

Middle Snake Watershed Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
1363 Fillmore Street, Twin Falls, Idaho
Wednesday, January 16, 2013, 2:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Jay Barlogi – Twin Falls Canal Company (TFCC)
Rich Bupp – DEQ Twin Falls Regional Office (TFRO)
Brian Hoelscher – Idaho Power Company (IPC)
Clyde Lay – Bureau of Reclamation
Linda Lemmon – Idaho Aquaculture Association (IAA)
Andy Morton – Clear Springs Food
Brian Olmstead – Twin Falls Canal Company (TFCC)
Steve Schuyler – Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
Katie Shewmaker – DEQ Twin Falls Regional Office (TFRO)
Sue Switzer – DEQ Twin Falls Regional Office (TFRO)
Craig Thomas – DEQ Twin Falls Regional Office (TFRO)
Mike Trabert – WAG Chairman
Jim Younk – Idaho Power Company (IPC)

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 and who they represented. Clyde Lay joined the meeting by telephone.

WAG Business

- The minutes for the August 29, 2012, WAG meeting were reviewed. Page 2 under “Upper Snake Rock Temperature TMDL Update” 3rd line there is a spelling error. It should read “load” instead on loan. The motion was made by Andy Morton to approve the minutes as corrected. It was seconded by Brian Hoelscher and approved unanimously.
- Due to members with meeting conflicts, the regularly scheduled meetings on the third Wednesday of the month have been changed to the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2013. It was the consensus of the group to meet in the afternoon during winter months due to driving conditions and keep the 6 pm meeting time for the rest of the year. An email will be sent to the group announcing the changes.
- The City of Twin Falls has chosen Troy Vitek as their new representative to replace Mike Trabert. Jim Younk will be the alternate representative for hydropower. Dirk Bogart, the

processing plant representative, no longer works for a processing plant. We need to check with him and possibly find a new representative for processing plants.

319 Program Updates

Katie Shewmaker provided the following updates on the 319 Program:

- EPA is reporting there will not be a cut to the 319 funding this year as there had been in the past 2 years.
- Katie handed out information from the State Office concerning non-point source funding from 2007 – 2012. It tells the number of applications, how much was requested, what was funded, and how much was matched.
- The super BAG met in December and reviewed all the projects. They did decide on their recommendation; however, they will not disclose those recommendations until funding arrives, approximately April.
- 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 approved 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.

Mid Snake Monitoring

Idaho Power has been monitoring temperature and dissolved oxygen at 4 Mid Snake projects every 10 minutes since 1999. Idaho Power has proposed to discontinue the 10-minute monitoring and has proposed to do water-quality trend monitoring in the Middle Snake River. Brian Hoelscher presented Idaho Power's plan for trend monitoring; a handout was given to attendees. The Consent Order that allows a change to this kind of monitoring is ready for signatures, and then it will go to FERC. After FERC approval, they will immediately begin this monitoring, hopefully by April.

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 in 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

Sue Switzer presented the following DEQ updates:

- Tetra-Tech contract: Tetra-Tech has their analysis completed, and there has been a draft submitted to DEQ and EPA. The members of the technical group within the two organizations are submitting comments. Leigh Woodruff is in the process of consolidating the comments to submit to Tetra-Tech to decide how they are going to move forward.

Andy Morton on behalf of Clear Springs Food is requesting a 60-day period to review and comment on the Tetra-Tech report prior to presenting to the WAG for comment. At this time they would take Sonny up on the offer to go over the analysis with DEQ staff.

Brian Olmstead made a motion that the Mike Trabert signs a letter for the WAG requesting a 60-day period to review Tetra-Tech data and comment. The motion was seconded by Brian Hoelscher and approved unanimously. Clear Springs Food will draft the letter.

- 2012 Integrated Report: Sue presented a handout of the new listings to Category 5 of the Draft 2012 Integrated Report. This includes any new listing within the state that could possibly need a TMDL. This WAG has no creeks on the list. The anticipated timeline for the 2012 Integrated Report is January or February it should be through technical editing; sometime in March a draft into a public comment period; depending on an extension or not, April to August for response to comments; and a final submittal to EPA in August or September. Once it goes out for public comment, Sue will send out an email notice so everyone can go on-line and review it.
- Upper Snake Rock Tributary PNV TMDL: There is no forward direction at this time. We submitted a PNV TMDL for Upper Snake Rock that was for tributaries only. It was not submitted to EPA, because EPA has said they will not accept temperature TMDLs, PNV or otherwise, that do not have waste load allocations for point sources. There are a handful of point sources on tributaries that will need temperature data. It is going to take some collaborative effort to get that data. Sue asked if anyone has ideas on attaining the data.
- 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 Dry Creek, south the Murtaugh.
- Boise State University is having their annual monitoring seminar February 14-16

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Mike Trabert at approximately 3:45 p.m.



 WAG Chairman

9/24/13

 Date