Lake Walcott Watershed Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes

Burley City Council Room
Burley, Idaho
Thursday November 17, 2011
Time: 7:00 pm

Attendees

Jeff Krueger- Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge
Jordan Tollefson - DEQ-TFRO
Katie Shewmaker - DEQ-TFRO
Mark Dallon- US Forest Service
Mike Beus - USBR
Stan Lloyd – Cassia Creek Irrigation
Tom Geary - Rancher

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Tom Geary. Everyone in attendance was welcomed and each of the attendees introduced themselves and whom they represented at the meeting.

Wag Business

- The minutes of the previous Lake Walcott Watershed Advisory Group meeting on July 21, 2011, were reviewed and approved as written.

- The Lake Walcott WAG Bylaws were reviewed and a motion to approve as amended was made by Stan Lloyd and seconded by Tom Geary. The changes were unanimously accepted.

- The next meeting for the Lake Walcott WAG will be held in March 2012.

DEQ- Twin Falls Regional Office Updates

- The public comment period for the Goose Creek and Raft River Temperature TMDLs is now complete. The only comments received were from the EPA and DEQ is reviewing those comments in order to respond.

- The Raft River Five-Year Review is now complete and available on the DEQ website.

- The 2010 Integrated Report is finalized and available on the DEQ website. A news release was sent out in November announcing a call for data for the 2012 Integrated Report. Scientific data can be submitted to the DEQ state office with guidance for submission appearing on the website.

- The Pesticide General Permit from EPA was approved, and Katie passed out information from the EPA website along with an article referencing the new changes. There will be an EPA webinar on November 22, 2011 providing an overview of the Clean Water Act NPDES permitting requirements and information on the Pesticide General Permit. DEQ-TFRO will plan to show the webinar in the large conference room if anyone would like to attend.

- DEQ-TFRO has an opening for the position of Aquaculture Facilities Coordinator. The job is posted on the DEQ website or you can call the DEQ office for more information.

319 Project Update

Jordan Tollefson reported on the Upper Snake BAG meeting that was held in Pocatello on October 5, 2011. Two projects were presented from the Lake Walcott WAG, which placed 4th (Marsh Creek Riparian Restoration Project) and 10th (Almo Creek Streambank and Trout Protection Project) in the rankings. The state BAG chairmen will meet in Boise on December 7 to review and make funding decisions for the 28 state projects.

319 Project – Copper Creek Restoration

Tess O'Sullivan from Lava Lake was not able to attend the meeting. This presentation will be rescheduled at a later date.

Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge CCP

Jeff Kruger, Refuge Manager, spoke on the Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP). The Refuge is initiating a planning process that will guide the management plan for the next 15 years. The Refuge was established in 1909 by an Executive Order of President Theodore Roosevelt for a native bird breeding ground and preserve. The area was laid over the top of Bureau of Reclamation land established in 1904. The Refuge is requesting input and opinions from the public by November 30 to be incorporated in the draft document. However, they will take comments at any time. Comments can be sent by mail, email, or via the U S Fish and Wildlife Service website.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Tom Geary at 8:00 p.m.

Tom Geary
WAG Chairman

May 24, 2012
Date