

Upper Snake Basin Advisory Group Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
650 Addison Ave. W., Ste. 110, Twin Falls, Idaho
Wednesday, October 2, 2013

ATTENDEES:

Bill Allred – DEQ - TFRO
Brian Olmstead- BAG- Irrigated Agriculture
Chris Banks- IASCD
Cindy Snyder – Balanced Rock SCD
Craig Thomas – DEQ- TFRO
Dave Pisarski – DEQ-State Office
Don Mays, BAG- Recreation
Gary Marquardt- BAG- Non-Municipal
Greg Shenton- BAG-Local Government
Jay Barlogi- Twin Falls Canal Company
Katy McKinley- BAG- mining
Katie Shewmaker – DEQ-TFRO
Laurie Stone – BAG- Forestry
Lynn Van Every- DEQ-PRO
Matt Woodard – BAG – Environmental, Chairman
Michael Stephenson – (alternate for Ralph Myers – BAG-Hydropower)
Mike Trabert – Mid Snake WAG, Chairman
Pauline Bassett – Caribou SCD
Pegi Long - Power County SCD
Richard Bupp – DEQ - TFRO
Richard Savage – BAG- Livestock
Rob Sharpnack - SWCC
Roger Blew-BAG- Representative at large
Sonny Buhidar – DEQ-TFRO
Stephen Freiburger – Power County Highway District
Steven Smith - ISWCC
Sue Switzer-DEQ-TFRO

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was brought to order by Matt Woodard at 9:15 a.m. Everyone in attendance was welcomed and each introduced themselves and whom they represented at the meeting.

BAG BUSINESS

- Matt Woodard entertained a motion by Greg Shenton to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on April 3, 2013, as written. Roger Blew seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- The Super BAG meeting will be on Wednesday, December 4, 2013 to determine the recipients of 319 grants.
- The next Upper Snake BAG meeting is scheduled on April 2, 2014 in Idaho Falls.
- Katie Shewmaker explained that DEQ employees were there to provide technical assistance, but the present BAG members, or their alternates were the only ones that were there to vote. BAG members discussed ranking projects from one to eight, with one being the first place vote and eight, the last.
- The agenda was modified to accommodate the time schedule of several of the presenters.
- Sonny Buhidar presented a handout and explained that the TFRO is under formal consultation with the Mid Snake WAG as of September 24, 2013; in response to the Tetra Tech WQ Report that was presented by Tetra Tech and EPA on Snake River water quality data. This was formally requested by the WAG in a motion and a signed letter.

PRESENTATION OF 319 PROJECTS

- **PC Pipeline, Off-site Watering and Fish Screen Project- presented by Chris Banks**
The PC Pipeline Project will coincide with the ongoing Pebble Creek Restoration Project that received funding last year. This project will convert a highly erodible irrigation ditch to pipe. The project also includes an offsite watering system, installation of a fish screen on the diversion to eliminate fish passage into the irrigation ditch and the elimination of several lower irrigation diversions to only one diversion point along with reconstruction of the original channel for Pebble Creek; a large tributary to the Portneuf River. Livestock impacts will be reduced by pulling 300 head of cattle from direct steam contact. Human safety will also be improved by stabilizing severely eroding hillsides above a camp ground in the area. Estimated sediment reductions are 100 tons of sediment. Total estimated cost of the project is \$358,967 with a 319 grant request of \$235,929 and matching funds of \$144,105.
- **Upper Blackfoot River Phase 2- presented by Chris Banks**
This project will reduce sediment and nutrient loads by installing 24 offsite watering facilities, constructing 17,160 feet of riparian fence on Meadow Creek and Blackfoot River, installation of 6 solar pumping stations and 25,720 feet of pipe, 3 spring developments, weed reduction and brush and pest management. Willows will be planted and three water gaps will be eliminated. The total cost of the project is \$462,774. The 319 grant request is for \$249,347 and \$213,427 of matching funds will be provided by public and private organizations and participating landowners.

- **Marsh Creek Phase IV- presented by Steven Smith**
 This project will compliment and protect Phases 1, 2 and 3 in Marsh Creek and the Middle Portneuf. It is coordinated in cooperation with the PWP, PRP, IDEQ and Bannock County. This project will focus on installing BMPs on dry crop lands, 300 feet of stream bank restoration on the Portneuf River; as well as a ditch to pipe conversion in the upper Marsh Creek watershed. Estimated pollutant load reductions include: 5932.5 lbs. /yr of nitrogen and 20,695 lbs. / yr of phosphorous and 43.2 tons / yr of TSS. Administrative costs would be \$23,943.75, BMP Implementation - \$355,434 and Outreach, Reporting and Monitoring - \$75,930; for a total project cost of \$455,307.75.
- **39/39A Water Quality Project – presented by Jay Barlogi**
 Lateral 39/39A Drain is the largest contributor of TSS to the Snake River for the Twin Falls Canal Company. The average flow is 15 cfs in summer and up to 22 cfs in the spring. The project will consist of constructing a series of four cleaning cells that will spill into a large finishing pond to filter out sediment, nutrients, and bacteria. It is estimated that there will be a 64% reduction of TSS, a 60% reduction in TP, and a 50% reduction in E. coli bacteria. The estimated cost of the project is \$92,346 with a grant amount of \$54,526 and matching funds of \$37,820 from Twin Falls Canal Company, Balanced Rock SWCC, and private landowners. This project will help meet the water quality standards for the Middle Snake River Set forth in the Upper Snake Rock TMDL, improve wildlife habitat and develop critical riparian areas into long term conservation projects.
- **Upper Portneuf River Project- presented by Pauline Bassett**
 This project will reduce the impacts of approximately 700 head of livestock with 26 acres of riparian use exclusion, approximately 2 miles of riparian fencing and installation of 4 off-site watering systems. The project estimates a decrease in sediment loading of 317.7 tons/year, 16,097 lbs/year of phosphorus, and 4,614 lbs/year of nitrogen. Estimated total cost of the project is \$343,988 which includes \$184,699 in 319 grant and \$159,289 matching funds.
- **Mud Creek/ Silo Creek Phase II– presented by Jay Barlogi**
 This project will be implemented on the Silo Creek drain which flows directly into Mud Creek, then into the Snake River. The wetland project will consist of four cells: two smaller cleaning cells and two larger ponds to polish the agricultural return drain water from approximately 1,000 acres. This also includes a 20 year conservation easement on approximately 6 acres. It is estimated that there will be a 64% reduction of TSS, a 60% reduction in TP, and a 50% reduction in E. coli bacteria. The estimated cost of the project is \$131,980 with a grant amount of \$78,240 and matching funds of \$53,740 from Twin Falls Canal Company, Balanced Rock SWCC, and private landowners.
- **Sunbeam Creek Streambank Stabilization Project – presented by Stephen Freiburger**
 The project will stabilize 0.2 miles of Sunbeam Creek which is a tributary to the Snake River. BMPs include stabilization of 350 feet of the creek through riprap armoring, willow planting, replacing one existing culvert and extending another existing culvert, and realignment of Garden Road away from Sunbeam Creek, It has been estimated that this project could reduce the sediment load by 22 tons/year. The estimated cost of the project is \$100,000 with a grant

amount of \$60,000 and matching funds of \$40,000. Power County Highway District is committed to match 40% with labor and equipment. The funding source for the match contributions to the project will come from the Highway Districts annual budget.

• **N Coulee Irrigation Conversion Project – presented by Cindy Snyder**

Cindy Snyder presented on behalf of Stan Haye, who could not attend due to the government shutdown. The N Coulee is located at the western end of the Twin Falls Canal Company tract and discharges into Salmon Falls Creek. Approximately 320 acres of cropland where the project will be located, is very steep and highly erodible. The surface irrigation conversion project includes installation of a four sprinkler irrigation system (1 mini pivot, 2 half pivots and 1 full center pivot); with an annual sediment load savings of 5 to 6 tons per acre. The estimated cost of the project is \$419,000 with a grant amount of \$250,000 and matching funds of \$169,000.

BAG RANKINGS

There were ten BAG members present. Michael Stephenson with Idaho Power acted as alternate for hydropower representative Ralph Myers and Hunter Osborne, Tribes representative, was not able to attend due to the government shutdown. There were a total of ten votes. All voting representatives stayed until the votes were tallied and agreed upon. Richard Savaged moved that the following results be sent to the Super BAG and the meeting be closed. Don Mays seconded.

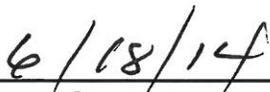
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ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned by Matt Woodard at approximately 2:00 p.m.



Chairman



Date of Approval