River within the Weiser Subbasin assessment unit (AU) 17050124SW007_05 (Weiser River – Hornet Creek to Little Weiser River). This AU has been designated for cold water aquatic life, primary contact recreation and domestic water supply beneficial uses. In addition to these uses, all waters of the state are protected for agricultural and industrial water supply, wildlife habitat, and aesthetics (IDAPA 58.01.02.100).

According to DEQ's 2012 Integrated Report, this AU is not fully supporting one or more of its assessed uses. The aquatic life use is not fully supported and the cause of impairment is temperature. The contact recreation beneficial use is fully supported. As such, DEQ will provide Tier 1 protection (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.01) for the aquatic life use and Tier 2 protection (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.02) in addition to Tier 1 for the contact recreation use (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.05.c).

The pollutants of concern associated with this project are sediment and temperature. These pollutants are not relevant to recreational uses; therefore, it is unnecessary for DEQ to conduct a Tier 2 review for this AU because this project will not create impacts that could affect the recreation use.

Protection and Maintenance of Existing Uses (Tier 1 Protection)

As noted above, a Tier 1 review is performed for all new or reissued permits or licenses, applies to all waters subject to the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act, and requires demonstration that existing uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect existing uses shall be maintained and protected. The numeric and narrative criteria in the WQS are set at levels that ensure protection of designated beneficial uses.

Water bodies not supporting existing or designated beneficial uses must be identified as water quality limited, and a total maximum daily load (TMDL) must be prepared for those pollutants causing impairment. Once a TMDL is developed, discharges of causative pollutants shall be consistent with the allocations in the TMDL (IDAPA 58.01.02.055.05). Prior to the development of the TMDL, the WQS require the application of the antidegradation policy and implementation provisions to maintain and protect uses (IDAPA 58.01.02.055.04).

During the construction phase, the applicant will implement, install, maintain, monitor, and adaptively manage best management practices (BMPs) directed toward reducing erosion and minimizing turbidity levels in receiving water bodies downstream of the project. In addition, permanent erosion and sediment controls will be implemented, which will minimize or prevent future sediment contributions from the project area. This project will be implemented during the late fall during low flows to reduce the potential for turbidity. As long as the project is conducted in accordance with the provisions of the project plans, Section 404 permit, and conditions of this certification, then there is reasonable assurance the project will comply with the state's numeric and narrative criteria. These criteria are set at levels that protect and maintain designated and existing beneficial uses. In addition, the project will be consistent with the *Weiser River Subbasin Temperature Total Maximum Daily Loads*. The temperature TMDL addresses solar loading to streams as a result of shade from riparian vegetation and topography. In addition to stabilizing the eroding bank of the Weiser River this project will improve riparian shade by the planting of willows, grasses and shrubs into the area above and at bank-full.

There is no available information indicating the presence of any existing beneficial uses aside from those that are already designated and discussed above; therefore, the permit ensures that the level of water quality necessary to protect both designated and existing uses is maintained and protected in compliance with the Tier 1 provisions of Idaho's WQS (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.01 and 58.01.02.052.07).

Conditions Necessary to Ensure Compliance with Water Quality Standards or Other Appropriate Water Quality Requirements of State Law

General Conditions

1. This certification is conditioned upon the requirement that any modification (e.g., change in BMPs, work windows, etc.) of the permitted activity shall first be provided to DEQ for review to determine compliance with Idaho WQS and to provide additional certification pursuant to Section 401. Such modifications may not be implemented until DEQ has determined whether additional certification is necessary.
2. DEQ reserves the right to modify, amend, or revoke this certification if DEQ determines that, due to changes in relevant circumstances—including without limitation, changes in project activities, the characteristics of the receiving water bodies, or state WQS—there is no longer reasonable assurance of compliance with WQS or other appropriate requirements of state law.
3. If ownership of the project changes, the certification holder shall notify DEQ, in writing, upon transferring this ownership or responsibility for compliance with these conditions to another person or party. The new owner/operator shall request, in writing, the transfer of this water quality certification to his/her name.
4. A copy of this certification must be kept on the job site and readily available for review by any contractor working on the project and any federal, state, or local government personnel.
5. Project areas shall be clearly identified in the field prior to initiating land-disturbing activities to ensure avoidance of impacts to waters of the state beyond project footprints.
6. The applicant shall provide access to the project site and all mitigation sites upon request by DEQ personnel for site inspections, monitoring, and/or to ensure that conditions of this certification are being met.
7. The applicant is responsible for all work done by contractors and must ensure the contractors are informed of and follow all the conditions described in this certification and the Section 404 permit.
8. If this project disturbs more than 1 acre and there is potential for discharge of stormwater to waters of the state, coverage under the EPA Stormwater Construction General Permit *must* be obtained. More information can be found at http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/WATER.NSF/NPDES+Permits/Region+10+CGP+resources.

Fill Material

1. Fill material shall be free of organic and easily suspendable fine material. The fill material to be placed shall include clean earth fill, sand, and stone only.
2. All temporary fills shall be removed in their entirety on or before construction completion.
3. Excavated or staged fill material must be placed so it is isolated from the water edge and not placed where it could re-enter waters of the state uncontrolled.

Erosion and Sediment Control

1. BMPs for sediment and erosion control suitable to prevent exceedances of state WQS shall be selected and installed before starting construction at the site. One resource that may be used in evaluating appropriate BMPs is DEQ's *Catalog of Stormwater Best Management Practices for Idaho Cities and Counties*, available online at http://www.deq.idaho.gov/media/494058-entire.pdf. Other resources may also be used for selecting appropriate BMPs.
2. One of the first construction activities shall be placing permanent and/or temporary erosion and sediment control measures around the perimeter of the project or initial work areas to protect the project water resources.
3. Permanent erosion and sediment control measures shall be installed in a manner that will provide long-term sediment and erosion control to prevent excess sediment from entering waters of the state.
4. Permanent erosion and sediment control measures shall be installed at the earliest practicable time consistent with good construction practices and shall be maintained as necessary throughout project operation.
5. Top elevations of bank stabilization shall be such that adequate freeboard is provided to protect from erosion at 100-year design flood elevation.
6. Structural fill or bank protection shall consist of materials that are placed and maintained to withstand predictable high flows in the waters of the state.
7. A BMP inspection and maintenance plan must be developed and implemented. At a minimum, BMPs must be inspected and maintained daily during project implementation and shall be replaced or augmented if they are not effective.
8. All construction debris shall be properly disposed of so it cannot enter waters of the state or cause water quality degradation.
9. Disturbed areas suitable for vegetation shall be seeded or revegetated to prevent subsequent soil erosion.
10. Maximum fill slopes shall be such that material is structurally stable once placed and does not slough into the stream channel during construction, during periods prior to revegetation, or after vegetation is established.
11. To the extent reasonable and cost-effective, the activity submitted for certification shall be designed to minimize subsequent maintenance.
12. Sediment from disturbed areas or able to be tracked by vehicles onto pavement must not be allowed to leave the site in amounts that would reasonably be expected to enter waters of the state. Placement of clean aggregate at all construction entrances or exits and other BMPs such as truck or wheel washes, if needed, must be used when earth-moving equipment will be leaving the site and traveling on paved surfaces.

Turbidity

1. Sediment resulting from this activity must be mitigated to prevent violations of the turbidity standard as stipulated under the Idaho WQS (IDAPA 58.01.02). *Any violation of this standard must be reported to the DEQ regional office immediately.*

2. All practical BMPs on disturbed banks and within the waters of the state must be implemented to minimize turbidity. Visual observation is acceptable to determine whether BMPs are functioning properly. If a plume is observed, the project may be causing an exceedance of WQS and the permittee must inspect the condition of the projects BMPs. If the BMPs appear to be functioning to their fullest capability, then the permittee must modify the activity or implement additional BMPs (this may also include modifying existing BMPs).
3. Containment measures such as silt curtains, geotextile fabrics, and silt fences must be implemented and properly maintained to minimize instream sediment suspension and resulting turbidity.

In-water Work

1. Work in open water is to be kept at a minimum and only when necessary. Equipment shall work from an upland site to minimize disturbance of waters of the state. If this is not practicable, appropriate measures must be taken to ensure disturbance to the waters of the state is minimized.
2. Construction affecting the bed or banks shall take place only during periods of low flow.
3. Fording of the channel is not permitted.
4. Activities in spawning areas must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable.
5. Work in waters of the state shall be restricted to areas specified in the application.

Vegetation Protection and Restoration

1. Disturbance of existing native vegetation shall be kept to a minimum.
2. To the maximum extent practical, staging areas and access points should be placed in open, upland areas.
3. Fencing and other barriers should be used to mark the construction areas.
4. If authorized work results in unavoidable vegetative disturbance, riparian vegetation shall be successfully reestablished to function for water quality benefit at pre-project levels or improved at the completion of authorized work.

Dredge Material Management

1. Upland disposal of dredged material must be done in a manner that prevents the material from re-entering waters of the state.

Management of Hazardous or Deleterious Materials

1. Petroleum products and hazardous, toxic, and/or deleterious materials shall not be stored, disposed of, or accumulated adjacent to or in the immediate vicinity of waters of the state. Adequate measures and controls must be in place to ensure that those materials will not enter waters of the state as a result of high water, precipitation runoff, wind, storage facility failure, accidents in operation, or unauthorized third-party activities.
2. Vegetable-based hydraulic fluid should be used on equipment operating in or directly adjacent to the channel if this fluid is available.

3. Daily inspections of all fluid systems on equipment to be used in or near waters of the state shall be done to ensure no leaks or potential leaks exist prior to equipment use. A log book of these inspections shall be kept on site and provided to DEQ upon request.
4. Equipment and machinery must be removed from the vicinity of the waters of the state prior to refueling, repair, and/or maintenance.
5. Equipment and machinery shall be steam cleaned of oils and grease in an upland location or staging area with appropriate wastewater controls and treatment prior to entering a water of the state. Any wastewater or wash water must not be allowed to enter a water of the state.
6. Emergency spill procedures shall be in place and may include a spill response kit (e.g., oil absorbent booms or other equipment).
7. Any release that causes a sheen (of any size) in waters of the state must be reported *immediately* to the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802 and DEQ by calling the Idaho State Communications Center at 1-800-632-8000.

Right to Appeal Final Certification

The final Section 401 Water Quality Certification may be appealed by submitting a petition to initiate a contested case, pursuant to Idaho Code § 39-107(5) and the "Rules of Administrative Procedure before the Board of Environmental Quality" (IDAPA 58.01.23), within 35 days of the date of the final certification.

Questions or comments regarding the actions taken in this certification should be directed to Julia Achabal, Boise Regional Office, 373-0321 or julia.achabal@deq.idaho.gov.

Aaron Scheff
Regional Administrator
Boise Regional Office