

# Upper Snake Basin Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes  
January 20, 2016

Video Conference

## Attendees

DEQ Idaho Falls Regional Office:

Roger Blew – BAG, Public at large  
Jason Fales – DEQ, Watershed Coordinator  
Melissa Hill – DEQ, Watershed Coordinator  
Troy Saffle – DEQ, Regional Water Quality Manager  
Laurie Stone – BAG, Forestry  
Matt Woodard – BAG-Environmental, Chairman

DEQ Pocatello Regional Office:

Lynn Van Every – DEQ, Regional Water Quality Manager

DEQ Twin Falls Regional Office:

Sonny Buhidar – DEQ, Regional Water Quality Manager  
Shell Howard – DEQ, TMDL Implementation Coordinator  
Gary Marquardt – BAG, Non-Municipal Permittee

## Welcome

The meeting convened via video conference and was brought to order at approximately 10 a.m. by Matt Woodard, BAG Chairman. A rollcall was taken from each region. The audio of the meeting is being recorded.

## Bag business

- Lynn announced that Katie Bergholm, BAG representative for mining, is no longer working at Agrium. Her last day was January 7. This position on the BAG will need to be filled. Matt was aware and suggested that Jon Goode fill the position. Jon is trying to sort out the commitments required. No decision at this time.
- The next meeting will be a BAG tour in the Twin Falls region on Wednesday, June 8.

## WBAG III

There was some discussion concerning the Water Body Assessment Guidance, Third Edition (WAB III); however, there were no concerns voiced by the BAG members. In lieu of a formal letter from the WAG, These minutes will be submitted to Jason Pappani, DEQ State Office, as consultation requirements.

### BAB/WAG Member Appointment Process

In terms of the potential replacement of the mining representative, the BAG and WAG processes for appointment members was reviewed. Positions need to go out as a news release soliciting interest. Sonny will prepare the notification that goes out for solicitation interest for the mining position. Then a conversation should be had with the Idaho Mining Association (IMA) for a formal nomination. Matt will check his information for a notice from Katie Bergholm that she will or will not be participating on the BAG. If he does not find her notice, he will get with Katie.

### 319 projects funded for 2016

Shell Howard contacted Dave Pazarski concerning the 319 projects funded for 2016. The projects funded for the Upper Snake were the Teton Creek Restoration, Phase 4 funded at \$103,000 and the Upper Blackfoot River AFO project by the Caribou Soil and Conservation District funded at \$130,000. There was some discussion that perhaps these are for a different year. Sonny will check with Dave Pazarski.

### Super BAG

There was a lot of discussion between the attendees concerning the elimination the Super BAG. Matt commented that there was always a lot of discussion on the projects at the Super BAG. He feels that eliminating the Super BAG short changes some the projects. There are some good personal interactions between the BAG chairmen at those meetings and a lot of good information shared. He doesn't think eliminating the Super BAG was the right thing to do.

Gary suggested that if DEQ State Office continues to say that there will not be any Super BAG representation from the other BAGs, they definitely need to give the BAGs a policy or guidance as to how they are going to determine what is funded and what is not.

Matt will contact the other BAG chairmen and get their opinions on the topic and then get back to this BAG with comments. Then a letter should be prepared to send to Barry to express the BAG's concerns and desire to have the Super BAG start up again.

It was suggested DEQ should provide justification as to why the Super BAG process was stopped and also very clear justification for project selections that were made both for funding and against funding.

### Regional Update on TMDLs and 5-Year Reviews

Documents that are due to be going out in 2016 from the Twin Falls Regional Office are:

- Camas Creek Five-Year Review
- Little Wood River Five-Year Review
- Big Wood River Five-Year Review
- Upper Snake Rock Mud Creek/Cedar Draw Temperature TMDL
- Bruneau River Temperature TMDL

These five projects will be shared with BAG.

This summer the Pocatello Regional Office will be initiating the 5-Year Review in the Porneuf River Watershed. That will be brought before the BAG sometime next fall. This is the only project pertaining to the Upper Snake.

The Idaho Falls Regional Office just recently got the Little Lost River TMDL Addendum approved through EPA. Currently the Medicine Lodge 5-Year Review is out for public comments. The other 2 that are currently in process are the Willow Creek HUC TMDLs and 5-year review and the Teton HUC TMDL and 5-year reviews.

Jason Fales presented information concerning the Willow Creek 5-Year Review. The original TMDL was a significant subbasin wide effort. There was not enough manpower to go back and monitor every assessment unit to compare the current loads with the original TMDL. Instead, the streams that were 303 (d) listed since 2004 when the TMDL was approved were monitored to determine causes of impairment. The conclusions reached were that sediment, temperature and E. coli are the main pollutants impairing the streams of Willow Creek. Monitoring resulted in 9 PNV temperature TMDLs calling for increased riparian shade, 2 E. coli. bacteria TMDLs, and 1 sediment TMDL. DEQ will be submitting this document on the currently listed 303(d) streams as an addendum. The TMDLs talked about here will be put together in a document and submitted for EPA approval. A WAG will need to be reconvened. A Field Sampling Plan will be put together to include monitoring the 38 assessment units and pollutants in the original TMDL. A five-year review and PNV temperature analyses for the original temperature TMDL streams will be created and submitted around this time 2018.

Melissa Hill presented information concerning the Teton River Subbasin 5-Year Review and TMDL Addendum. This document addresses category 5 assessment units from the 2012 Integrated Report, and it reports results of ongoing monitoring and watershed improvement projects. As a result, 14 assessment units received TMDLs, some with multiple pollutants.

Melissa also talked about a 2012 Nutrient Study that was completed by DEQ as a result of comments received by Friends of the Teton River concerning the 2010 Integrated Report. DEQ set up a weekly sampling plan which included water column chemistry, dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll-a, visual algal density, and percent eroding bank. The results of the study indicated that the Teton River has the capacity to use and transform the majority of nutrients introduced to the system and that sediment is the main source of nutrient loading.

The nutrient study is included as an appendix to the new TMDL addendum. This document will soon go out for public comment and then submitted to EPA for approval.

#### DEQ Updates

- IPDES Guidance meetings are going on right now. If you are interested, the listing of all the dates and times are on the DEQ website. You can go to any of the regional offices and participate in the process.
- The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Water Quality Monitoring Workshop will be February 2-4 at Boise State University.
- DEQ is seeking scientific data for the 2016 Integrated Report. The deadline for submitting data is February 1, 2016.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:05 a.m. by Matt Woodard, BAG chairman.

Matt Woodard  
Chairman

6/8/2016  
Date of Approval