The Middle Snake River Watershed Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes
DRAFT
1363 Fillmore St. Twin Falls, Id
Tuesday, June 16th, 2009
Time: 7:00 PM

Attendees:

1. Carolyn Rambough-DEQ-TFRO
2. Clyde Lay- BOR
3. Terry Edwards- NRCS-Jerome
4. Andy Morton- Clear Springs Foods
5. Brian Hoelscher-Idaho Power
6. Brian Olmstead-TFCC
7. Mike Trabert-City of Twin Falls
8. Larry Pennington-NSCC
9. Rich Bupp- BLM
10. Terry Blau-IDWR
11. Carla Fromm-EPA
12. Steve Davis-BLM
13. Sue Switzer- DEQ-TFRO
14. Chad Chorney-DEQ-TFRO

I. Welcome and Introductions 7:19 PM

Mike Trabert- WAG Chairman

Mike Trabert called the meeting to order. Everyone introduced themselves.

II. WAG Business 7:20 PM

Mike Trabert- WAG Chairman

A. Motion was made to approve the minutes as read. Larry Pennington made the motion, Brian Hoelscher seconded the motion.
B. Larry Pennington acted as chairman, for Mike.
C. Mike Trabert made a motion to approve the letter for Pollution Trading. Andy Morton seconded the motion with the condition of waiting until after Friday, so Idaho Power and Clear Springs Foods' legal team could read the letter.(and make changes if needed)
D. Larry Pennington made motion to adjourn at 9:20PM. Brian Hoelscher seconded motion.

III. Twin Falls Canal Company 7:25 PM

Brian Olmstead-TFCC

(Power-Point Presentation) Brian gave the group a little history on the canal company, and how everything began. He then explained how everything worked with recharge within the region. There were 80 thousand acres of recharge total. The canal company would like to do a lot more recharge without stealing water rights. There was a lot of water to recharge, this spring.

IV. TSS & Pollutant Trading 7:49 PM

Mike Trabert-City of Twin Falls

(Power-Point Presentation) The City of Twin Falls is in the middle of their NPDES permit renewal. One of the changes within the permit is the TSS limit; it is switching over to the TMDL that is in the river. The city is looking at about 6 million dollars to put in a filtration system to clean out small amounts of solids, so they are looking at partnering the canal company and other agencies for removal sources before the solids hit the river. The city would like to have the TSS limit approved for the pollution trading within the Mid Snake Watershed, and have some kind of water based

trading program instead of having to revisit the issue every time a TMDL is written. They would like to have a TAC Committee (Technical Advisory Committee) be in charge of creating a policy that is good for the Mid Snake River.
EPA has a water based trading guidance document on how to write a pollution trading program. If the idea of the "TAC" is approved, the City would like to have both EPA and DEQ involved. All permit writing, for all of the point sources' is all part of the trading programs and will be incorporated within the NPDES permits.

V. Quagga Mussels 8:42 PM

Larry Pennington-NSCC

(See Hand out Pictures) Quagga Mussels reproduce twice a year, and they seem to colonize everywhere. When the Quagga Mussels colonize they eat all of the nutrients in the soils and leave nothing for other aquatic animals. Because they take up all of the nutrients, the macrophytes can take over. The Quagga Mussels have blocked off pipes and covered drain holes. They are becoming a huge problem within the water systems. Idaho Fish and Game has put out public notices and set up signs to make people aware of the problems to prevent anyone from bringing any vehicles that are infested with the mussels into the state. This is a state wide scare. The state has come with some guide lines for cleaning aquatic equipment. The Fish and Game along with other state agencies have put out mussel traps, hopefully to prevent some of the problems.

VI. Adjourn 9:20 PM

Mike Trabert-WAG Chairman

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WAG Chairman Date