

Upper Snake Basin Advisory Group Meeting

900 N. Skyline, Suite B
Idaho Falls, Id
Wednesday, April 1st, 2009

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

1. Carolyn Rambough-DEQ-TFRO
2. Roger Blew-BAG-Public at Large
3. Gary Marquardt-BAG-Aquaculture
4. Aaron Swift-DEQ-IFRO
5. Bill Allred-DEQ-TFRO
6. Lynn VanEvery-DEQ-PRO
7. Troy Saffle-DEQ-IFRO
8. Richard Savage BAG-Livestock
9. Matt Woodard-BAG-Environment
10. Jay Barlogi-TFCC
11. Katie Shewmaker-DEQ-TFRO
12. Erick Neher-DEQ-IFRO
13. William Teuscher-DEQ-IFRO
14. Jack Rainey-DEQ-IFRO
15. Mike Trabert-City of Twin Falls
16. Sue Switzer-DEQ-TFRO
17. Justin Krajewski-ISCC-Pocatello
18. Flint Raben-IASCD-Pocatello
19. Melissa Thompson-DEQ-PRO
20. Chris Banks-IASCD-Pocatello
21. Janet Pacioretty-Portneuf SWCD
22. Greg Shenton-BAG Local Government

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

10:02AM

Matt Woodard-BAG Chairman

Matt welcomed everyone and everyone introduced themselves.

II. BAG BUSINESS

10:05AM

- A. Motion was made by Gary Marquardt to approve minutes as read. Roger Blew seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Motion was made by Gary Marquardt to support the Danielson Watershed / Springfield Project. Roger Blew seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. Motion was made by Gary Marquardt to support the Marsh Creek Watershed Project Phase 2. Roger Blew seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- D. Motion made by Roger Blew to support the fencing project on the Blackfoot River. Gary Marquardt seconded the motion.
- E. Next meeting is scheduled for July 8th, 2009; in Twin Falls; to go over 319 projects.
- F. The summer tour is scheduled for September 16th, 2009.

III. HYDROPOWER REPRESENTATIVE

10:08AM

Bill Allred-DEQ-TFRO

Recently the Upper Snake BAG lost the Hydropower Representative. DEQ held a news release for public comment to advertise for a new representative. Idaho Power put in a request for Ralph Myers to be the hydropower representative. The public comment period closed as of March 27th, 2009. The request will be sent on to the director of DEQ, she will then give her okay.

IV. MINING REPRESENTATIVE

10:10AM

Bill Allred-DEQ-TFRO

The Upper Snake BAG also lost there mining representative. However, this position will go out for public comment soon. The BAG had discussed that there was someone interested in the position, by the name of Kathleen McKinley. She works for the Dry Valley Mine.

V. 319 –GRANTS

10:15AM

Sue Switzer-DEQ-TFRO

The timeline for the 319 project funds has changed. The reason for the changes, is to help keep the changing costs down and to receive the funds quicker in order to get the projects done sooner. The last day to submit the pre-applications for the 2010 fiscal funding is February 9th, 2009; and the last day to submit the completed applications is May 9th, 2009. Completed applications will be provided to the BAG by June 16th, 2009, and the BAG will have a meeting on July 8th, 2009 to rank the projects.

Now for the 2011 fiscal year, the pre-applications have to be submitted by June 9th, 2010, and the last day to submit completed applications is September 9th, 2010. The completed applications will be provided to the BAG by October 16th, 2010. The BAG will then have a meeting to rank the projects some time between October 16th, and November 10th, 2010.

VI. 2010 BUDGET REVIEW

10:25AM

Troy Saffle-DEQ-IFRO

Reductions within the Surface Water section will come from operational dollars, because surface water requires a lot of lab work, and a lot of outside personnel costs. With that in mind the B.U.R.P. (Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Program) season will be reduced, as well as travel. DEQ employees can travel for there day to day jobs, but nothing else. The analytical budgets have been cut. Over the last 20 years, DEQ has funded an agreement with USGS to monitor STAG sites across the large water bodies in the state. That cooperative agreement has since been cancelled. The USGS will no longer finish any work that they had in the fiscal year of 2009 and it's likely that the contract will not be opened in fiscal year 2010. As far as data, each individual regional office will decide what is more important to work on; whether it will be the 5 year reviews or the TMDL settlements.

VII.2008 INTEGRATED REPORT

10:30AM

Troy Saffle-DEQ-TFRO

The DEQ webpage <http://global.deq.idaho.gov/websiteintegratedreportdegwaters/reviewer.htm>, will show all of the water bodies for Idaho and all of the BURP data.

VIII. 5 YEAR REVIEW UPDATE

10:35AM

Troy Saffle-DEQ-TFRO

The 5Year Review is for the State Legislators not EPA. It is a requirement to give the legislators an update , or least prepare a document ; however the legislators have not asked for them yet. The Idaho Falls Regional Office has 6 subbasins to review this year, and 4 of them are in the Upper Snake. Within that, there are 3 NPDES permits that need to be incorporated into the TMDL. (They were left out last time) The Idaho Falls Surface Water Section is trying to revive there WAG's. The Big Lost is due for a 5year review this year, it has Temperature TMDLS. Because there was an assessment done on the review, it was discovered that there were two hatcheries; that have discharge permits. One of the hatcheries (Mackay hatchery) is a Fish and Game hatchery, and one is a private firm (The Lost River Hatchery) owned by Dick Smith. The Fish and Games' NPDES Permit is referred to the TMDL, and currently out of compliance because of the temperature issues. DEQ is compiling data to make a formal petition for EPA to re-open the TMDL. The City of Idaho Falls's NPDES Permit is up for renewal. EPA noticed that the city has never treated for phosphorous, and would like for them to update there wastewater treatment facility.

IV. DEQ GRANTS/ LOANS

10:43 AM

Willie Teuscher- DEQ-IFRO

The State has money set aside for wastewater treatment facilities and collection sites. In 2003, DEQ started looking at non-point source discharges to try to identify projects that can be done to help the

environment and help maintain the water quality within that state without using the SRF. This money can also be used for non-point source projects along with the 319 program. Every year letters of interest come in, then the projects are ranked and based on criteria. There are drinking water grants and loans for drinking water projects as well. Each year a priority list is established for both grants and loans.

V. SOUTH BINGHAM/SCD DANIELSON WATERSHED

11:12 AM

Justin Krajewski-ISWCD

(See Power-Point) The Conservation District is working on the Danielson Watershed. An exclusion fence will be built, and riparian buffer plantings will be put in. The project amount is \$3,450 with the match of \$3,755 total project cost is \$ 7,205.

VI. MARSH CREEK-PHASE 2

11:30 AM

Justin Krajewski-ISWCD

(See Power-Point) The Marsh Creek Watershed Project Phase 2 will eliminate run-off from ten animal facilities, improve two miles of riparian habitat, and reduce erosion on 5,000 critical acres of crop, range and pasture lands on Marsh Creek and its tributaries. The goal of the project is reduce sediment, nutrients, and bacteria loads. Marsh Creek has high priority rankings for sediment, bacteria, phosphorous, and nitrogen. The grant amount is \$540,800, with the match of \$523,594 total cost is \$1,064,394.

VII. FENCING ON BLACKFOOT RIVER

12:45 PM

Melissa Thompson-DEQ-PRO

(See Power-Point) BLM contacted DEQ in Pocatello for some funding for fencing along the riparian areas. By Cedarford there would be 8 miles of fencing, 2 cattle guards, 2-3 troughs/hydro shears, 3 water crossings, and boulder placements. \$96,000. All of this will exclude ATV use and help prevent damage. By Morgan Bridge there will be 4 miles of fencing, 1 cattle guard, 2-3 troughs/ hydro shears, and boulder placements. \$111,000. At Graves Creek Campground 1.7 miles of fencing will be put in, 1 cattle guard and 1 water crossing. \$85,000. Additional projects are proposed by Sage Hen Campground.

VIII. DEQ-PRO UPDATE

1:10 PM

Lynn VanEvery-DEQ-PRO

The Portneuf TMDL is in revision, and going out for public comment May 1st, 2009. The American Falls TMDL was contested in 2006, and went to court; DEQ settled. That TMDL was revised and is out for public comment, May 1st, 2009. The Pocatello regional office is working on the 5 year review for the Blackfoot River and spending time with the WAG on implementations.

XI. DEQ-IFRO UPDATE

1:12 PM

Troy Saffle-DEQ-IFRO

Palisades is reopening and the Upper Henry's is meeting regularly. The Idaho Falls regional office is reopening the Tetons, to get new NPDES permits. There has been no communications with the Medicine Lodge.

X. DEQ-TFRO UPDATE

1:15 PM

Sue Switzer-DEQ-TFRO

The Upper Snake Rock 5 Year Review is 98% done, and the Bruneau and Lake Walcott 5 Year Review are done. Bruneau does not have a WAG. Goose Creek is due in 2009. The Twin Falls Regional Office gave a presentation on invasive species, to the Mid Snake WAG. The Quagga and Zebra Mussels are a real concern in the State of Idaho.

XI. ADJOURN

1:30 PM

Matt Woodard- BAG Chairman

Next Meeting Scheduled for July 8th, 2009, in Twin Falls, Id

Carolyn Rambough
Secretary

Matt Woodard
Chairman

7/8/09
Date of Approval