

Lake Walcott Watershed Advisory Group

Draft Meeting Minutes

Raft River Rural Electric

Malta, Idaho

Thursday March 31, 2011

Time: 7:00 pm

ATTENDEES:

D. Jay Harper – Raft River Advisor Commission
Earl Christensen – Farmer/Rancher
Katie Shewmaker – DEQ-TFRO
Mike Beus – BOR
Pat McCammon – 6S Ranch
Shawn Woodhead – DEQ-TFRO
Stan Lloyd – Cassia Creek Irrigation
Tom Geary – Rancher

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Earl Christensen, WAG Chairman. 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 December 2, 2011, were reviewed and approved as written. Motion was made by Stan Lloyd and seconded by Pat McCammon.
- The next meeting for the Lake Walcott WAG will be held in August or September.

BOR-Water Update

Mike Beus presented a PowerPoint presentation consisting of historical data from previous years along with current water storage information. Water movement and storage depends upon winter flows and spring occurrences. Current reservoir storage is very good and will follow conservative flood controls this year. American Falls Reservoir is near the level of erosion protection. Palisades Reservoir is above the level of anticipated flood control and Jackson Lake is slightly above flood control levels. The current predicted precipitation outlook is slightly above normal for the next thirty days.

DEQ- Draft Raft River Five-Year Review

Copies of the Draft Raft River Five-Year Review were handed out for a second time to the attendees. Katie Shewmaker presented the document calling attention to areas of interest and answering questions. DEQ would like to know what implementations have been done and on what streams; in order to add that information to the review. DEQ wants to give acknowledgement to the people responsible for any implementation that has been done. Comments will be taken through the end of April. No comments were received on the review since the December meeting. Please read through the document and send any comments/questions to Katie Shewmaker. The document will be posted online for those that were not able to attend the meeting.

The 2010 Integrated Report

DEQ State office is currently reviewing the public and EPA response to the 2010 Integrated Report. The report will be released when the responses have been compiled.

Anti-Degradation

Anti-Degradation legislation was signed by Governor Otter in April and sent to EPA for consideration. Guidance is being developed by DEQ with public input. There are still many unknowns at the present time. The BAG was encouraged to study the website to stay abreast of the current regulation. Contact Don Essig at the DEQ State Office with questions. Please see the following website for the most current information:

http://www.deq.idaho.gov/rules/water/58_0102_1001_proposed.cfm.

DEQ Updates

- The Pesticide General Permit from EPA has not been finalized. This would require an NPDES permit for those using certain pesticides in close proximity to waters of the United States. Congress is seeking a legislative fix to amend the Clean Water Act to specify that an NPDES permit is not required for pesticide applications done in accordance with FIFRA. This is now moving through Congress.
- WAG/BAG funding has been decreased in the budget this year. This will affect the number of meetings some WAG/BAG have during the year, especially if they were meeting monthly.
- The BURP program has been funded this year and applications for summer BURP positions will open April 1st. Applicants must fill out documents on the DEQ website. The position of 319 Coordinator had been filled and the new employee is set to start April 18th.

Accessing Data on DEQ's Map-Based Integrated Report

Sean Woodhead presented a PowerPoint on how to access data from past and current Integrated Reports using DEQ's Map-Based Integrated Report website. The program is available on the internet at:

http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/data_reports/surface_water/monitoring/2008.cfm.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Earl Christensen at 9:00 p.m.

WAG Chairman

Date