

Wood River Watershed Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes

Big Wood Canal Company
409 North Apple Street, Shoshone, Idaho
February 23, 2016, 7 p.m.

Attendees

Richard Bupp – DEQ, Twin Falls Regional Office.
Chad Chorney – Trout Unlimited
Bill Davis – Camas Conservation District
Brian Dilworth – Blaine Soil Conservation District
Lynn Harmon – Big Wood Canal Company
Shell Howard – DEQ, Twin Falls Regional Office
Daryle James – Public at Large Representative
Patti Lousen – Conservation
Chuck Pentzer – Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Rob Sharpnack – Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Bob Simpson – City of Carey
Sue Switzer – DEQ, Twin Falls Regional Office
Mark Toone – Livestock

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.

An item added to the agenda, Chad Chorney will present on the Big Wood Assessment.

WAG Business

- The minutes for the Wood River WAG meeting held on October 27, 2015, were reviewed. A motion was made by Daryle James to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Bill Davis and the vote was unanimous in approval.
- Elections for WAG chairman and WAG vice-chairman were conducted. The motion was made and seconded to nominate Bob Simpson be elected as WAG chairman. No other nominations were received, and the vote was unanimous. The motion was made and seconded to nominate Lynn Harmon for WAG vice-chairman. No other nominations were received, and the vote was unanimous.

Daryle James suggested that the by-laws be consulted concerning elections. He believes the officers are elected alternating years: the chairman one year and the vice-chairman the next year.

- The next WAG meeting will be scheduled when Sue and Doreen of USGS have information ready to present.

Camas Subbasin Review

Rich Bupp presented information on the Camas Creek Subbasin review and the sampling that was done in the summer of 2014. He made available to attendees some maps, a sampling summary, and a draft narrative of the 2014 Camas Creek Subbasin Review. Rich gave the WAG members a comment form. WAG members were asked to review the documents received today and provide substantive comments. This document is for reference not decision making.

Big Wood Assessment

Trout Unlimited in partnership with Wood River Land Trust, the Forest Service and BLM hired Biota Research and Consulting from Jackson, Wyoming to complete a comprehensive geomorphic assessment of the Big Wood River from the North Fork to Magic Reservoir. The study was completed at the end of last year. Chad Chorney presented information from the study. He will send a link to the study out tomorrow to the WAG. If you have any questions when you look at the study, please let Chad or Wood River Land Trust know.

The study looked at the physical processes of the river: what is working and what isn't, how the river is functioning (the channel stability and how it is transporting sediment), and what part of the river is impaired. About 52% of the river was determined to be impaired as far as channel stability and sediment transporting functionality. The study identified about 7 river reaches that were termed conservation priority areas. What we really wanted out of this study was something that would drive all of our restoration work as we go forward. It can be a good tool for anyone to help make decision in the future.

Big Wood Sub-Basin Review

Sue has completed the data collection for 2015 on the Big Wood and is in the process of working through the water chemistry and flow calculations that we collected. She will be working on a draft document that hopefully will be out to the WAG in the fall.

The document on the Little Wood River 5-Year Review is on hold for now. It will be fleshed out a little with some temperature evaluations that are being done and updating the shade analysis that was completed in the original Little Wood TMDL using more current imagery. Solar Pathfinder work has been completed to ground truth the estimations.

DEQ Updates

- Shell Howard will be taking over the Big Wood and will be the point man for the WAG.

- DEQ had had some personnel changes: Mark Shumar is the new TMDL coordinator replacing Marti Bridges; Don Essig is the new surface water program manager replacing Michael McIntyre.
- There are some changes coming in the 319 program. The deadline to submit an application for 319 grant is August 5. There has to be a quality assurance plan built into your application. For the Fiscal Year 2017 it will be all electronic invoicing. There will be a little more robust documentation on all invoicing.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m. by chairman, Bob Simpson.



WAG Chairman

5-10-15
Date approved