

# UPPER SNAKE BASIN ADVISORY GROUP

## MEETING MINUTES

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
900 N. Skyline Drive, Suite B  
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

Wednesday, April 2, 2014, 10:00 a.m.

### Attendees

Chris Banks – IASCD  
Jay Barlogi – (alternate for Brian Olmstead – BAG – Irrigated AG)  
Sonny Buhidar – DEQ-TFRO  
Roger Blew – BAG-Representative at large  
Dan Davidson – Minidoka Irrigation District  
Hannah Harris – DEQ-PRO  
Justin Hays – BAG - Recreation  
Gary Marquardt – BAG-Non-Municipal  
Don Mays – BAG-Recreation  
Rachel Roskelley – (alternate for Katy McKinley– BAG –Mining)  
Brian Reed - ISWCC  
Richard Savage – BAG -  
Livestock  
Troy Saffle – DEQ-IFRO  
Katie Shewmaker – DEQ-TFRO  
Bud Smalley – Portneuf River Project  
Steven Smith - ISWCC  
Laurie Stone – BAG-Forestry  
Lynn Van Every – DEQ-PRO  
Amy Verbeten – Friends of the Teton River  
Matt Woodard – BAG-Environmental, Chairman

### Welcome and introductions

The meeting was brought to order by Matt Woodard, BAG Chairman. Everyone in attendance was welcomed and each introduced themselves and whom they represented at the meeting.

### Bag business

- Gary Marquardt questioned the estimated total project cost for the Marsh Creek Project. In his notes it was listed at \$416,000 and the minutes stated \$455,000. Katie will verify the amount and send an email to Matt. The minutes were tabled until the correct amount could be verified.
- The next meeting will be the Summer Tour. It is scheduled for Wednesday June 18, 2014, in Idaho Falls. The tour will include Teton Creek, Teton Dam and Palisades Creek.

- Matt read a letter on behalf of the BAG, thanking Don Mays for his years of service and presented him with an engraved cutting board for his retirement from the group.
- Matt welcomed the new BAG Recreation Representative – Justin Hays. Justin introduced himself and explained he was proud to be a new representative for the BAG.

### **Super bag meeting updates on 319 projects**

Matt Woodard presented information from the last Super BAG meeting that occurred in December 2013. Ranking recommendations were made; however, the Super BAG agreed not to announce the final decisions until the funding is actually received. DEQ received information from EPA that there is a possibility for funding levels to increase this year in support of the FY2014 319 projects. If this is the case, there is a potential for the top 11 projects to be funded. DEQ will not know for sure until the funding is received from EPA. The subgrant announcement should be sent out to applicants around June 1, 2014.

### **Portneuf River Project**

Bud Smalley, director of the Portneuf River Project, presented a power point on cooperative efforts between government and nongovernment agencies that preserve and protect the Portneuf River area. Three projects that have been completed include: Topaz Landing, Topaz River and Pebble Creek. Improvement efforts include: exclusionary fence building, willow/tree/shrub plantings, off site water troughs, a new well, culvert and gate systems, and historic stream recreation. These cooperative efforts include many volunteers from the community and schools.

### **Review of WAG's and their status**

Troy reported that there are six organized groups in his region. The Clark County District is getting ready to review the Medicine Lodge document. The Henry's Fork Watershed Council will review the Teton River Five-Year Review this summer. The Willow Creek Watershed is non-active at this time. The South Fork WAG has not included DEQ in their meetings in years. The Palisades 2013 Addendum and Five-Year Review was approved by EPA. Idaho Falls is currently making efforts to gather a group for the Little Lost River Watershed, but it has been challenging to get input. In the future, they may ask the BAG to review the document.

Lynn reported that there are currently four WAGs in the Pocatello region – the Portneuf, Blackfoot, American Falls, and Salt River. They consist mostly of the same people and there are no active meetings at this time, but a current email list is maintained.

Sonny reported that there are three WAGs from the Twin Falls Region, and they are all active and meet regularly. The Lake Walcott WAG usually meets quarterly and has reviewed the Marsh Creek TMDL that is currently at EPA. The Wood River WAG will be reviewing the Camas Creek Subbasin Review that the regional office is currently working on. The Mid Snake WAG is the oldest and is reviewing the draft Tetra Tech report on a portion of the Snake River. EPA is working to finalize the report. TFRO is working on a temperature TMDL for the Bruneau, and then the ownership of that watershed will return to Boise Regional Office. They are not currently working on a review for the Salmon Falls Creek Watershed.

## **Review of TMDLs and their status**

Hannah Harris from the Pocatello Regional Office presented a Power Point presentation on the Salt River and Blackfoot Watersheds. She included an overview of the watershed, the listed pollutants, landownership, uses affected, beneficial uses, data collected and recommendations. Monitoring this summer will include multiple parameters. The Five-Year to-do list consists of compiling completed implementation activities, WAG meetings, analyzing data, and state office approval.

Lynn explained that each Regional Office was given \$19,000 from EPA toward monitoring efforts for Five-Year Reviews. The Five-Year Review for their office will be completed on the Blackfoot. Lynn reported they will also be working on an American Falls Reservoir analysis and review that includes data from the last ten years. 4B efforts are ongoing on the Blackfoot and the regional office will look at moving the Salt River into Category 2 in the Integrated Report due to water quality improvement efforts.

Troy reported that the Idaho Falls Regional Office will be able to utilize their funding from EPA toward field work labor and not as much towards water chemistry sampling. Their Five-Year Review will be on the Little Lost. The BLM and Forest Service have done extensive monitoring and data collection and that information will be used in the review. McNeil Core sampling will be done, along with Streambank Erosion Inventories. Idaho Falls will be hiring 1 or 2 additional seasonal employees that will be utilized for these efforts along with BURP field work.

Sonny reported that the primary document from the Twin Falls Regional Office will be the Camas Creek Five-Year Review. The \$19,000 from EPA will be utilized for monitoring efforts on this watershed including water quality sampling. This will include 27 waterbodies. Rich Bupp will be assigned to this review. Additional Five-Year Reviews will not begin until next year.

## **House Bill 271**

Sonny passed out a handout on House Bill No. 271. This bill stemmed from an issue that grew out of the Lower Boise WAG and the perception of the definition of consultation. A general summary of the revisions was given. It states that DEQ, upon request from the BAG/WAG will provide the group with all available information in their possession concerning the subject of the consultation. Then DEQ will consider the group's recommendations regarding the determination of the subject of consultation. Sonny explained that the Mid-Snake WAG requested formal consultation on the Tetra Tech review of Snake River water quality data. DEQ provided the data to the WAG in a timely manner and considered the questions and concerns of the WAG. Sonny also reviewed a summary chart that listed the comparisons of the WAGs and BAGs responsibilities and involvements during consultation.

## **319 Project Video**

The video: Clean Water, 319, and two guys named Jeff was played for the BAG. This ten minute video reviewed two different 319 water quality improvement projects that involved the partnership of the three Soil and Water Conservation Districts from Twin Falls.

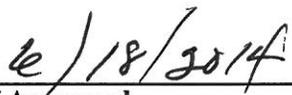
**DEQ Updates**

Katie reported that DEQ finalized the 2012 Integrated Report and it has been sent off to EPA for review. Regional offices are currently in the hiring process for the seasonal BURP crews. The 2015 319 pre-application period cycle will open April 14 and final applications are due August 1, 2014. Katie passed out a current BAG member contact list and asked that updates be made if necessary. There are travel forms available if anyone would like to fill them out for travel reimbursement. Sonny reported that over the next six to seven years Idaho will take over NPDES permitting primacy from EPA.

**Adjourn**

Gary Marquardt made a motion to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded by Rachel Roskelley. The meeting was adjourned by Matt Woodard at 2:15 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Approval