

Wood River Watershed Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes

Big Wood Canal Company
409 North Apple Street, Shoshone, Idaho
Tuesday, February, 26, 2013
Time 7:00 p.m.

Attendees

Bill Davis – Camas Soil Conservation District
Bob Simpson – City of Carey
Chuck Pentzer – Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Don Zaroban – DEQ State Office
Katie Shewmaker – DEQ Twin Falls Regional Office
Lynn Harmon – Big Wood Canal Company
Richard Bupp – DEQ Twin Falls Regional Office
Richard Kimball – City of Carey
Rob Sharpnack – Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Sue Switzer – DEQ Twin Falls Regional Office

Welcome

The meeting was brought to order by Bob Simpson, WAG chairman, at around 7:00 p.m. The attendees introduced themselves and who they represented.

WAG Business

- There was some discussion concerning WAG membership and having a quorum to approve minutes. It was suggested to contact Dan Vandermeulen to represent irrigated agriculture. Lynn Harmon made a motion that the minutes be sent out to those representative members that we have email addresses for approval. The motion was approved, and the minutes were signed and will be dated when the email approval is received.

Sculpin Update

Don Zaroban presented an update on what was done on the Wood River Sculpin a few years ago. The motivation for this project was a combination of the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act in conjunction with looking ahead to TMDLs in the area. His presentation included historical distribution and sampling efficiency of Sculpin, habitat, the detection model, implications of the study, and what happens next.

319 Update

Katie Shewmaker handed out a table showing the non-point source funding (319 grants) for 2007-2012. During this period the funding has decreased and the projects have increased. EPA is saying that there should be another 1.4 million coming into the state of Idaho for this year. They are thinking that this year there will be no additional funding cuts. The Super BAG met in December and ranked the 319 projects for the 2013 funding cycle. Because of issues in the past where the ranking was sent out then when funding did not come through projects had to be cut and people were upset, the Super BAG decided to rank the projects but not disclose the list until

the funding has come through. Then the funding information would be sent out through the DEQ State Office.

Currently the DEQ State Office is working on updating the Management Plan. They hope to have that out to public comment by this fall.

There will be a 319 funding seminar April 30 from 9:00 to 3:00 at the NRCS office in Twin Falls. It will cover anything from invoicing to how to fill out the application. If you are interested in this seminar, please let Katie know. If you have any questions, get them to Katie ahead of time so they can be incorporated into the presentation. There was some concern about the venue being large enough. Katie will check into it more and let everyone know the location as it gets closer.

DEQ Updates

- 2012 Integrated Report - Sue handed out a draft list of the creeks that are listed for each watershed (Big Wood, Little Wood, and Camas) and the pollutants that are associated to those creeks. This has not gone out for public comment yet. It was brought up that the West Fork of Fish Creek has had some major changes in the operations. Silver Creek was also a concern that Sue will be checking into. When this goes out for public comment, it will be for 30 days unless an extension is requested. Sue will generate an email to the WAG so if there is anything you want to comment on, that would be the opportunity for you to do so.
- Big Wood River Temperature TMDL – Sue handed out Chapters 1-4, which was requested by EPA. This document will be answering all the listings that were on the Big Wood for the Integrated Report. She went through some of the changes and concerns in this document. Sue directed the attention to page 7 where the waters are listed as Black Canyon Creek; however, the majority of the water is in Dry Creek. Sue will be lobbying to get the name changed over. The phenolic acid letter from the WAG will also be a part of this document for public comment.
- Camas Creek – It is time to work on monitoring for the 5-year review. Katie Shewmaker will take the lead on this project. Updates on Camas Creek will come from Katie in the future.
- We are working to put together an annual water quality meeting with BLM. If there is something going on in the watershed that can be brought up in that meeting, please let Sue know.

The Soil and Water Conservation Commission is going through a different mode in outline the workload. They have a new employee, Rob Sharpnack, who introduced himself to the WAG.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:35 p.m.



WAG Chairman

10-22-13

Date