

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE
WOOD RIVER WATERSHED ADVISORY GROUP
TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2004
CAREY, ID**

Chairman Daryle James called the meeting to order with the following in attendance: Carol Blackburn, Bob Simpson, Chuck Pentzer, Lynn Harmon, Clint Krahn, Bryan Ravenscroft, Vernon Ravenscroft, Sean Woodhead, Kevin Davidson, Mark Dallon, Joe Schwarzback, DEQ representative Jennifer Claire and Secretary Dana Sturgeon.

Minutes for February 24, 2004 were reviewed. Clint made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Carol seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote unanimous.

DATA ENTRY: Chuck Pentzer made a power point presentation concerning the data entry that has been done by Kathy Hurd on the irrigated land. The GIS coverage that is being worked on is dealing with irrigated cropland within the Big Wood Canal Company. This area includes Big Wood and Little Wood Drainages.

After the data is added to the coverage table, they are able to quickly retrieve information whether a field is sprinkler fed or furrow (surface) irrigated. This gives an idea of what kind of BMP's (Best Management Practices) that will be considered for assisting in reducing sediment and nutrients from the irrigated cropland area. From this information, we can also have an idea of approximately how much money it might take to install the various types of BMPs. Of course this is all within a voluntary, not regulatory approach. With the voluntary approach, we will be working closely with the Soil Conservation Districts to help prioritize areas that can benefit the streams the most and also integrate information and education with the farmers and land owners in their areas.

By "overlaying" other coverage's, such as streams and proximities to delivery points, we are able to quickly see the areas that we can do the most good for improvement to water quality. It's kind of like overlaying multiple sheets of clear plastic on an overhead, but this not only shows a nice picture, it also has a table of information in the backgrounds. The implementation plan will refer to the data developed by the TMDL and provide a "blue print" and timeline of planned implementation on Ag land.

The updates to the tables is time consuming, but once that data is entered, it can be a very useful tool for providing an accurate picture for implementing Ag BMPs.

Chuck requested that future funds be allocated for more data entry.

Chairman James asked the group how they wanted to proceed. Motion was made by Vern to table any decision on continuing the data entry until we find out if Kathy Hurd would be available to go ahead with the project. Carol seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote unanimous.

ELECTION: An election was held for the alternate position for Environmental/Preservation Executive Board member. Carol nominated Stef Frenzl to that position. Vern seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote unanimous.

WATER RECHARGE: Vern requested there be an open discussion on water recharge at the next meeting. Especially the beneficial uses associated with recharge efforts. He felt that the WAG might be called upon for recommendations in regards to this issue.

Dana will contact Allen Merritt at the Department of Water Resources to see if he will come to the next meeting to discuss this important issue. He will be asked to address recharge issues on winter water rights on the Little Wood River.

WOOD RIVER RC&D: There will be a dinner, sponsored by the Wood River RC&D at the Gooding Basque Center at 7:00 p.m. on March 24, 2004.

April 27th is the next meeting in Fairfield at 7:30 p.m. May's meeting will be on the 25th at 7:30 in Carey.

Meeting adjourned.

Daryle James, Chairman