

MID SNAKE WATERSHED ADVISORY GROUP

Meeting Minutes

Department of Environmental Quality
650 Addison Avenue West, Suite 110, Twin Falls, Idaho
Wednesday, February 11, 2015, 2:00 p.m.

Attendees

Jay Barlogi – Twin Falls Canal Company
Jason Brown – City of Twin Falls
Gary Fornshell – University of Idaho
Brian Hoelscher – Idaho Power
Gary Marquardt – SeaPac of Idaho
Randy MacMillan – Clear Springs Foods
Andy Morton – Clear Springs Food
Larry Pennington – North Side Canal Company
Chuck Pentzer – Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Sue Switzer – DEQ, Twin Falls Regional Office
Craig Thomas – DEQ, Twin Falls Regional Office
Mike Trabert – McClure Engineering
Jeff Williams - Rancher
Sean Woodhead – DEQ, Twin Falls Regional Office
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 September 17, 2014 were reviewed. A motion was made by Andy Morton to approve the minutes, and seconded by Larry Pennington. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- In response to a comment in the minutes, Brian handed out a graph showing the average temperatures of the Bliss Hydroelectric Project. The graph will be posted on the web page, and if anyone has questions they can contact Brian.
- There was discussion on moving all meetings to be held in the daytime. There was concern about aquaculture representative, Mark Daily, being able to attend. Mike and/or Gary will find out what Mark's schedule is and get an email out to everyone concerning a meeting time change. Most preferred a Wednesday or Thursday at 2:00 p.m.
- The by-laws were reviewed again with the addition of language to include the DEQ

WAG member appointment process. Brian suggested that in Article VIII, sixth line, the word facilitator be changed to vice-chairman; it will read "...the Chairman, after consultation with the Vice-Chairman, may refer the matter..." Randy MacMillan made a motion that the amended by-laws be approved, which includes the change from Facilitator to Vice-Chairman in Article VIII, Decisions by Consensus. Brian Hoelscher seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

- The list of the current WAG Executive Board was made available to the attendees. A discussion regarding attendance and voting members ensued. Randy is listed as interim and his name will be presented to the BAG on April 1. Each appointed board member has been asked to have an alternate in accordance with the by-laws. Once your alternate has been established, please let Sue know so it can be added to the list.

We have three vacant positions: Confined Animal Feeding, Soil Conservation Districts, and Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission. We were thinking to have the state advertise again this summer and go through resumes to see if we can get the vacancies filled.

- The chairman and vice-chairman positions run on a two year staggered term. The term for vice-chairman is up at this time. A motion was made by Randy MacMillan to have Larry Pennington service another term as vice-chairman. It was seconded by Andy Morton, and the vote was unanimous.

Snake River Water Quality monitoring and Implementation Strategy Discussion

Randy MacMillan handed out a graph of an update based on Clear Springs Foods monitoring of the Mid Snake River at Clear Lakes Bridge and gave a presentation on this information. Clear Springs increased sampling from once a month to once a week. He discussed rainfall amounts in late August of last year and the potential for total phosphorus flushing.

The attendees brainstormed about things that they ought to consider as they prioritize activities as a WAG to further implement TMDLs. There are two things that the WAG should be concerned about: target phosphorus and nuisance aquatic plants.

Points of discussion:

- Explore areas that are data deficient.
- Fate and transport of nutrients in the system
- Diversify monitoring locations to fill in data gaps.
- More monitoring on the tributaries
 - Canal Companies WQ data collected on tributaries/drains
 - Flow – data may be available from Idaho Power in 2016
- Determine changes in nuisance aquatic plant growth (increase, decrease, plant species)
 - Consider Faulter's report be duplicated
 - Provide copies of Faulter's report to the WAG
- Effects of flow on the system
- Study of sediment (composition, depth of sediment, bedload)
 - Weed-bed sediment

If you have a priority list of what you think the WAG should be working on, send it to Sue

and we will get it out in an email chain. Sue will develop a list from Marti Bridges' presentation at the last Tetra Tech meeting.

This will be an agenda item for the next meeting. Copies of *The Upper Snake Rock Implementation Plan 2001* were made available to the attendees; it is also available on the web site.

DEQ Updates

- Water Quality Workshop and Pollutant Trading – Mike Trabert gave some highlights. There were quite a few talks on data collection and data storage and then getting it out so that people can actually use the data. Additionally, one of the big things that came out was the State Office or Lower Boise is relooking at pollution trading. There were a couple of demonstration projects concerning pollution trading. There was much discussion concerning pollutant trading

Randy MacMillan moved that a letter be prepared and sent to the DEQ State Office asking for WAG involvement in the process and a presentation made at the next WAG meeting concerning pollution trading. It was seconded by Andy Morton and passed unanimously. Mike will prepare the letter and send it out to WAG members for review.

- IDPES Program – Mike conveyed that negotiated rulemaking is underway. The next meeting is February 20. You can meet at the DEQ Twin Falls Regional Office in this room. You can find information on the web site. An area of concern at the last meeting was where the permit writers will be housed, at the state office or in the regions. Now is the time to make comment. If you have not been involved, you may want to show up to the meetings or have a representative present.
- The next BAG meeting is April 1. There is also a summer tour scheduled in the Pocatello area.
- Sue will be monitoring on the Big Wood working toward a 5-year review. Rich is finishing up a 5-year review for the Camas. Craig and Rich are finishing up a temperature TMDL on the Bruneau. Katie will be working in Raft River on TP and sediment. We are working on finishing the temperature TMDL for the Mid-Snake Tributaries. Sue is working on edits for the Little Wood River 5-year review to be out the next couple of months.
- Sean Woodhead talked about 2015 BURP sites and provided a handout. BURP hiring process has started if you know anyone who is interested.
- Sue will ask Sonny Buhidar to be on the agenda for next meeting to present on the blue-green algae.
- GAP – The draft is not available yet. When it comes out for public comment, the draft and the 401 will go consecutively. The first of March is now the target date.

- UAA Rule Making – Be aware that the state is preparing draft language that should be available for public comment by April 7. Josh Schultz is the contact. There is a page on the DEQ web site for Use Attainability Analysis.
- Further agenda item – Snake River compliance points, potential for delisting segments of the Snake River for certain pollutants, water year 2014 Idaho Power, and Sonny's Blue-green algae presentation.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Mike Trabert at approximately 4:10 p.m.



WAG Chairman



Approval Date