# Upper Snake Basin Advisory Group Meeting

**Meeting Minutes**

DEQ Pocatello Regional Office
444 Hospital Way #300
Pocatello, Idaho 83201
Wednesday, November 4, 2009

**ATTENDEES:**

1. Mike Etcheverry-DEQ-TFRO
2. Don Mays- BAG- Recreation
3. Ralph Meyers- BAG- Idaho Power
4. Katy McKinley- BAG- Mining
5. Melissa Thompson – DEQ-PRO
6. Justin Krajewski- ISCC
7. Chris Banks - IASCD
8. Richard Savage – BAG - Livestock
9. Gary Marquardt- BAG- Aquaculture
10. Laurie Stone – BAG- Forestry
11. Katie Shewmaker – DEQ-TRFO
12. Dave Pisarski- DEQ-Boise
13. Troy Saffle- DEQ-IFRO
14. Roger Blew – BAG
15. Lynn VanEvery – DEQ-PRO
16. Janet Pacioretty- PSWCD
17. Bud Smalley- Carriiboo Conservancy
18. Matt Woodard – BAG Environment

**I. Welcome and Introductions** **9:50 am**

***Matt Woodard- BAG Chairman***

The meeting was called to order and everyone was welcomed in attendance. Each of the attendees introduced themselves and whom they represented at the meeting.

**II. Bag Business** **9:55 pm**

A. Matt Woodard entertained a motion to approve minutes as read, Gary Marquardt made the motion, and Richard Savage seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
B. The next meeting is scheduled for April 7th, 2010 at the Idaho Falls office at 10:00 am
C. The motion was made by Richard Savage to adjourn at 2:00 pm, Ralph Meyers seconded the motion.

## III. Pocatello Regional Office Update — 10:00 pm

*Lynn Van Every- DEQ-PRO*

A. DEQ is seeking comments on revision and addendum to Portneuf River Subbasin water quality improvement plan.

B. An update was given on the recent working of the Phosphate Patch relating to fish tissue Selenium. The study's objectives were to characterize the range of Selenium in fish tissue and the levels of concentration. This included six control sites with no phosphoric outcroppings, twelve background sites with phosphoric outcroppings and no mining disturbance, and eleven sites with mining disturbances and impacted water quality. The study's parameters included: season- August to October, fish species- salmonids and sculpin, fish size- young of the yr or < 6 in or 150 mm, number of fish per site- ten of each species. All fish in impacted sites across species averaged Selenium concentrations with higher significant differences than control sites. In the future researchers will be looking at the correlation between fish tissue criterion and how it relates to water quality measures. This study was a joint effort by Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Idaho Department of Fish and Game and JR Simplot Co.

## IV. Marsh Creek 319 Project Update — 10:50 am

*Chris Banks- IASCD*

The Marsh Creek 319 project to date has included 259,356 acres, 14 sub watersheds, and 166 miles of perennial streams with 81 percent of the total on private lands. This project involves a three phase approach to meet the TMDL needs. Phase 1 included involving six of the thirty-five private animal facilities on Marsh Creek. Phase 2 would add nine more, and Phase 3 would add two additional facilities. BMPs in Phase 1 include berms, off site watering systems, fencing, and planting permanent vegetation. Phase 2 has eight contracts so far. BMP's include wells, spring developments, pipe, fencing exclusions, pasture/hayland planting, waste storage facilities, and water gaps. This project will receive a total of $540,800 from DEQ NPS program and must be completed by 2011. It has been estimated to eliminate 110 tons of sediment, 250 pounds of nitrogen and 720 pounds of phosphorous. Weekly monitoring is occurring, with continued future monitoring to occur.

## V. Portneuf River Project Property Acquisition — 11:25 am

*Bud Smalley- Carriboo Conservancy*

The Portneuf River Project was created to preserve and protect the Portneuf River and the Chesterfield Reservoir for future generations. The goal of the project is for the Portneuf River to flow clean and clear from Chesterfield to Pocatello with permanent public access for fishermen, hikers, bikers, campers, and families to enjoy. The sponsor of the Portneuf River Project is the Carriboo Conservancy, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The group was contacted by Carolynn Williams who wanted to donate eight acres of her property on the Portneuf River. After many roadblocks, and due greatly to the many partners and resources of the project, the land is now owned by the Carriboo Conservancy. This acreage will include the only public access to the river below Lava Hot Springs.

**VI. Idaho Falls Region Office Update** **12:10 pm**

***Troy Saffle-DEQ-IFRO***

The Idaho Falls Regional office is currently working on TMDLs for four subbasins that need to be completed from the original settlement agreement. Employees will be spending more time in the field as they look at implementing low cost monitoring procedures. This will include stream bank erosion indexes, land use planning and shade curves. E-coli sampling for the e-coli TMDLs will also be done. The South Fork WAG has been pretty quiet. The Continental Divide WAG has petitioned the SCD to act as the WAG due to low attendance numbers. The SCD had agreed. Due to budget and employee cutbacks, the regional office workload has increased in source water and planning grants for communities, TMDL support and DMR information. Work has also included collaboration with EPA on NPDES permits and working with local communities for grants and loans for water treatment facilities. Future work includes the 2010 Integrated Report.

**VII. Twin Falls Region Office Update** **12:35 pm**

***Katie Shewmaker – DEQ-TFRO***

Dr. Buhidar was filling in as acting RA, so he was not able to make it to the meeting. The regional office has been trying to modify meeting schedules for the three WAGs in the region. The Mid-Snake WAG has been meeting quarterly up until mid-spring and will probably not meet again until next spring. Issues include temperature TMDL, growth struggles for municipalities including the City of Twin Falls and Jerome and the cost of change and infrastructure. The Lake Walcott WAG is meeting quarterly and current work involves Marsh Creek TMDL, Lake Walcott temp TMDL, and the Goose Creek 5 year review. Issues include growth in Heyburn and Burley, older infrastructure and cost perspectives and how that will translate to customers. The Wood River WAG has been meeting quarterly and current work includes the Little Wood Five Year Review and the Big Wood Temperature TMDL. Issues include questions on expanding phosphorous and TSS levels to discharge at higher capacity, but that will entail decreased discharge from others. The regional office has also been approached in regards to pollutant trading by aquaculture facilities and municipalities. Monitoring on the Snake River from King Hill to American Falls is occurring monthly.

**VIII. Adjourn** **2:00 pm**

**Matt Woodard – BAG Chairman**

Matt Woodard

Chairman

10/19/2010

Date of Approval