

Lake Walcott Watershed Advisory Group

DRAFT

Meeting Minutes

NRCS Office

1361 E 16th St., Burley, Idaho

Thursday July 21, 2011

Time: 7:00 pm

Attendees

Carl Austin – Rancher
Carolyn Firth – ISWCC
Clyde Lay – BOR
Earl Christensen – Farmer/rancher
Jordan Tollefson – DEQ-TFRO
Katie Shewmaker – DEQ-TFRO
Mark Shumar – DEQ-SO
Mark Streeter – East Cassia SCD
Mike Beus – BOR
Pat McCammon – 6S Ranch
Stan Lloyd – Cassia Creek
Tom Geary – Rancher

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Earl Christensen. Everyone in attendance was welcomed and each of the attendees introduced themselves and whom they represented at the meeting.

Wag Business

- The minutes from the previous Lake Walcott WAG meeting on March 31, 2011, were reviewed and approved as written. A motion was made by Pat McCammon and seconded by Tom Geary.
- Both 319 Projects presented by Carolyn Firth were approved unanimously. The Marsh Creek Restoration Project was moved by Mark Streeter and seconded by Tom Geary. The Raft River Subbasin Streambank Protection Project was moved by Stan Lloyd and seconded by Mark Streeter.
- Earl Christensen will be leaving for Finland in August for two years. Tom Geary was nominated by Earl as a replacement and was seconded by Pat McCammon. Tom Geary was unanimously elected chairman of the Lake Walcott WAG.
- The next meeting will be in the fall and an email will be sent out.

DEQ- Twin Falls Regional Update

- DEQ's website has a new look. Katie explained that while the URL web address of deq.idaho.gov remains the same, the files and links have changed. If you have certain pages within the website bookmarked, they will have to be updated.
- The Lake Walcott Bylaws were last updated in 1997. Katie passed out a copy of the bylaws with suggested changes in red. Please review the document and we will vote on those changes and additional recommendations at the next meeting.
- The Goose Creek and Raft River Temperature TMDLs that were presented at the meeting will be available online for 30 days. Please read them and send your comments to Katie Shewmaker. The documents will then be sent to the DEQ state office to be sent out for public comment.

319 Project Update

Jordan Tollefson, who replaced Mike Etcheverry, joined DEQ-TFRO several months ago. Jordan handed out a letter from EPA that discussed the 319 Funding for last year. At the last minute there was a funding cut of \$304,000 for Idaho 319 projects. Due to this shortfall, the bottom two projects that were funded through the Super BAG for the 2011 projects were cut. The third project from the bottom of the list was funded, but at a lower level. The funding amount for 2012 projects has not been disclosed; however, the grant funding will be competitive again this year with the list of proposed projects.

319 Project Proposals

Carolyn Firth presented two PowerPoint presentations for 319 projects this year: Raft River Subbasin Streambank Protection Project and Marsh Creek Restoration Project,

The Raft River Subbasin Streambank Project is sponsored by the Cassia County Soil and Water Conservation District. This project would stabilize streambanks; restore riparian wetlands; decrease sediment, temperature, and bacteria; improve groundwater recharge and irrigation water management; and replace and/or build headgate structures. This project plan works in conjunction with the Raft River TMDL Implementation Plan. The estimated cost is \$92,500, with a match of \$61,667 for a total of \$154,167. Raft River Flood Control District will pay ten percent costs of BMPs. There will be at least ten landowners participating. Technical assistance will be provided by ISWCC, NRCS and Almo Water Company. The estimated reductions for the project are: sediment 35-55% and bacteria 40-55%.

The Marsh Creek Restoration Project includes treatment to three streams: Marsh Creek, Howell Creek, and Land Creek. Benefits include the stabilization of stream banks, reduction in sediment and bacteria, improvement in ground water discharge, increased wildlife habitat, and decreased temperatures. Work would be done on approximately two miles of unstable banks with lateral excision rates of three to nine inches per year. The estimated cost is \$217,000 with a match of \$149,000, for a total cost of \$366,000. The estimated reductions for the project are: sediment 35-55% and bacteria 40-55% and Total Phosphorous 45-60%.

Goose Creek and Raft River Temperature TMDLs

Mark Shumar gave a PowerPoint presentation on the potential natural vegetation and temperature TMDLs for Goose Creek and Raft River. The overview of components of a stream includes the channel, riparian zone and alluvial aquifer. Primary drivers include climatic factors, solar radiation and stream morphology along with riparian and upland conditions. Potential natural vegetation is the expected plant community on a stream that has natural age variation and distribution. This provides an expected effective shade and produces natural temperatures that equate to the natural background temperatures in state regulations. Load capacity is determined, and then the existing load is subtracted from the equation to arrive at the load reduction number. Existing shade is determined through aerial photos then shade classes are assigned. Field verification is then used to compare. From there the aerial photos are reevaluated. Shade curve and bankfull width estimation are determined (shade duration and shade quality) with the use of a computer program. The target shade is then developed and that information is then put into a loading table so kwh/day (solar load) can be determined. The target minus the existing shade produces the excess load, or lack of shade. From there the lack of shade is mapped for an area. Then implementation begins with field verification in order to identify the problem, whether it is natural or human caused. DEQ's Potential Natural Vegetation Procedure Manual can be found on the DEQ website, or by contacting Katie Shewmaker.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Earl Christiansen at 9:25 pm.

WAG Chairman

Date

The Meeting was recorded, and the recording is included as part of the administrative record.