

Upper Snake Basin Advisory Group Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Idaho Department of Fish and Game
319 South 417 East, Jerome, Idaho

Wednesday, October 3, 2012

ATTENDEES

Bill Allred – DEQ-TFRO
Chad Chorney – Trout Unlimited
Chris Banks – IASCD
Chuck Pentzer – SWCC
Dave Pisarski – DEQ-State Office
Don Mays – BAG- Recreation
Gary Marquardt – BAG-Non-Municipal
Jay Barlogi – Twin Falls Canal Co (alternate for Brian Olmstead, BAG – Ag)
Katy McKinley – BAG- Mining
Katie Shewmaker – DEQ-TFRO
Krystal Harmon – Portneuf SWCD
Matt Woodard – BAG- Environment
Mike Lien – Friends of the Teton River
Mike Trabert – City of Twin Falls
Lynn Van Every – DEQ-PRO
Pauline Bassett – Caribou SCD
Ralph Myers – BAG-Hydropower
Richard Savage – BAG-Livestock
Sandy Gritton – DEQ-TFRO
Sean Woodhead – DEQ-TFRO
Sonny Buhidar – DEQ-TFRO
Stan Haye – NRCS
Stephen Freiburger – Paragon
Steven Smith – ISWCC
Sue Switzer – DEQ-TFRO
Troy Saffle – DEQ-IFRO

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was brought to order at 9:05 a.m. by Chairman Matt Woodard. Everyone in attendance was welcomed and each introduced themselves and whom they represented at the meeting.

BAG BUSINESS

- Matt Woodard entertained a motion by Gary Marquardt to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on April 4, 2012, as written. Don Mays seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- The Super BAG meeting will be on Wednesday, December 5 to determine the recipients of 319 grants.
- The next Upper Snake BAG meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in Pocatello. The BAG agreed to meet three times a year.
- Dave Pisarski explained the 319 application review process. Through the process questions may arise concerning the application or project. The questions are sent out to the applicants individually in an email. The responses become part of the electronic file for the project. The questions may not always come out before the BAG meetings; however, the entire file including any responses will be seen by the BAG chairmen prior to the Super BAG meeting.
- Sonny Buhidar explained that DEQ employees are there to provide technical assistance, but the present BAG members, or their alternates are the only ones that are to vote. BAG members discussed ranking projects from one to ten, with one being the first place vote and ten, the last. There was not a specific proxy for Hunter Osborne present; therefore, the voting quorum will consist of: Jay Barlogi – alternate for Brian Olmstead, irrigated Ag; Ralph Myers, hydropower; Greg Shenton, local government, sent signed proxy for Richard Savage to cast vote; Richard Savage, livestock; Roger Bleu, at-large, sent email proxy for Gary Marquardt to cast vote; Don Mays, recreation; Gary Marquardt, non-municipal; Katy McKinley, mining; Laurie Stone, forestry- sent ranking votes via email. Matt Woodard recused himself from voting due to his Upper Lanes Creek Restoration presentation.

PRESENTATION OF 319 PROJECTS

- **18 Mile Creek- presented by Pauline Bassett**
This project includes offsite watering systems, riparian fencing, and use exclusion for Eighteen Mile Creek, a small tributary to the Portneuf River. Estimated reductions include 900 head of cattle from direct steam contact, approximately 35.6 tons of sediment, 34,493 pounds of phosphorous per year, and 9,887 pounds of nitrogen per year. Total estimated cost of the project is \$416,771 with a 319 grant request of \$249,553 and matching funds of \$167,218.

- **Upper Blackfoot River Phase 2- presented by Chris Banks**
 This project will reduce sediment and nutrient and phosphorus loads in Meadow Creek, Grizzly Creek, and the Blackfoot Reservoir 303(d) listed stream segments and tributaries to the Upper Blackfoot River. Objectives include installing offsite watering facilities, constructing pasture and exclusion fencing, riparian restoration with shaping banks and installing willows and sedge mats. The total cost of the project is \$424,583. The 319 grant request is for \$229,932 and \$194,651 of matching funds will be provided by public and private organizations and participating landowners.
- **Topaz-Middle River Streambank Project – presented by Krystal Harmon**
 This project consists of streambank restoration in the Middle Portneuf River through four private landowner properties. Approximately two miles of riparian habitat will be addressed along with improved bank stability and grazing management along critical reaches. This project would result in estimated annual pollutant load reductions of 2637 lbs. of nitrogen, 111.5 tons of TSS and 9198 lbs of phosphorous. The 319 grant request of \$243,252 with matching funds of \$184,752 for a total project cost of \$428,004. Matching funds would be provided by PSCWD, PWP, PRP, ISDA, and participating landowners.
- **PC Pipeline, Off-site Watering, and Fish Screen Project- presented by Chris Banks**
 The goals of this project coincide with the Pebble Creek Restoration Project that received funding last year. This project would convert a private (three different landowners) irrigation ditch to pipe, which currently runs along a steep hillside with poor stability. The ditch is prone to washing out, sending hundreds of tons of sediment directly into Pebble Creek; one of the largest tributary to the Portneuf River and critical Bonneville Cutthroat Trout spawning habitat. The project would result in estimated annual pollutant load reductions of 3955 lbs. of nitrogen and 13,797 lbs. of phosphorous. The 319 grant request of \$249,347 with matching funds of \$213,427 for a total project cost of \$462,774. Matching funds would be provided by PWP, private landowners, USFS, PRP, and Trout Unlimited.
- **Marsh Creek Dryland Ag Project- presented by Chris Banks**
 Five separate landowners would participate in this project which would incorporate fencing and cross fencing of land which used to be in CRP. The landowners are interested in leaving the ground in permanent vegetative cover. BMPs for this project include: approximately 58,080 feet of fence, 3 wells, 15 troughs, 3 game guzzlers, and approximately 125 water and sediment basin; to reduce the amount of erosion leaving the fields and entering Marsh Creek. This project would result in an annual estimated pollutant load reductions of 11,865 lbs. of nitrogen, 41,391 lbs. of phosphorous, and 131.2 tons of TSS. The 319 grant request of \$249,902 with matching funds of \$197,798 for a total project cost of \$447,700. Matching funds would be provided by PSCWD, PWP, ISWCC, ISDA, and participating landowners.
- **Rattlesnake Sediment and Nutrient Reduction- presented by Steven Smith**
 This project will focus on Rattlesnake Creek, a tributary to Bannock Creek. Water and sediment basins will be installed on 1886 acres to control sediment and erosion. An Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) located in this area will install a waste storage facility (berm, pipeline, troughs, and pumping plant), reducing livestock impacts on riparian areas through exclusion and heavy use protection. Approximately ½ mile of critical riparian habitat will be

addressed by improving bank stability and grazing management along critical reaches. Additionally, 10 acres of range and pasture land will be excluded from livestock impacts. Cropland erosion is 18 tons/acre and it is estimated with the proposed BMPs that the erosion will be reduced to 5 ton/acre or less. Estimated total cost of the project is \$357,387: \$213,347 in 319 grant and \$144,039 matching funds.

- **Upper Portneuf River Project – presented by Chris Banks**

This project will reduce livestock impacts from approximately 2 miles of Portneuf River streambank, improve approximately 2 miles of critical riparian habitat, and control grazing on approximately 15 acres of range and pasture land with three years of exclusion. The goal is to reduce sediment and nutrient loads in the River as well as protect fish habitat. This will be achieved by: reducing livestock impacts by installing offsite watering facilities, improving grazing management with exclusion and cross fencing, and improving riparian vegetation and stream channel habitat. The estimated annual load reduction for this project includes 317.7 tons/year of sediment, 16,097 lbs/year phosphorus, and 4,614 lbs/year of nitrogen. The estimated total cost of this project is \$343,988, with an estimated 319 grant amount of \$184,699 and matching funds of \$159,289.

- **Hill Restoration Project: Sediment Reduction on Teton Creek – presented by Mike Lien**

The purpose of this project is to improve water quality in Teton Creek and the Teton River by stabilizing approximately 700 feet of unstable stream channel and 120 feet of eroding banks, improving habitat conditions, and reconnecting a functional aquatic and riparian ecosystem. Grade control structures will be installed in the project reach to stabilize down-cutting, eroding streambanks will be stabilized using bioengineering techniques, and native vegetation will be planted along streambanks to create roughness and capture sediment. According to a recent study, Teton creek is one of the only tributaries in Teton Valley that has a remnant fluvial YCT spawning run and the highest YCT juvenile recruitment in Teton Valley. The estimate reduction in sediment load at the completion of the project is 180 tons/year. The total project cost is \$217,520 with a 310 grant request for \$125,994 and matching funds of \$91,526. Matching contributions include a \$10,000 grant from the Bonneville Environmental Foundation, a \$4,500 in-kind match from the landowners, \$3500 in-kind from North Fork Native Plants, \$56,260 in-kind contribution of materials, a \$1,200 match of volunteer labor, \$6,000 cash match from Teton Creek landowners, and contributions from FTR of \$9,266 in cash and \$800 as an in-kind match.

- **Sunbeam Creek Streambank Stabilization Project – presented by Stephen Freiburger**

The project will stabilize 0.2 miles of Sunbeam Creek which is a tributary to the Snake River. BMPs include stabilization of 350 feet of the creek through riprap armoring, willow planting, replacing one existing culvert and extending another existing culvert, and realignment of Garden Road away from Sunbeam Creek, It has been estimated that this project could reduce the sediment load by 22 tons/year. The estimated cost of the project is \$100,000 with a grant amount of \$60,000 and matching funds of \$40,000. Power County Highway District is committed to match 40% with labor and equipment. The funding source for the match contributions to the project will come from the Highway Districts annual budget.

- Birch Creek Streambank Stabilization– Presented by Stephen Freiburger**
 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.
- Upper Lanes Creek Restoration Project- presented by Matt Woodard**
 Successful implementation of this project will result in: improved water quality in Upper Lanes Creek; restored aquatic and riparian habitat, increased numbers of resident YCT and migratory cutthroat trout as a result of improved spawning and rearing habitat; increased and restored habitat for riparian-obligate songbirds and northern leopard frogs; restored stream function, channel morphology and flood plain connections; and facilitate sustainable agricultural production to maintain the restoration benefits. A bank erosion model indicates the current channel contributes 2257 cubic yards/mile/year. The restoration design is estimated to reduce the annual sediment load delivered to the watershed by 5416 cubic yards per year. The estimated total cost of this project is \$417,000, with an estimated 319 grant amount of \$250,000 and matching funds of \$167,000. Cash match will be coming from Monsanto, Agrium, and Simplot. The Caribou Cattle Company (the landowner) will also be providing match in the form of in-kind services.
- Cottonwood Riparian Fencing – presented by Stan Hays**
 The project involves installing a diversion structure in Cottonwood Creek to replace an existing irrigation headgate that is failing. Riparian fencing and berming along a one-mile stretch of Cottonwood Creek will exclude cattle from the creek in the winter pasture usage. This will allow streambanks to stabilize, reducing the amount of sediment and nutrients in Cottonwood Creek, which flows into Rock Creek and eventually discharges into the Snake River. Willow plating in the exclusion area will also help stabilize the streambank and provide shade to the stream. The total estimated cost of the project is \$29,250 with \$17,050 requested 319 grant and \$12,200 in matching funds from landowners in in-kind match in the form of labor to construct berms and build riparian fence. The ISDA will provide in-kind match for engineering work and the Twin Falls SWCD will provide half the monitoring costs and also public outreach efforts.

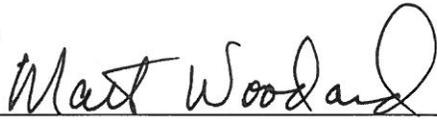
BAG RANKINGS

- The projects were ranked on a scale of 1-10 with 1 being the highest priority and 10 being the lowest priority. Therefore, the project receiving the lowest overall score was ranked as the highest priority. The votes were tallied after the meeting and checked twice by DEQ staff. DEQ Twin Falls Regional Office did a recount of all numbers and votes and reconfirmed the priority ranking the following day. Therefore, projects were ranked as follows:

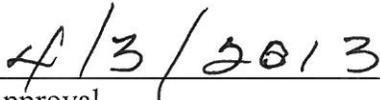
<u>Priority Ranking</u>	<u>Rank Project Name</u>	<u>Points</u>
1	Upper Lanes Creek Restoration Project	17
2	Upper Blackfoot Phase II	36
3	Hill Restoration Project	38
4	Topaz- Middle River Streambank Project	49
5	PC Pipeline, Off-site Watering and Fish Screen Project	55
6	Upper Portneuf River Project	56
7	Cottonwood Riparian Fencing	61
8	Rattlesnake Sediment and Nutrient Reduction	66
9	Marsh Creek Dryland Ag Project	69
10	18 Mile Creek	71
11 / 12	Sunbeam Creek Streambank Stabilization Project	92
11 / 12	Birch Creek Streambank Stabilization	92

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned by Matt Woodard at approximately 1:25 p.m.



Chairman



Date of Approval