

MID-SNAKE WATERSHED ADVISORY GROUP

Meeting Minutes

Department of Environmental Quality
650 Addison Avenue West, Suite 110, Twin Falls, Idaho
Wednesday, August 13, 2014, 6:00 p.m.

Attendees

Jay Barlogi – Twin Falls Canal Company
Steve Canty – DEQ, Twin Falls Regional Office Intern
Mark Daily – Aquaculture
Gary Fornshell - University of Idaho
Randy MacMillan – Clear Springs Foods
Gary Marquardt – SeaPac of Idaho
Andy Morton – Clear Springs Food
Katie Shewmaker – DEQ, Twin Falls Regional Office
Sue Switzer – DEQ, Twin Falls Regional Office
Craig Thomas – DEQ, Twin Falls Regional Office
Mike Trabert – McClure Engineering

Welcome

The meeting of the Mid Snake Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) was called to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. by Mike Trabert, WAG Chairman. The attendees introduced themselves.

WAG Business

- The minutes for the previous meeting on May 14, 2014 were reviewed. A couple of grammar corrections were suggested on Page 2: paragraph 3, change “switch” to “switched” and in paragraph 6 change “then taken out” to “take out.” Brian Hoelscher sent an email suggesting the language be changed on the last sentence of page 3 because the TAC and/or topic were not on the August agenda. Mike stated that we were supposed to talk about it in today’s meeting, but it did not make it on the agenda. However, it was the discussion we had in the last meeting, and we want the minutes to hold to our discussion. A motion was made by Randy MacMillan to approve the minutes, and seconded by Mark Daily. It was a unanimous vote to approve the minutes with stated grammatical changes.
- There will be a meeting on September 17 to roll out the final Tetra Tech Report from EPA and DEQ. DEQ Twin Falls Regional Office is encouraging EPA and State Office to get it out to the WAG as soon as possible so there will be time to review it. It was agreed that the TAC discussion would be placed on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting in November.

319 Introductions

Katie Shewmaker announced that the 2014 funding for 319 finally arrived. There were two projects funded from our BAG: Jay Barlogi's project, 39/39A, and one of the projects Chris Banks' presented. Grants closed for this fiscal year on August 1. There are two projects from our region both from this WAG; they will be presented tonight. There are total of 14 projects that will be presented to the BAG in October. The Super BAG will review them and vote in December.

Phase II Mud Creek/Silo Creek Project

Jay Barlogi gave a PowerPoint presentation of this project. It is the same project presented last year with a few small changes. This project will include a wetland complex where the Lateral 23 intersects with the I-1 and J-1 Coulees within the Twin Falls Canal Company (TFCC) system. The wetland complex will include two cleaning cells and two finishing ponds. It has good Water Quality benefits as well as good wildlife benefits. We expect 64% reduction in TSS and 60% reduction in TP. Total cost of the project is \$344,000; most of that is for the pivot mount. Cost share is 50/50% on the pivot. Estimated matching funds are \$158,740; 319 grant amount is \$185,910. Sources of the funds are TFCC for construction, Balanced Rock Soil and Water Conservation District for the management of the project and the land owner for the conservation easement and 50% of the cost of the pivot.

It was suggested by the WAG that the presentation to the BAG include slides showing not only the percentage of reduction, but also the expected load reduction as a benefit to the TMDL. Randy MacMillan made a motion to approve the project, Mark Daily seconded, and all voted in favor.

N Coulee Irrigation Conversion Project

Stan Hays was unable to attend the meeting; Jay presented Stan's PowerPoint of the project. It is located at 3900 N 750 E, Buhl, way over towards Castleford. The project includes approximately 300 acres of cropland. It drops 130 feet in elevation from where the water is delivered to where it drops off the canyon rim; it is very steep and highly erodible. The land is all being gravity irrigated. The erosion from these fields is degrading the water quality improvements obtained above the project. The project will include putting pivots on the land to stop all the erosion.

It was suggested by the WAG that the presentation be revised to emphasize the pollution reduction the project would lead to. It was also suggested that the information in the presentation be broken down into each individual pivot and what the benefits and the cost are for each one. If the project is not funded this year, it was suggested that the project be submitted in segments or phases so the cost is within program limitations and might more likely be funded. The WAG does approve the project and will move it forward.

Review of WAG Bylaws

The final draft of the bylaws was made available to the attendees. There was much discussion concerning Article IV and whether to add the DEQ's BAG and WAG Appointments: Process for Appointing Member as an addendum to the bylaws. Andy

will formulate language for a sentence to be added to Article IV of the bylaws to incorporate the use of DEQ's process for appointment. He will send that to Sue and it will be put on the agenda to be voted on at the next meeting.

It was decided that a list of current members of the WAG and Randy MacMillan as the food processors representative will be sent up to the BAG for approved voting membership.

The advertisement will be left on the WAG web site and when an individual becomes interested, we will ask DEQ to begin formal process.

DEQ Updates

- 2012 Integrated Report has been approved by EPA. It is no longer draft, and it is online and available to you.
- They are working on the final tweaks of the Tetra Tech Report for the reevaluation of the Mid-Snake/Upper Snake Rock TMDL. The Twin Falls Regional Office is pushing to get that document out to the WAG as soon as possible. They have scheduled a meeting for September 17 at 6:00 p.m. Sue believes Ben Cope of Tetra Tech will be here as well as Leigh Woodruff, Marti Bridges, and Sonny Buhidar. Mike will draft a letter to be put on WAG letterhead formally requesting the WAG receive the final document prior to the meeting on September 17.
- DEQ Groundwater Program had completed the 2014 Nitrate Priority Area Delineation and Ranking Process. It is available on line; Sue had a copy available at the meeting if any wanted to look at it.
- The Jerome Cheese Company and Jerome City Wasteload Allocation Revisions is out to public comment until September 27.
- The last Triennial Review of the Water Quality Standards will be August 20 at 6:00 p.m. in this room. The documents are on the DEQ web site

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:35 p.m.



WAG Chairman

9/17/2019

Approval Date