

Lake Walcott Watershed Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

US Bureau of Reclamation
470 22nd Street, Heyburn, Idaho
Thursday August 27, 2015, 2 p.m.

Attendees

Rich Bupp- DEQ-Twin Falls Regional Office
Dan Davidson – Minidoka Irrigation District
Steve Davis – Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Carolyn Firth – Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC)
Tom Geary – Rancher, Chairman
Jean Gorringer – City of Burley
John Hildreth – Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
Dee Hodge – City of Burley
Clyde Lay – Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
John Lind – Burley Irrigation District
Meribeth Lomkin – Idaho Department of Lands
Alan Monek – Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
Katie Shewmaker - DEQ-TFRO

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at approximately 2:15 p.m. by Chairman, Tom Geary. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting. Clyde Lay joined the meeting via conference call.

Wag Business

- The minutes from the previous Lake Walcott Watershed Advisory Group meeting on April 16, 2015, A motion was made and seconded to approved as written, and the motion carried unanimously.
- The next meeting for the Lake Walcott WAG will be held December 3, 2015 at the BOR office in Heyburn at 2 p.m.

Lake Walcott Watershed Data Review

Dr. Buhidar could not attend the meeting; therefore, Rich Bupp provided a hand-out, “Lake Walcott TMDL – Post TMDL Development.” In July 2015 DEQ’s Twin Falls Regional Office received information that EPA contracted with Tetra Tech to develop a re-evaluation of the Lake Walcott TMDL for data analysis and a sampling plan. The purpose of this project is to evaluate existing data, make recommendations to address data gaps and to develop a quality assurance project plan (QAPP) in preparation for collection of data to address the data gaps. Data, as well

as updated information found during this project, may be used to draft a new Subbasin assessment and revise/expand the nutrient and sediment TMDL. Tetra Tech announced in August that they would step away from the project until October 2015. Then they would begin to move forward contacting stakeholders for data requests and collection.

Updates

John Hildreth from the Bureau of Reclamation gave an update on the water storage outlook in the Upper Snake River and American Falls.

Katie Shewmaker presented on the following DEQ updates:

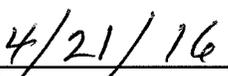
- The Draft 2014 Integrated Report is near completion. WAGs/BAGs will have an additional 30 days to review the document when the document is rolled out for public comment. DEQ will let the WAGs/BAGs know when this occurs.
- The State of Idaho is in the process of taking over primacy for the IPDES program. September 2016 is the deadline for DEQ to submit the application for approval to EPA. Draft documents are on the DEQ website.
- The application period 319 projects closed July 31, 2015. There was only one project this year submitted by the Twin Falls Canal Company for DEQ-TFRO.
- Monitoring was conducted in the Raft River watershed this summer. We will be wrapping that up in September. The data will be analyzed and utilized for the next 5-Year review.
- DEQ is wrapping up the 2015 BURP season. The BURP crew completed over 40 site evaluations within the region and is finalizing the last of the electrofishing for the year.
- DEQ is currently working on a human health criteria for fish consumption for the State of Idaho. To comment on the draft please see the DEQ website.
- The public comment period is open for mixing zone guidance. It will end August 31.
- Use Attainability Analysis (UAA) is in negotiated rulemaking. The public comment period opened August 5 and will close September 4.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Tom Geary at approximately 3:00 p.m.



WAG Chairman



Date