Lake Walcott Watershed Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes

Burley City Council Room
Burley, Idaho
Thursday July 26, 2012, 7:00 pm

Attendees:

Mike Beus – Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
Dan Davidson – Minidoka Irrigation District (MID)
Steve Davis – Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Carolyn Firth – Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC)
Stephen Freiburger – Paragon/Oakley Highway District
Tom Geary – Rancher
Weston Hawkes – Oakley Highway District
Clyde Lay – Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
Katie Shewmaker – DEQ-TFRO
Craig Thomas – DEQ-TFRO

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. Clyde Lay attended the meeting via conference call.

Wag Business

- The minutes of the previous Lake Walcott Watershed Advisory Group meeting on May 24, 2011, were reviewed and approved as written.
- The WAG voted unanimously in support for the Birch Creek Streambank Stabilization Project. A letter of support was signed by the chairman and presented to Stephen Freiburger.
- Dan Davidson is the new manager for Minidoka Irrigation District. Bill Thompson has retired.
- The next meeting for the Lake Walcott WAG will be held in October or November.

319 Water Quality Project Presentation

Stephen Freiburger, from Paragon Consulting Inc. presented the Birch Creek Streambank Stabilization Project. This project, sponsored by Oakley Highway District is 9-miles southeast of the City of Oakley, Idaho. This project will stabilize approximately 1320 feet of streambank

with riprap and willow plantings, in thirteen locations along a three mile stretch of Birch Creek. Additionally, the project will prevent continued erosion into the adjacent roadway; which if not curtailed, will result in a future emergency streambank repair situation. Estimated total cost of the project: $250,000; estimated matching funds amount: $100,000; and estimated 319 grant amount: $150,000. Oakley Highway District is committed to match 40% of the total project cost through soft match. The funding for the match contributions to the project will come from the District's annual budget.

DEQ Updates

Katie Shewmaker reported that the 2012 Integrated Report is scheduled to be out this fall for public comment.

Katie made a lateral move into the 319 position in the TFRO. There is currently a job opening for her position. That person will take over the Lake Walcott, Raft River and Goose Creek areas; including the WAG responsibilities.

The Marsh Creek Temperature TMDL is still at the state office. They have requested that additional E-coli monitoring be done for a geometric mean. Katie will complete the monitoring in August. Then it will be decided how to proceed.

If anyone has ideas for future meeting presentations, please contact Katie.

319 Updates

Katie explained that the request for the 2012 cycle amounted to around $3.4 million. Funding occurred in the amount of $1.4 million, so 11 of the 28 projects received funding. The application period for the 2013 319 funding will close August 1st, 2012. So far there have been 17 applications submitted. The state office is expecting between 20-35 completed applications; this has been close to historic numbers over the last few years. The BAG meeting will occur in October and the Super Bag meeting will be in Boise in December.

Over the last year, EPA put together its own in-house audit of state programs. In summary, those suggestions include a number of changes to the 319 world. There is a push by EPA to have state's upgrade their program management plans. The DEQ state office is currently working on this. EPA is also encouraging more working partnerships formed with other agencies and a drive for more accountability with respect to how funds are being utilized. Lastly, EPA would like to see states spend a greater or equal portion of their 319 dollars on protecting healthy waters. However, there is an equally strong pushback from the states to continue funding more restoration work.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Tom Geary at approximately 7:40 p.m.

Tom Geary
WAG Chairman

Feb 28, 2013
Date