

MID SNAKE WATERSHED ADVISORY GROUP

Meeting Minutes

Department of Environmental Quality
650 Addison Avenue West, Suite 110, Twin Falls, Idaho
Wednesday, August 12, 2015, 2:00 p.m.

Attendees

David Anderson – DEQ, Twin Falls Regional Office
Jay Barlogi – Twin Falls Canal Company
Jason Brown – City of Twin Falls
Sonny Buhidar – DEQ, Twin Falls Regional Office
Mark Daily - Aquaculture
Gary Fornshell – University of Idaho
Brian Hoelscher – Idaho Power
Andy Morton – Clear Springs Food
Brian Olmstead – Twin Falls Canal Company
Larry Pennington – North Side Canal Company
Katie Shewmaker – DEQ, Twin Falls Regional Office
Sue Switzer – DEQ, Twin Falls Regional Office
Craig Thomas – DEQ, Twin Falls Regional Office
Mike Trabert – McClure Engineering
Jeff Williams - Rancher
Jim Younk – Idaho Power

Welcome

The meeting of the Mid Snake Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) was called to order at approximately 2:00 p.m. by Mike Trabert, WAG Chairman. The attendees introduced themselves. It was announced that the meeting was being recorded.

WAG Business

- The minutes for the previous meeting on May 13 were reviewed. Brian Hoelscher suggested that on page 3 under “Chlorophyll data” the second sentence should read, “Idaho Power is evaluating data from multiple laboratories as a measure of analytical variability. Andy Morton made a motion that the minutes be approved with the changes that Brian suggested. Jason Brown seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
- Sue provided information regarding F.S. “Buck” Taylor who had expressed interest in serving on the Mid Snake WAG as a representative for the CAFO industry. After further discussion with him, he felt he would be a better fit as an alternate or primary for conservation or recreation. Additional information relating to his platform could be viewed at his website, snakeriverwaterkeeper.org. Mr. Tylor has been invited to present his water quality data at the next WAG meeting.
- The next WAG meeting will be November 12, 2015.

Phase II Mud Creek/Silo Creek Project

Jay Barlogi presented a PowerPoint detailing the Mud Creek/Shilo Creek Phase #2 project. The project will include a wetland complex consisting of two smaller cleaning cells and two larger finishing ponds to remove sediment prior to the water entering the main drain and the river. The wetland complex will be located where the Lateral 23 intersects with the I-1 and J-1 coulees. There is an expected 60% reduction in TSS and 50% reduction in TP. The cost of the project is \$135,000 with estimated matching funds of \$54,000 and 319 grant amount of \$81,000.

Discussion followed regarding temperature benefits and potential for cooling if vegetated. Larry Pennington made a motion to sign a letter of support for the project; Jeff Williams seconded the motion. The motion was passed and the letter signed.

Idaho Power Chlorophyll a Data

Brian Hoelscher provided a hand-out, "Laboratory Comparisons of Pheophytin-A and Chlorophyll-A Split Samples-2015." Over the last 6 months, Idaho Power has been splitting samples to Analytical Laboratories and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Lab (USBR). The past few samples have been a three split to include Idaho State Lab. These data indicate a persistent bias between laboratories commonly contracted to perform chlorophyll a analyses. Idaho Power is now contracting with the USBR for chlorophyll a and pheophytin a.

Update on EPA Activity on Lake Walcott

Sonny Buhidar provided a hand-out, "Lake Walcott TMDL -- Post-TMDL Development." EPA has funded a data analysis study for Lake Walcott nutrients TMDL to be conducted by Tetra-Tech. Sonny presented the timeline of the project up to August 12, 2015 and answered questions for the WAG members.

Upper Snake-Rock Implementation Strategy Discussion

Sue provided a hand-out summarizing implementation suggestions provided by Marti Bridges at the September 17, 2014 WAG meeting. Knowing that EPA will be looking at the data in relationship to Lake Walcott, these implementation strategy discussions should continue and DEQ will help make information available.

Mike Trabert encouraged the WAG to consider submitting implementation presentations for the Non-Point Source Workshop in February 2-4, 2016.

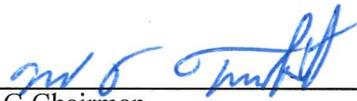
The WAG had expressed interest in pursuing de-listing TSS on portions of the Snake River that were meeting targets set in the TMDL. Delisting for a narrative pollutant would require demonstrating beneficial uses are being met through the collection of biological data. It was suggested researching data made available through DEQ's large rivers BURP program; however, BURP only will not suffice. If the river segment is contributing to pollution downstream, delisting could not be considered. For example, the macrophyte blooms downstream from the proposed reaches could prohibit a de-listing consideration. Then it would have to be sold to EPA.

DEQ Updates

- IPDES updates are available online. The public comment period will commence on September 2, 2015.
- Use Attainability Analysis definition changes are available on the DEQ website and public comments will be taken until September 4, 2015.
- There is a mixing zone guidance meeting on Thursday at 3:00 at DEQ.
- Andy Morton inquired about pollutant trading and what exactly needs to be in place for trading to continue or occur on the Mid-Snake. Is there anything going on with updating the trading guidance document for the Mid-Snake? How can the WAG be involved? Sonny agreed to follow-up with the State Office.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Mike Trabert at approximately 3:30 p.m.



WAG Chairman

1/20/2016
Approval Date