

SOUTHWEST BASIN ADVISORY GROUP

Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2016

BAG Members Present: Jim Moyer, Craig Shepard, Kate Harris, Tim Mosko, Chris Randolph; Herb Malany, Sandra Mitchell,

Attendees: Lance Holloway, Julia Achabal, Cara Hastings, Graham Freeman, Kati Carberry, Mark Shumar, Rebecca Thompson, Nicole Deinarowicz, Stephanie Jenkins, Dave Pisarski, Jason Pappani, Charlie Parkins, MaryAnna Peavey, Tracy Degering

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Moyer at 8:35 a.m.

Introductions were made and we jumped into the full agenda.

2014 Integrated Report (IR) Update

Cara Hastings is the new Federal Report Coordinator for the Surface Water Program. She provided the IR update.

- Published every 2 years
- Statewide
 - 56 new listings in Category 5 (Waters of the State for which a TMDL is needed)
 - 222 de-listings
 - 137 AU/Pollutant TMDLs approved by EPA
- Southwest Basin
 - 20 new listings in Category 5
 - 43 de-listings
- June 6th, 2016 begin public comment
- Late July final submission to EPA for review and approval

Details of this presentation can be found on DEQ's SWBAG web page

<http://www.deq.idaho.gov/media/60178348/draft-integrated-report-2014-presentation.pdf>

Idaho Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (IPDES)

Mary Anne Nelson, IPDES Program Manager, provided the update.

There have been 8 rulemaking meetings during 2014 and 2015. A new chapter of administrative rules were adopted in November, 2015 and approved by the Legislature in early 2016.

The Application package is due to be submitted to EPA by September 1, 2016.

Projection for total program cost = \$3,034,557 being administered by approximately 28 people. Program funding will be through fees (1/3) and State general fund (2/3).

Details of this presentation can be found on DEQ's SWBAG web page

<http://www.deq.idaho.gov/media/60178347/ipdes-update-presentation.pdf>

Water Pollution Trading

Mark Shumar introduced himself as the new Statewide TMDL Program

Lead/Coordinator. One aspect of his job is to be involved in pollutant trading.

The 2010 Guidance for Water Quality Pollution Trading has been revised. Public Comment ends April 29, 2016.

Mark broadly discussed the contents of the Guidance including: Essential Safeguards; Trading Scenarios; Framework/Plan Development Steps; Components of Framework/Plan; BMP and Quantification Methods; and Credit Tracking.

Details of this presentation can be found on DEQ's SWBAG web page
<http://www.deq.idaho.gov/media/60178346/pollutant-trading-revised-statewide-guidance-presentation.pdf>

Action: Meeting Minutes from October, 2015 were reviewed and approved before the break.

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)

Rebecca Thompson is a new Water Quality Standards Analyst in the Surface Water Program. She presented information to help us better understand: what is a harmful algal bloom; what is their cause and appearance; what is the potential health risk; what are the regulatory standards.

There are no regulatory standards for cyanobacteria or cyanotoxins.

Idaho DEQ and the Department of Health and Welfare finalized a state-wide blue-green algae bloom response plan in October, 2015.

Details of this presentation can be found on DEQ's SWBAG web page
<http://www.deq.idaho.gov/media/60178349/harmful-algal-blooms-presentation.pdf>

Water Program Update

Jason Pappani is the new Water Quality Standards Lead. Jason discussed the numerous staffing changes that have taken place over the last year in the Water Quality Program at DEQ.

Jason discussed the topics of:

- National Aquatic Resource Surveys
- Recent Rulemaking News including: Idaho's human health criteria; fish consumption rate; use designations and use attainability analysis (UAA); revisions of the aquatic life criteria for copper
- Guidance Document Updates including: Water Body Assessment Guidance; Antidegradation Implementation; Mixing Zones; and Use Designation / UAA Guidance
- Forest Practices Audits
- Monitoring to evaluate shade rule
- Nutrient Scientific Technical Exchange Partnership and Support (NSTEPS)

Details of this presentation can be found on DEQ's SWBAG web page
<http://www.deq.idaho.gov/media/60178345/surface-water-program-update-presentation-0416.pdf>

Boise Region BURP Update and Priorities for 2016

Stephanie Jenkins introduced herself as the new BURP and Monitoring Coordinator for the Boise Region. Stephanie just hired her BURP crew who will assess 60-65 stream

locations this season. There will be one NPDES location and one location downstream of a 319 project area.

5-Year Review Update

Boise-Mores: Data is being analyzed. Preliminary results indicate that bank stability has improved and is meeting the 80% bank stability target. Bank stability was looked at in the same locations as the original TMDL, so this is good news (all sites were 90% + stable). McNeil cores were done to assess depth fines. The target is less than 27%. None of the locations were meeting this target. This is a typical progression of improvement where we would see the banks recover first. In the future we should expect to see some of the fine sediment to be flushed out of the system and the depth fines to begin meeting the target.

PNV work was also done in addition to temperature logger monitoring for temperature. Tech services are analyzing this data. One caveat to this is that the shade curves have changed since the original TMDL. The original shade curves were based off of data from Oregon and Washington. The new shade curves are Idaho specific and will result in a more appropriate target. The targets in most cases are easier to meet.

Cascade Reservoir and Tributary: Field work began last year and is in the final year of data collection. Data analysis should be done early 2017 with a final write up later that same year.

Next 5-Year Review: Has not been determined, but CJ Strike, Upper and Lower Middle Fork of the Salmon have not had reviews completed.

The last two 5 year reviews were funded through an EPA grant. This was one-time money and at this time there is no additional funding after the grant money is spent.

WWSRF/319 Sponsorship Program

MaryAnna Peavey, Loan Program Coordinator provided clarification to changes and improvements made to the sponsorship program. These details can be found at DEQ's SWBAG web page <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/media/60178344/cwsrf-319-sponsorship-program-presentation-0416.pdf>

Mineral Leasing

Dave Schwarz and Diane French from the Idaho Department of Lands discussed mineral leasing in Idaho. Oil and gas production is just getting started in this State. There are 160 wells statewide with only 5 wells in production at this time. Hydrocarbon production started in 2015 in Idaho.

Dredge Mining

Tracy Degering, EPA provided regulatory context for dredge mining along with permit history and current status. Her presentation covered general permit eligibility and filing of application; prohibitions; and general best management practices. Her presentation can be found on DEQ's SWBAG web page <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/regional-offices-issues/boise/basin-watershed-advisory-groups/southwest-bag/>

Stibnite Gold Project

Rocky Chase from Midas Gold provided a history of the Stibnite mining area and an explanation of the latest exploration tools and techniques for the current effort. They have been exploring private property since 2009 and performing concurrent reclamation as they investigate. Public land exploration began January 2016. The mining operation uses standard operating procedures and best management practices. They have been collecting

baseline data since 2011. They will move forward considering and maximizing all options. They strive to demonstrate environmental and fisheries enhancements as part of their overall mine plan. They have a robust closure plan. They are proud to provide significant local benefits to communities in the surrounding areas. Over the course of 20 years, they plan to invest more than 1 billion dollars in Idaho.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.