

Middle Snake River Watershed Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Twin Falls Regional Office
1363 Fillmore Street, Twin Falls, Idaho
Wednesday, February 16, 2011, 6:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Andy Morton – Clear Springs Foods, Inc.
Brian Hoelscher – Idaho Power Company (IPC)
Chad Chorney – DEQ-Twin Falls Regional Office (TFRO)
Clyde Lay – Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
Gary Fornshell – University of Idaho DEQ
Jeff Williams - Rancher
Larry Pennington – Northside Canal Company (NSCC)
Mark Daily – Aquaculture Industry Representative
Mike Trabert – City of Twin Falls
Sean Woodhead – DEQ – Twin Falls Regional Office (TFRO)
Sue Switzer – DEQ-Twin Falls Regional Office (TFRO)

Call To Order And Introductions

The meeting was brought to order by Mike Trabert, WAG Chairman. The attendees introduced themselves and who they represented.

Wag Business

- The minutes from the previous Middle Snake WAG meeting on October 13, 2010, were reviewed and several points discussed. Brian Hoelscher suggested several comments and edits to the minutes. It was decided that the minutes would be tabled and the recording of the meeting would be reviewed for further clarification.
- There was discussion concerning the Mid Snake WAG By-Laws and stakeholder representatives. This topic will be put on as an agenda item for the next meeting to clean up the by-laws and update the list of representatives of interest groups. If you know of anyone who might be interested in participating as a representative, please bring that information to the next meeting.
- The next WAG meeting will be March 16.

Idaho Power – Recreational Signage

Brian has committed to design a sign that can be put up at the Mid Snake recreation areas that deals with macrophytes. He is going to put together a storyboard sign and come back to the WAG by summer. He is not looking for WAG approval, but for assistance with the design and give credit where credit is due to show all the cooperative work done on the watershed.

DEQ Updates

- **2010 Integrated Report Update** – Sue stated that the state office is going through the comments that were received on the integrated report. We don't have a date as to when that will be open to the public when it gets finalized. Andy Morton requested that DEQ develop a set of steps or dummy book to find the data behind the numbers for the assessment units that the Integrated Report is divided into? If we are going to use the Integrated Report, we have to understand how to use the document.
- **Anti-degradation** – DEQ is working with the anti-degradation committee to develop the guidance for anti-degradation. There is another meeting tomorrow on Chapter 3. We are getting through about a chapter every two weeks. Anti-degradation refers to the current federally approved state Integrated Report as to how they determine what the waterbody protection tier will be.
- **DEQ Budget** - We are hearing rumors of cuts. The Etcheverry position, 319 coordinator, is still open; we are trying to fill it. We do hear that the BURP program will be coming back in some form.
- **319 Schedule for 2011** - Sean Woodhead reported that the 2010 Annual Report for 319 Program Performance and Progress is out. It is on the DEQ web site. The new 319 application season is here. The schedule has not been posted on the internet yet; however, I am told it will be similar to last year.

Twin Falls City TSS Off-Set for NPDES Permit

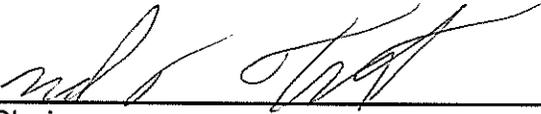
Mike Trabert presented a PowerPoint showing what is being done on the City's TSS off-set project. The return that is being used is the Lateral 28 spill on the corner of Falls Avenue and 3300. Right now there are 4 acres of pond built with 12 acres of storage. He invited everyone to visit and walk around and see what is going on.

The plan is to put in flow measuring devices at the inflow and effluent, and Sutron equipment like at the gauging stations. We are also going to put in turbidity measurement; they will be online all the time. We will be sampling twice a week for TSS and relate that back to the turbidity. We will be monitoring phosphorus and e-coli once a month. Right now the plan is to collect two year's worth of data to have a history.

The 401 Certification will go out for 30-day public comments and then the NPDES permit will have a 30-day public comment period. The 401 Certification should be out sometime the first part of March. Look for it on the web site.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Mike Trabert at 7:50 p.m.



WAG Chairman

5/18/11
Date