

MID SNAKE WATERSHED ADVISORY GROUP

Meeting Minutes

Department of Environmental Quality
650 Addison Avenue West, Suite 110, Twin Falls, Idaho
Wednesday, May 13, 2015, 2:00 p.m.

Attendees

David Anderson – DEQ, Twin Falls Regional Office
Jay Barlogi – Twin Falls Canal Company
Jason Brown – City of Twin Falls
Sonny Buhidar – DEQ, Twin Falls Regional Office
Gary Fornshell – University of Idaho
Brian Hoelscher – Idaho Power
Clyde Lay – Bureau of Reclamation
Randy MacMillan – Clear Springs Foods
Michael McIntyre – DEQ, State Office
Andy Morton – Clear Springs Food
Chuck Pentzer – Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Clarence Robison – University of Idaho
Sue Switzer – DEQ, Twin Falls Regional Office
Mike Trabert – McClure Engineering
Jeff Williams - Rancher
Jim Younk – Idaho Power

Welcome

The meeting of the Mid Snake Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) was called to order at approximately 2:00 p.m. by Mike Trabert, WAG Chairman. The attendees introduced themselves. It was announced that the meeting was being recorded.

WAG Business

- The minutes for the previous meeting on February 11, 2015 were reviewed. A motion was made by Brian Hoelscher to approve the minutes as written and seconded by Andy Morton. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- Recently, names were submitted to fill empty positions that have been identified in the by-laws. For housekeeping purposes, all of the stakeholder representatives were sent in for proper appointment. Everyone should have received a letter from the DEQ State Office. A copy will be kept on file for voting purposes. We will be posting the open positions on the web site and also will run an advertisement again in the fall.
- The Middle Snake River By-laws are approved from the last meeting and are posted on the web site.
- August 12, 2015, is the next scheduled meeting. We will keep it at 2:00 p.m.

Water Quality Trading Update

Michael McIntyre gave a presentation on water quality trading (WQT) in Idaho. He talked about the basics and key components of WQT and the direction Idaho is going. In Idaho, we are striving for third party facilitators to help the buyers and sellers pull off the trades.

Idaho's 2010 Trading Guidance is currently being updated to integrate elements that are currently absent. Additionally, each watershed would have a WQT framework which would lay out the watershed's specific condition, setting and individual watershed characteristics. The WQT framework would be driven by the WAG.

Michael talked about three things looked at with the Lower Boise Trading Framework update; credit life analysis, location rations, and Mason Creek baseline BMPs suite. He also discusses WQT with regards to the aquaculture general permit.

Blue Green Algae

Sonny Buhidar presented information concerning blue-green algae in the Salmon Falls Creek Reservoir. Blue - green alga is a complex organism that is very hard to kill. When toxins are present it becomes a public health issue. DEQ will confirm through water quality monitoring that there is a bloom and, based on the data, post notifications in conjunction with the Health District. Then DEQ will continue site visits to the affected area and coordinate with the local WAGs to start looking at a cyanobacteria management strategy.

Upper Snake-Rock Implementation Strategy Discussion

Sue presented the implementation discussion points from the last meeting so the WAG members could review them for further discussion if necessary. Sue showed a map from the Upper Snake Rock TMDL Modification demonstrating compliance points in response to a question brought up at the previous meeting. If the segment is in compliance, how is the segment delisted? There was discussion concerning the question of delisting a segment.

Sue also presented a list of implementation suggestions Marti had made in the September 17 WAG meeting for this WAG to consider. Sue will get the list of Marti's suggestions out to the WAG for review and all these implementation points will be discussed at a later meeting along with the Upper Snake Rock Implementation Plan 2001.

Water Year 2014

Jim Younk presented a PowerPoint presentation showing a brief overview of the results of Idaho Power's water monitoring on the Mid Snake during the 2014 water year, some of the problems they encountered and how they handled them. They have three monitoring site: Milner Power Plant, King Hill bridge, and the Buhl bridge. In 2013, they began implementing water quality monitoring. They monitor these sites every two weeks throughout the year. This is their first full year of the new monitoring schedule.

2015 Chlorophyll data

Brian Hoelscher passed out a handout entitled "2015 Phaeophytin-A and Chlorophyll-A Comparison." Idaho Power is evaluating data from multiple laboratories as a measure of

analytical variability. To do so they are doing a lab comparison. They are looking for some help to get someone to run some samples at another lab for comparison. Sonny said to contact him and he would run them through State Lab.

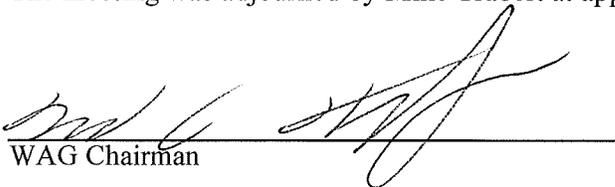
DEQ Updates

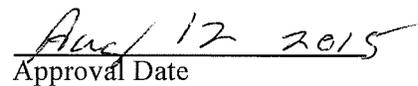
- 319 grant application period is open. They are taking application from April 20 – July 31. If you have any question contact Katie Shewmaker at DEQ Twin Falls Regional Office.
- GAP – The draft may be available in June. Dirk Helder will be at the Idaho Aquaculture Association meeting on June 6 at CSI campus Evergreen Building to talk about the aquaculture permit.
- Idaho is in the process to requesting primacy for the NPDES Program. There is a proposed fee schedule on the DEQ web site. There is a negotiated rulemaking meeting on May 15 at 9 a.m. You can attend that meeting at the Twin Falls Regional Office. Mary Anne Nelson will be talking at the Idaho Aquaculture Association meeting at CSI on June 6.
- There is a Use Attainability Analysis meeting coming up next Tuesday, May 19. Twin Falls is not a site for this meeting. You can get information on the DEQ web site.

Monday, May 18, at 6:30 p.m., Bureau of Reclamation is participating in a water supply meeting in American Falls. It is looking to be a rough water year.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Mike Trabert at approximately 4:25 p.m.


WAG Chairman


Approval Date