

Upper Snake Basin Advisory Group Meeting

MEETING MINUTES
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
319 South 417 East, Jerome, Idaho
Tuesday, October 19, 2010

ATTENDEES:

Bill Allred-DEQ-TFRO
Brett Ingles - NRCS
Carolyn Firth- ISWCC
Chris Banks- IASCD
Chris Carson – ducks Unlimited
Chuck Pentzer-SWC
Dave Pisarski – DEQ-State Office
Dayna Gross – The Nature Conservancy
Don Mays- BAG-Recreation
Doug Megargle – IDF&G
George Kirk – Sun Valley Ranch
Greg Shenton- BAG-Local Government
Hannah Sanger – City of Pocatello
Janet Pacioretty – Portneuf SWCD
Jim Gregory – Trout Unlimited
Jordon Tollefson-SWC
Justin Skinner – Agrium
Katie Shewmaker – DEQ-TFRO
Laura Knothe – The New Energy Company
Mike Lien – Friends of the Teton River
Lynn Van Every- DEQ-PRO
Matt Thompson – AgTec Engineering
Matt Woodard – BAG-Environment
Pauline Bassett – Caribou SCD
Ralph Myers – Idaho Power
Randy Purser-Butte SWCD
Roger Blew-BAG
Ron Pierce – Sun Valley Ranch
Sandy Gritton-DEQ-TFRO
Sean Woodhead – DEQ-TFRO
Sue Switzer-DEQ-TFRO
Terry Edwards – NRCS
Terry Halbert – North Side SWCD
Troy Saffle – DEQ-IDF
Zeke Zimmerman – Oregon Trail Recreation District

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was brought to order by Matt Woodard, BAG Chairman, at 9:05 a.m. Everyone introduced themselves and whom they represented at the meeting.

BAG BUSINESS

- Matt Woodard entertained a motion by Greg Shenten to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on November 4, 2009, as written. Don Mays seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- The Super BAG meeting will be on Wednesday, December 2 to determine the recipients of 319 grants. Troy Saffle and Lynn VanEvery will give updates to the Super BAG regarding the 2010 Integrated Report.
- The next Upper Snake BAG meeting is scheduled on March 9, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in Pocatello.
- Don Mays was concerned about a 319 project on The Little Lost River that was given funding last year and because of economic situation the funds were withdrawn. Dave Pisarski replied that he did not recall a project being funded on the Little Lost River in 2009.

PRESENTATION OF 319 PROJECTS

- **Loving Creek Enhancement – presented by Dayna Gross**
This Project will focus on two areas near the Hayspur Hatchery: first, reconfigure the diversion from Loving Creek to the Hatchery, and second, reconfigure and clean up the pond by the hatchery. The Loving Creek Enhancement project aims to reduce thermal load by 50% and reduce impacts of sediment and nutrients by vegetating and expanding riparian buffers, narrowing channels, and building islands and meanders. The estimated total cost of the project is \$180,000: estimated matching funds of \$90,000 from private organizations and landowners and 319 grant request of \$90,000. The project will result in the restoration and enhancement of Loving Creek and increase spawning habitat.
- **Twin Falls Coulee Wetlands Project – presented by Jordan Tollefson**
The project will consist of constructing 14 sediment basins and one large wetland to filter out sediment, nutrients, and bacteria. It is estimated that there will be a 64% reduction in TSS, a 60% reduction in TP, and an 89% reduction in E. coli bacteria. The estimated cost of the project is \$178,600 with a grant amount of \$106,300 and matching funds of \$72,500 from Twin Falls Canal Company, ISWCC, 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 add scenic beauty to the area.
- **Dry Creek Watershed Improvement Project – presented by Jordan Tollefson**
This project will consist of channel stabilization of approximately 0.9 miles of Dry Creek. It will include reshaping the banks to help reduce bank erosion; installing vegetation on the

banks to prevent erosion and provide a buffer between the adjacent cropland and Dry Creek; and installing grade stabilization structures to decrease velocities during large storm events, raise the water level of the channel, increase sedimentation of the channel, and over time help restore the channel to its original condition. The estimated load reductions based on an average year for TSS would be 365 ton/year and TP would be 3.84 lbs/day. The total cost of the project is \$231,700 with a grant amount of \$137,680 and matching funds of \$94,020 from ISWCC and private landowners.

- **Magic Valley Residue Management – presented by Jordan Tollefson**

The purpose of this project is to enroll approximately 3,000 acres in residue management practices by offering a \$30 per acre incentive payment to farmers. Using strip-till/no-till machinery allows the farmer to plant directly into existing crop residue. Soil loss due to irrigation, precipitation, and wind erosion is decreased. With full project implementation, there will be an estimated decrease in sediment loading of 150 ton/year, 420 lbs/year of phosphorus, and 840 lbs/year of nitrogen entering the Snake River. Estimated total cost of the project is \$593,900: \$217,200 in 319 grant and \$376,700 matching funds.

- **Nutrient reduction Minidoka Nitrate Priority Area – presented by Carolyn Firth**

The purpose of this project is to decrease the use of phosphorus and nitrogen by utilizing precision agriculture. Farmers will be given financial incentives to follow nutrient management plans University of Idaho fertilizer guides and electrical conductivity mapping will be used to guide soil sampling and will be the basis for variable rate applications of fertilizer. The project is anticipated to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus by 25%. The estimated cost is \$192,700 for the 319 grant and \$129,800 in matching funds for a total of \$322,500. The majority of matching funds would come from the farmers who participate in the project.

- **Raft River Streambank Protection – Presented by Carolyn Firth**

The proposed project includes riparian fencing, willow planting, exclusion of cattle, and installation of stream crossings on the Raft River. On Almo Creek, reinforced concrete diversion structures will be installed. The estimated reductions for the project are: sediment 35-55% and bacteria 40-55%. The total estimated cost of the project is \$289,020 with \$173,412 from 319 grant and \$115,608 in matching funds. Contributors include Almo Water Company, US Geothermal, Raft River Flood Control District, and landowners.

- **Marsh Creek Restoration – presented by Carolyn Firth**

The project involves fencing of riparian areas along some portions of the creek, planting riparian vegetation, installation of stream crossings that will function as water gaps for stock water, and installing offsite watering facilities, rock barbs, rock drop structures, rip rap, tree revetments, sediment basins, and possibly water control structures. It is expected to reduce sediment 35-55%, phosphorus 45-60%, and E. coli 40-55%. The total estimated cost of the project is \$366,100 with \$217,000 requested 319 grant and \$149,000 in matching funds from landowners, Ag Program Specialists and ISWCC. This project was originally funded last year but was pulled due to funding shortage.

- **Rock Creek Dairy Power Project – presented by Laura Knothe and Matt Thompson**
 This project places an anaerobic digester on the Rock Creek to treat the waste stream from 3 neighboring dairies to the Cedar Draw. All the manure from the three dairies will go to the digester and be treated. The effluent from the digester will be solid/liquid separated to reduce the amount of phosphorous and solids in the liquid waste before land application. IN addition, berming on the fields would be done and a sediment pond at the base of the head of Cedar Draw would be added. This would result in an estimated 94% reduction of phosphorus and 98% reduction of sediment. The 319 proposal is \$250,000 with matching funds of \$415,000 for a total cost of \$665,000. Matching funds have been provided by a private company.
- **Oregon Trail Recreation Greenbelt – presented by Zeke Zimmerman**
 This project will stabilize the shoreline/streambank along the south side of the Milner Lake segment of the Snake River where wave erosion takes approximately 2316 tons of topsoil from the streambank per year. Benefits derived from this project include a reduction in sediment, along with nutrients and bacteria that may be tied to that sediment. The estimated cost is \$117,000 form the 318 Grant, a match of \$121,000 for a total of \$238,000. Oregon Trail Recreation District and the City of Burley will provide matching funds.
- **Black Slough/Crystal Creek Restoration – presented by George Kirk and Ron Pierce**
 The design of this project is to abandon the existing over-wide sediment filled spring channel to a degree and construct a new channel back up on the terrace. There would be perennial streams with connected wetlands constructed from the old channel. Aggressive revegetation using native would be used to help cool the water. This project targets a 40% reduction n sediments, 24% reduction in phosphorus and a 22% reduction in E. coli. The project entails 20,900 linear feet of restored channel with a total cost of \$522,500. The 319 request is for \$250,000 and matching funds of \$272,500 provided by Sun Valley Ranch.
- **Whitworth/1000 Springs/Chilly Slough 3 – presented by Jim Gregory**
 This project is to construct buck-and-pole fence on both sides of the stream along 2.6 miles of Thousand Springs Creek. Willows and woody vegetation would be planted, and grazing would be eliminated for 10 years. The project would result in an estimated 572 ton sediment reduction. Requested 319 funds of \$90,100 with matching funds of \$60,000 from Trout Unlimited makes a total 319 project budget of \$150,100. The \$215,900 original budget includes non-matching funds of \$70,000.
- **Palisades Creek Project – present by Matt Woodard**
 The goals of this project are to restore Palisades Creek to a stable functioning stream system, channel restoration by utilizing natural channel design bank and instream treatments, bank stabilization, and establishing local native riparian vegetation. The results would improve spawning and rearing areas for native Yellowstone Cutthroat trout and reduce sediment an estimated 620 tons per year. The overall project cost is \$150,000; 319 grant request of \$90,000 and matching funds of \$60,000. Match sources will be provided by Trout Unlimited and in-kind service from private volunteers.

- **Marsh Creek Phase IV – presented by Chris Banks**
 The goals of this project are to reduce run-off from two animal facilities with waste storage and nutrient management; improve one mile of riparian habitat with grazing management, watering facilities, fencing, and riparian vegetation; and reduce erosion on crop and range lands with conservation cover, sediment basins and residue management. This project would result in an estimated pollutant load reductions of 600 lbs. of nitrogen and 500 lbs. of phosphorous. The 319 grant request of \$249,937 with matching funds of \$236,907 for a total project cost of \$486,845. Matching funds would be provided by PSCWD, PWP, ISWCC, ISDA, and participating landowners.
- **Upper Blackfoot River Phase I – presented by Chris Banks**
 This project will reduce sediment and nutrient loads by installing offsite watering facilities and constructing pasture and exclusion fencing, riparian restoration, and weeds reduction and management. The total cost of the project is \$326,366. The 319 grant request is for \$195,254 and \$131,112 of matching funds will be provided by public and private organizations and participating landowners.
- **Ovid Creek Stream Protection – Withdrew**
- **Big Lost River Water Quality Project – presented by Randy Purser**
 The Big Lost River Water Quality Project will eliminate runoff from two animal facilities with waste storage and nutrient management. It will improve 5.5 miles of riparian habitat with grazing management, watering facilities, pasture and exclusion fencing, and 10 acres of riparian plantings on Antelope Creek. The project will have an estimated annual load reduction of 98 tons of sediment, 800 lbs of nitrogen, and 550 lbs of phosphorus. The 319 grant request is \$153,777, with a match of 105,900 for a total project cost of \$259,677. Those involved in the project would include landowners, ISWCC, Idaho Department of Ag., and Butte SWCD.
- **Teton Creek Restoration Project – presented by Mike Lien**
 The purpose of this project is to improve water quality in Teton Creek and the Teton River by stabilizing approximately one mile of unstable stream channel, improving habitat conditions, and by reestablishing a functional aquatic and riparian ecosystem. The FY 2011 grant proposal will includes construction of 840 feet of inset floodplain, stabilization of 1,650 feet of eroding streambanks and planting 1.5 acres of native vegetation. There will be an estimated sediment reduction of 420 tons per year. The total project cost is \$255,000 with a 310 grant request for \$150,000 and matching funds of \$105,000 from landowners, Aqua Terra Restoration, Bonneville Environmental Foundation, Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and FTR.
- **City Creek – presented by Hanna Sanger**
 This project will significantly reduce sediment and E. coli loading to city Creek and the Portneuf River. BMPs that will be installed include installation of native vegetation, trail re-routing away from the stream, water bars, rolling dips, and new bridges. The 319 grant

request is \$90,645 with matching funds of \$240,599 from the City of Pocatello and ISU. The estimated total project cost is \$330,944.

BAG RANKINGS

- There were five BAG members present. Justin Skinner of Agrium was substituting as the mining representative for Kathleen McKinley, and Richard Savage sent a letter for a proxy vote. There were a total of seven votes. Matt Woodard excused himself from voting for the Palisades Creek Project due to the potential conflict of interest.

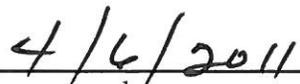
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ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned by Matt Woodard at 3:32 p.m.



BAG Chairman



Date approved