

Salmon Basin Advisory Group
Meeting Minutes – March 5, 2013

Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program
955 Riverfront Drive, Suite B

BAG members present: Bruce Mulkey, Bert Doughty, Hadley Roberts, Brant Tritthart

BAG members absent: Hunter Osborn

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) present: Troy Saffle, Lisa Cawley

Guests: Cliff Hansen; Mike Kossler, LSWCD; Mike Edmondson, OSC/USBWP

With the resignation of the Salmon BAG chairman, Dick Hauff, the meeting was started by Troy Saffle at 1:00 p.m. Introductions were made.

Meeting minutes from August 15, 2011 BAG meeting – due to the lack of a quorum, the minutes were not approved.

BAG Members

Troy announced that both Dick Hauff and Rod Evans have resigned their positions on the BAG. This leaves the following representatives vacant: At Large, Livestock, Forestry/Timber, Local Government, and Recreation. Troy suggested that the Local Government position can be filled by any government position, not just a city or county elected official. Troy asked the group for possible candidates to fill these vacancies.

- Sara Baker was mentioned as a possible candidate. Troy stated that with the BAG's recommendation and approval, he would contact her to see if she would be interested.
- Forestry/Timber – Troy suggested changing the definition of this representative since no possible candidates can be found. Lisa was asked to search the old meeting minutes for past representatives or candidates.
- Recreation (sportsman, fisherman industry) – Bruce suggested Kristen Troy. Her husband Mark Troy has been suggested in the past and that it would be difficult for him to participate during the busy summer months.
- At Large (citizens not associated with any particular organization) – Hadley recommended Betsy Rieffenberger.
- Livestock – Cliff Hansen might consider this position.
- Other possible candidates include Lynn Bennett, Earl Skein (Bert will provide Troy with his contact information), and Doug Westfall (he has declined in the past).

Troy asked the members if any would be interested in the Chairmanship position. None volunteered. Troy provided the group a recent news release to show how DEQ solicits new BAG members. He also explained the procedures for adding new members to the BAG and answered all questions. The BAG instructed Troy to proceed with soliciting new members.

SBA/TMDL Update

Lemhi SBA/TMDL – The EPA has approved the Lemhi River Subbasin TMDL for temperature and bacteria. Troy explained the process for determining temperature measurements including the use of local knowledge to select the correct vegetation types for the shade calculations.

Middle Salmon Panther – Troy indicated the subbasin 5 Year Review and TMDL Addendum was under development, with Curtis Cooper at DEQ the lead author. The primary challenge for this document was the integration of the Blackbird Mine Site remediation with the TMDL program and documentation.

Upper Salmon – Troy indicated the challenges in this basin were related to public perception involving the “temperature impairment” of upstream segments of the river and associated tributaries. Cliff requested a list of the streams undergoing TMDL investigation. Curtis Cooper was again identified as the primary author.

Integrated Report Update

Troy discussed the upcoming integrated report public comment period, as well as the process DEQ used to assess streams in Idaho. Questions were asked about how the BURP data was collected and Cliff asked to be notified when the crew would be working in areas he has interest. Troy then showed the streams in the basin which were impaired on the DEQ web page integrated map server.

Troy mentioned the report should begin public comment in early April, 2013, with a minimum of 30 day review, but he mentioned he expected extension requests and DEQ would honor that and make an additional 30 day comment period, bringing the total public review time to 60 days.

Other BAG Business

Troy discussed DEQ’s recently implemented anti-degradation reviews for all water quality certifications issued in Idaho. He addressed the increased workload and timing considerations placed on both discharge facilities (like Grouse Creek, Thompson Creek and the city of Salmon) and restoration projects such as those completed by USBWP. Troy advised applicants to add an additional 30 days, minimum to their project schedule to account for the additional analysis and public comment process.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.