


Lower Boise Watershed Council

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
DEQ State Office, Boise
Thursday, July 10, 2014 - 7:00 p.m.

Introduction

Attendees: See attached sign-in list.

Changes to Agenda:

Liz has several announcements.

Jack added policy discussion topic.

Proxies:

Mollie Mangerich has a proxy for Clint Dolsby.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Prior minutes approved.

Approval of Invoices

Invoice for HDR approved as presented.

Discussion Agenda

TMDL Updates – Troy Smith/DEQ

Troy – See Handout on TP TMDL Update

Liz – Did we ever get review from Tom on trading in TMDL?

Troy – If municipalities or others provide information on trading it can be in an appendix.

Jack – How will you set allocations in next draft? Who decides who gets what? What each source group gets?

Troy – Still working on that, in relation to the modeling. Has asked source groups to provide suggestions, hasn't gotten much back yet. If we don't get proposals, DEQ will make recommendations for comment in the draft.

Jack – If you're going to set allocation of 0.07 mg/L for groundwater (GW) and tributaries, I don't see how you could have allocations for municipalities higher than 0.07 mg/L. Don't assume I'm buying into that, need discussion with the stakeholder group, the WAG.

Troy – I would welcome that.

Dan – So should we do it the same way as before, using TAC meetings?

Jack – If we're looking to have this by August 22, that will be a challenge.

Liz – Are you questioning how allocations will be made, who gets X percent, or questioning what the total will be, and how that relates to periphyton?

Jack - Within allocations there are opportunities for things like trading. How do we get to 0.07 mg/L in GW and tributaries? There will be a lot of uncertainty. Should set PS at 0.07 mg/L as the allocation, but trading scenarios can provide other ways to implement.

Robbin - It's not so much the technical approach as the questions of fairness, etc. If we have TAC on July 31st there should be sufficient time to get through a facilitated discussion. Tom should facilitate, someone else can take notes.

Troy - Let's go from 9 to noon, in Meridian.

Michael - How can we get to a draft by August 22nd?

Troy - Goal is August 22nd, if we don't make then we don't. He is hoping that modeling is close enough that we can have a good discussion on the 31st. Since several can't make the 31st we'll have it on the 30th.

Alex - Do you know USGS synoptic monitoring did a number of constituents?

Troy - I believe we have all the USGS data in the model, but will confirm.

FY2015 USGS Monitoring - Alexandria Etheridge

Alex - USGS convened a monitoring TAC meeting, but was on a Friday afternoon, so not well attended. See handout with options. Base is greyed areas. Another option is to include tributary system(s). That would be pretty expensive with gage (almost \$50,000), and would include continuous monitor for turbidity and other parameters. She will have report on tributaries published online in a few of weeks. Another comprehensive report should be considered, a lot of data had been collected but not published in a report, such as trends in biology. Dorene has been working since 1997, could be 20 year biology report. Run WRTDS model (looks at changes in watershed over time with a sufficient dataset, which we have). This should give us baseline run now and then again down the road after the TMDL has been in place.

For FY2015 recommends gray area and discuss at retreat about the other items or future years. 60/40 cooperator split, changed from 50/50 a couple of years ago, lower overhead rates now but lower match compensates. We get about the same amount of work for our match dollars. Deliverable is powerpoint with results rather than report. Real-time estimates of phosphorus (P) and sediments, data is on-line.

Alex provided viewing of the website. Google "NRTWQ" - National Real Time Water Quality. Click on maps to get to Idaho. Click on Parma. Drop down list of parameters, measured and modeled. Charts will show WQ parameter and flow. Also show criteria lines, e.g., for temperature max for aquatic life. Huge swings in dissolved oxygen (DO) in early June (some below 6.0 mg/L) due to macrophytes, then fish flows increased and DO returned more to normal, well above the 6.0 mg/L criterion.

Liz - What kind of macrophytes?

Alex - Not sure, she had a photo.

Jack - Not much change in modeled P with increased flow, even though conductivity data did show dilution effect. That doesn't seem right.

Alex - Turbidity is more of a predictor for P than conductivity per the empirical equation coefficients. The model equations are on the website also.

With a storm in February, there was a big jump in turbidity and P, actual sample was 0.84 mg/L.

Also can get summary statistics on the website, and duration curves.

Liz - Any similar stations and website for the Snake River?

Alex - No, but could do one at Nyssa.

WRTDS model will not work in winter, due to the winter runoff storm events. Model does not include rainfall and so does not account for that. She's thinking about how to predict it. On-line model probably is best way to estimate, rather than WRTDS model, which is simpler. So if we use WRTDS, will want to limit it to the compliance period.

Announcements – Liz Paul

August 26th float trip sponsored by IRU, near Middleton to Caldwell. All are invited. Usually 3 to 4 hours, starts at 9:00 am. Will get invite to Samantha to send out to LBWC list.

IEF mayor's float, August 13th, Barber to Morrison parks. Will highlight enhancement projects along the way.

Brent wants to participate in 319 tour on August 6th.

Board Policy – Jack Harrison

Proposed that information be sent out prior to meeting, draft copy of policy or technical information provided at least 24 hours ahead. Can be sent by who sends out the agenda.

Liz – The material we do get ahead of time, like agendas, etc., is helpful. Seconds Jack's idea.

Michael – If the information is coming from a TAC, we'll have an understanding of what position(s) are coming from that meeting.

Erica – Purpose of TACs has not historically been for TAC to make decisions or recommendations. There may not be agreement at an allocation TAC.

Steve – Should it be the chairman's responsibility to decide?

Jack – Not a do or die, just a request. He emailed his proposal to the Board, and he now makes a motion as written in the email.

Erica seconds. All Ayes, None opposed

Liz – Tom should send out TAC notes?

Decision is that DEQ will post TAC notes from Tom. Steve prefers to have them emailed.

Council Business

Board Position Openings – Lee Van De Bogart

Lee – Forgot to look up which ones are up for renewal, thinks there are 3 open, he will confirm and send that to everyone.

Liz – No meeting in August, so we need to deal with this at the board retreat or at this meeting tonight. We need to advertise the positions on the website and send an email broadcast with the application form.

Decision was to further discuss at the retreat.

Board Retreat Planning- Tom Dupuis

Do it on the 12th ? Will need to confirm with Henry, Bob and Clint.

Lee will do draft agenda exchange via emails.

Key topics at least include FY 2015 budget, Executive Director, and USGS monitoring.

319 Activities Update- Henry Hamanishi/Dan Steenson

Dan – There is about \$10K remaining to be spent in this calendar year for the 2011 grant, a small amount. Casey Garrett, Aqua Irrigation Technologies, works with farmers who put in drip. Dan moves that board delegates to 319 TAC to approve a project with remaining available funds at August 5th meeting. Liz seconds. Approved.

Jack – I would like letter of support for Farmer’s Coop Canal (Sebree Canal) 319 application, which includes a pipeline in Sand Hollow, to pick up 30 cfs from Black Canyon wastewater in the creek and put it into the irrigation system. Provides sediment and P reduction. P reduction would be comparable to LBWC 319 projects’ reduction, about 1 ton of P. Cost is probably about \$250,000 in 319 money. Total project cost about \$300,000. Their board is interested. Because of the size of project, it will be direct application, stand-alone grant.

Liz - How far from Snake River? Sand Hollow goes to the Snake. How much of that water makes it to the Snake?

Jack – Less water would be diverted from Boise River, similar to Riverside project.

Liz – The canal already passes through the property, wildlife refuge, just before Snake. So it might not be much benefit to the Snake.

Jack – It would be benefit to Sand Hollow which has a TMDL, but hard to show exactly where it goes, we’re still trying to prove that out for the Riverside. It is mostly furrow irrigation in that area.

Steve – What does Black Canyon and Boise watermaster (Rex) think? We shouldn’t stoke a fight between districts or with Rex.

Liz – It’s going to be too hard for us to come to consensus on this tonight, we don’t have enough information.

Dan – There are no water rights issues, some questions about what are the benefits and where to they accrue, and how much makes it to the Snake. The water in the canal will be consumptively used, sediment will be land applied, not the case with Sand Hollow.

Dan – Robbin mentioned using a WaterSmart grant, through the Bureau of Reclamation, is that an option?

Jack – That is a possibility.

Application for 319 2015 Grant Cycle- Henry Hamanishi/Dan Steenson/Tom Dupuis

Copies of the draft application prepared by Tom were reviewed and discussed. Tom highlighted changes from previous application, and discussed comments received at the 319 TAC earlier in the day. Additional comments in writing were provided by Robbin and Steve, which were discussed. Additional comments and revisions were then discussed and agreed

upon. Total 319 grant dollar amount will be reduced from \$256,000 to \$250,000; Tom will work with Lee to refine the dollar amount and make other agreed upon edits, and Lee will be the LBWC official who signs and submits the application to DEQ before the deadline.

Michael – Made a motion to submit the application with the changes discussed tonight, and make sure LBWC part is funded.

Motion seconded and approved unanimously by the board.

Website Remodel- Sherrill Doran

Sherrill – Liz and I really streamlined the site, took out outdated information.

Have added contact button to go to gmail account so can be accessed by whoever is executive director in future years.

Who we are: was updated.

Who are the contributors? Do we want to include?

Liz – Suggested just current contributors.

Meetings – Reference to DEQ website.

Minutes – Available on request.

Troy – Tom to provide meeting notes to DEQ, they will post.

Interim Executive Director Report- Lee Van De Bogart/Tom Dupuis

A summary of budget status was included in the board packet and discussed briefly. Further discussion and refinement of how the budget is presented will occur at the retreat.

Upcoming Meeting Agenda

Tom reminded all that the next meeting in September will include a report from agriculture on the status of their water quality programs and TMDL implementation activities.

Meeting Adjourned