

Lake Walcott Watershed Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes

Burley City Council Room
Burley, Idaho
Thursday, August 21, 2014, 2:00 p.m.

Attendees

Mike Beus – Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
Sonny Buhidar – DEQ-TFRO
Rich Bupp – DEQ-TFRO
Steve Canty – DEQ-TFRO intern
Carolyn Firth – Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC)
Tom Geary – Rancher
John Hildreth – Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
Clyde Lay – Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
John Lind – Burley Irrigation District
Alan Monek – Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
Katie Shewmaker – DEQ-TFRO
Cody Sibbett – Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at approximately 2:05 p.m. by Chairman, Tom Geary. Everyone in attendance was welcomed, and each of the attendees introduced themselves and whom they represented at the meeting.

WAG Business

- The minutes from the previous Lake Walcott Watershed Advisory Group meeting on February 20, 2014, were reviewed and approved as written.
- The next meeting for the Lake Walcott WAG will be held October 23, 2014 at the BOR office in Heyburn.

Water Storage Carryover in the Upper Snake River

Mike Beus from the Bureau of Reclamation presented on the water storage outlook in the Upper Snake River and American Falls. The sources of water include: carryover storage, winter precipitation, base flow of rivers and tributaries, ground water (springs) and spring and summer precipitation. BOR manages the demands from multiple users on storage water that include irrigation and canal companies, Endangered Species Act (ESA) anadromous fish, hydropower production, water delivery to certain water users, and groundwater recharge. The system is

managed to utilize low capacity reservoirs first, then drawdown begins on the larger reservoirs. The day of the presentation American Falls was at 52 percent capacity. BOR was planning changes to send water to American Falls to keep the reservoir above 100,000 acre-feet. However, due to the recent storm events; BOR is forecasting that the reservoir will stay above 200,000, if not 3000,000 acre-feet.

Minidoka Spillway Replacement

Cody Sibbett from the Bureau of Reclamation presented on the Minidoka Dam construction project. The 21.3 million construction contract was awarded to RSCI, Inc. from Meridian, ID. The total project cost of 28.9 million including: 42% from the irrigation district reimbursement (about \$12.1 million), 50% Bonneville Power Administration, and 8% multi-use (e.g. flood control, recreation, wildlife). The presentation included pictures of the construction efforts for the 12 gate spillway during all phases of progress. The anticipated completion date is March 2015 and the project is on schedule.

DEQ Updates

Katie Shewmaker presented on the following updates:

- 2012 Integrated Report: The 2012 Integrated Report has been approved by EPA and is available on our website.
- Lake Walcott PNV and E. coli TMDL Update: The document is still pending approval at EPA.
- 2014 Nitrate Priority Area Delineation and Ranking Process: The rankings have been finalized and the report is available on the DEQ website. Irene Nautch is the DEQ groundwater specialist and can be reached at the TFRO for questions. Dates are being finalized for a groundwater seminar in Twin Falls in October.
- 319 Projects: There were no 319 project applications submitted this year within the Lake Walcott Watershed boundaries or for the Little Wood. Two were submitted for review to the Mid-Snake WAG. The Upper Snake BAG will review applications in October. The Super Bag will meet in December to review all state 319 applications.
- Triennial Review: Sonny Buhidar explained that the DEQ Triennial Review was currently taking place. The comment period is open to anyone that would like to submit comments.
- Membership: If anyone has ideas for reaching out to new membership interests, please talk to Katie or Rich. If there are ideas for presentations or information requests, please let Katie know.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Tom Geary at approximately 3:10 p.m.

Tom Geary
WAG Chairman

6/4/15
Date Approved