

# Middle Snake River Watershed Advisory Group

## Meeting Minutes

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)  
Twin Falls Regional Office  
1363 Fillmore Street, Twin Falls, Idaho  
Wednesday, March 16, 2011, 6:00 p.m.

### **Attendees:**

Andy Morton – Clear Springs Foods, Inc.  
Brian Olmstead – Twin Falls Canal Company (TFCC)  
Chad Chorney – DEQ-Twin Falls Regional Office (TFRO)  
Gary Fornshell – University of Idaho  
Jay Barlogi – Twin Falls Canal Company (TFCC)  
Mike Trabert – City of Twin Falls  
Sean Woodhead – DEQ – Twin Falls Regional Office (TFRO)  
Sue Switzer – DEQ-Twin Falls Regional Office (TFRO)

### **Welcome**

The meeting was brought to order by Mike Trabert, WAG Chairman, representing the POTW's. The attendees introduced themselves and who they represented.

### **Wag Business**

No minutes were available for review.

### **Mid-Snake WAG By-Laws**

Sue Switzer presented the Mid-Snake WAG By-Laws, last revised in 2004, for discussion and possible revisions. The following points were brought up for discussion:

- Article II referenced an “Attached Map” of the watershed that was no longer with the document. Trabert stated there needed to be a map and the one in the TMDL document could be used.
- Article IV, Item #5 was brought to up as something that might be focused on by the WAG, not really needing changes.
- Article V – - The WAG no longer meets at the Health and Welfare Building on Pole Line. It was suggested the language be changed to the Twin Falls DEQ Office without including the specific physical address.

- Article VI – It was agreed to have the language removed on page 3 stating “Notice of scheduled meetings shall also be published in newspapers of general circulation in the watershed.” It was suggested language be added that the WAG meeting would follow Idaho rules for public notice of meetings, so if the rules change the by-laws do not have to. It was decided to leave meeting times as presently stated and additional meetings can be scheduled as needed.
- Article VII – Concerns were raised at the last meeting regarding decisions by consensus. The By-Laws state, “Actions of the MSR WAG must be approved by a consensus of the MSR WAG members present at a properly noticed meeting.” This language will remain as stated. However, concerns were expressed that those members who are attending the meetings need to have authority to vote on behalf of their representative groups or abstain and be able to take the matter back to the representative group. This would require additional meetings, perhaps even the next day.

Some items, such as 319 projects may be presented and voted on the same night. However, there are some issues that will need to be presented to the representative groups to get a consensus rather than making a decision that night. Members need to be communicating with their representative group prior to the meeting and prior to expressing any personal opinions. Members need to do prior preparation concerning agenda items to be voted on. The members need to be communicating with their representative groups prior to the WAG meeting. The group decided items that would be voted on needed to be provided to the WAG members prior to the meetings; at least two weeks in advance was suggested. This would give members the opportunity to meet the groups they represent to discuss the agenda items.

- Article VII – Right now there is no Facilitator; however, Trabert suggested that it be left in the by-laws. If we get into a major issue, we may need to put a Facilitator back in.
- Article XIV – change/add dates as necessary.

Sue will make the changes and present them at the next WAG meeting. However, each WAG member was encouraged to look over them in detail and see if there is something that needs further discussion.

### **Representation of Interest Groups**

There was a lot of discussion concerning who to have represent interest groups that are not presently filled, or if the interest group is needed. The following names and interest groups were brought up:

Recreation – Doug Lincoln? Larry Burton?  
 Mid Snake Water Resource Commission – Bob Muffley? Terry Kramer?  
 CAFO/etc. – Harry Hoagland? Bob Naerabout? Phyllis Beard (TASCO)?  
 Conservation – Julie Randall? Ben Collins (MVFF, Southern Idaho Land Trust)?

## **DEQ Updates**

- There was a statewide Surface Water training meeting held in Boise. Sue brought up some of the items that came up from the meeting. One of the items was that for the 2012 funding year there is a 77% reduction in funding and \$75,000 was reduced from the BAG/WAG budget, which means fewer meetings.
- They are still working on public comment on Integrated Report; it is not out yet.
- BURP is coming back for this year. For now, it is only for one year and only 40 sights will be monitored. With the anti-degradation rule this will become more important.

## **Accessing Data on DEQ's Map-Based Integrated Report**

To get to the Integrated Report using the map so you can see the different assessment units go to the DEQ web site, water, and programs and issues, scroll down to surface water, and then click the 4<sup>th</sup> line down to get into the Integrated Report 303.d. Then click on the Final 2008 Integrated Report (It will be final 2010 report soon.) In the upper right is the map based Integrated Report web site. Sean Woodhead demonstrated how to get around the web site and get information. He also broke down the assessment unit to define it. The question that every one has raised is how do we get to the water chemistry and data other than BURP especially as related to the Anti-Degradation Rule?

## **City of Twin Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant**

If you go on the EPA's web site, go into wastewater, and then into permits, you should be able to go into the ones that are up for public comment. There are four documents on there: the 401 Certification, the contract between the state and the city, the permit, and the Fact Sheet. The closing date for public comments is March 31. There was some issue that this was a new permit for a new five years. It is not; it is just a modification that ends November 2014, which is still four growing seasons.

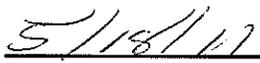
## **Call for Presentations of Water Quality Projects**

Mike Trabert is looking for people to do presentations on water quality projects and what is going on on the Snake River. Presentations are given in connection with 319 projects, but there is a lot going on in the Snake River and if we could get people to do presentations, it might spark more interest and get more people to show up. Gary Fornshell would be willing to do a presentation about a project at the Idaho Springs Facility. Mike thought the WAG could do a tour of the new pond that is part of the TSS project. Sue mentioned that Jordan Tollefson has expressed interest in presenting a couple of projects.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by Mike Trabert at 7:50 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
WAG Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date