

Lake Walcott Watershed Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes

Burley City Council Room
Burley, Idaho
Thursday, February 28, 2013, 7:00 pm

Attendees

Mike Beus – Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
Rich Bupp- DEQ-TFRO
Dan Davidson – Minidoka Irrigation District
Tom Geary - Rancher
Carolyn Firth – Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC)
Pat McCammon- 6S Ranch
Katie Shewmaker - DEQ-TFRO
Brent Stoker – Farmer, Soil and Water Conservation District
Craig Thomas - DEQ-TFRO

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:15 p.m. by Chairman, Tom Geary. 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 Watershed Advisory Group meeting on July 26, 2012, were reviewed and approved as written.
- The next meeting for the Lake Walcott WAG will be held in May.

Marsh Creek Temperature PNV and E. coli TMDL

Rich Bupp presented on the current draft of Marsh Creek Temperature PNV and E. coli TMDL. The PNV temperature portion of the document was started in 2006; it has been updated using current shade curves and documentation. It was determined, due to monitoring data, that E. coli sampling was needed on Marsh Creek to determine a geometric mean. That monitoring was done last fall. Rich has taken over coverage of the watershed, and he and Katie are working to finalize the document. Rich handed out four maps for Marsh Creek that included target shades and existing cover along with a handout on E. coli and the data that was collected. These handouts were reviewed with discussion from attendees. There was also discussion on 319 projects and how this document would affect the ability to get projects approved in the area.

BURP Update

Sean Woodhead was not able to attend. Rich Bupp handed out a spreadsheet for the Lake Walcott, Raft River and Goose Creek Watersheds that identified each monitoring site and the data collected from BURP since 1993. Rich clarified the acronyms and how to read the information/data on the spreadsheets.

Update Aquaculture General Permit

Craig Thomas presented a handout of information concerning the General Aquaculture Permit (GAP) and gave an overview of its status and steps it must go through prior to a final permit being issued. The GAP is still in evaluation status. The current permit expired on November 30, 2012, and the EPA administratively extended it. The draft permit should be out for public comment sometime this spring. It could take up to 4 months from the time the draft comes out until it becomes final.

DEQ Updates

Katie Shewmaker presented on the following updates:

- 2012 Integrated Report: A power point presentation was given on the anticipated timeline for the 2012 Integrated Report. This includes a technical editing review in January/February; sometime in March or the first of April a draft for a public comment period; depending on an extension or not, April to August response to comments; and a final submittal to EPA in August or September. The two new additions to the 303(d) list that will affect this WAG include a portion of Cassia Creek and a portion of Sublett Creek, both on Forest Service land.
- Raft River: A power point incorporating two pictures from the material removed by Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) at Raft River on Interstate 86 was given. The project began in October 2012; and as of December 17, 2012, 100% of the material under the structure was removed in the right of way between the North and South Structures. A total of 2250 cy was removed.
- Cave Canyon Fire: The Forest Service has put together a Burned Area Emergency Response Plan, which was made available to the attendees. For this group, it would affect Big Cottonwood Creek.
- Coordination Meetings: DEQ-TFRO has been putting together coordination meetings for the spring. They plan to meet with the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

319 Updates

Katie Shewmaker presented on the following updates for the 319 program:

- EPA is reporting there will not be a cut to the 319 funding this year as there has been for the last 2 years
- The super BAG met in December and reviewed all projects. However, it was their recommendation not to disclose the rankings until funding arrives, approximately late April to early May.
- The DEQ State Office is working on updating the National Point Source Management Plan from 1999 including goals and objectives and a five year strategy plan. They hope to have it to EPA for comment by mid-summer and approval by fall.
- There will be a 319 Application and Invoicing Seminar on April 30 at the Twin Falls NRCS office. The process has changed; it is all electronic now.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Tom Geary at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Tom Geary
WAG Chairman

7/25/13
Date