

Wood River Watershed Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes

Big Wood Canal Company
409 North Apple Street, Shoshone, Idaho
February 24, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

Attendees

Rich Bupp – DEQ, Twin Falls Regional Office
Ron Chapman – Camas County Commissioner
Chad Chorney – Trout Unlimited
Bill Davis – Camas Conservation District
Lynn Harmon – Big Wood Canal Company
Patti Lousen – Wood River Land Trust
Dorene MacCoy - USGS
Rob Sharpnack – Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Bob Simpson – City of Carey
Sue Switzer – DEQ, Twin Falls Regional Office
Mark Toone – Livestock Permittees

Welcome

The meeting of the Wood River Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) was called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. by Chairman, Bob Simpson. The attendees introduced themselves and who they represented.

WAG Business

- The minutes for the Wood River WAG meeting held on September 23, 2014, were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded and the vote was unanimous in approval
- A marked copy of the by-laws was made available to the attendees. Patti suggested that “water quality” be added to the mission statement to say, “...strategies that preserve the water quality and the integrity of streams...” It was suggested that in Article IV the number of board members be changed to 8 because of the consolidation of positions; then also again in Article VI. In Article VIII, it was suggested to take out the sentence stating that the meetings will be published in the newspaper. Because of cost, it is published on the web site and not in the newspaper. A motion was made to accept the changes as presented. The motion was seconded and vote was unanimous in favor.
- A list of the WAG Executive Board was handed out. This list was marked with the changes that were suggested at the last meeting. There is a vacant position for Soil

Conservation Districts. Patti's name will be submitted to the BAG on April 1 for recommendation to the director. Patti suggested that the group she represents be called Conversation/multiple use/recreation/tourism. The group agreed.

- The election for chairman and vice-chairman will be done at the November meeting.
- The next WAG meeting will be May 26.

Findings from Water Quality Bioassessment Sampling

Doreen MacCoy, a biologist with the US Geological Survey, presented some of the results and data evaluation on the findings from their sampling on the Big Wood River from Stanton Crossing to Ketchum. Water quality, continuous temperature, habitat, and biological community data were collected. The data presented was a snapshot. All the data is on the USGS web site. The next step is to secure funding for the baseline analysis and publication. Doreen is hoping to get the WAG's support to ask DEQ for funding.

The total cost to interpret the data is \$46,000; \$18,000 needs to be raised. USGS is putting in \$23,000; Trout Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, and Wood River Land Trust will each put in \$2,000. Blaine County might also be a contributor. A motion was made for the WAG to submit a letter to Barry Burnell in support of this project. The group voted in favor of the motion.

Update: Camas Creek

Rich Bupp presented the sampling sites and preliminary results of the data collected for the Camas Creek water quality review. He provided handouts of the site map and sample pack. His workload has been redirected at this time. He will hopefully have the analysis of the data for the next WAG meeting.

DEQ Updates

- Sue made available a packet of information from the Water Quality Workshop. If you are interested in any of the topics, you can contact the presenter at their email address listed.
- Pollutant trading is a topic of interest. The language for pollutant trading in the General Aquaculture Permit (GAP) is being discussed. That draft document will be going out for 401 and public comment at the same time; we will let you know when the GAP comes out. Lower Boise is doing some modeling to look at pollutant trading within the municipality and possibly non-point source. If you are interested in pollutant trading, email Sue and she will forward any links she has available.
- Idaho is in the process of taking over primacy for NPDES. They are holding public meetings currently. The next meeting is March 20. You can join that meeting at the DEQ Twin Falls Regional Office. Comments are being accepted until March 6. If you are interested, let Sue know and she will send links for the discussion information.

- The next BAG meeting is April 1 in Pocatello. Sue will put the recommendation of board members on the agenda.
- 2015 Calendar for the Twin Falls Regional Office – Sue will be working on monitoring the Big Wood River for the 5-year review. Rich will be analyzing the Camas data submittal for a 5-year review. The temperature TMDL for Bruneau is underway. Some work will be done on Raft River as well.
- The state is preparing draft language for Use Attainability Analysis (UAA) that should be available for public comment by April 7. Josh Schultz is the contact. There is a page on the DEQ web site for UAA. If you are interested, please let Sue know and she will get you the links.
- The General Aquaculture Permit (GAP) is supposed to heading to DEQ around the first of March.
- Sue handed out a list of BURP sites for this next season. They will be focusing primarily in Raft River, Goose Creek, Upper Snake Rock, and Salmon Falls drainages. If you know anyone interested in working on the BRUP crew, get in touch with Sue.

Patti announced a Water Seminar that is coming up on March 6 in Hailey. She went over some of the topics that will be discussed and the presenters. She made available brochures to be distributed.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.



 WAG Chairman

10-27-15

 Date approved