

SOUTHWEST BASIN ADVISORY GROUP

Meeting Minutes
October 29, 2012

BAG Members Present: Jim Moyer, Sandra Mitchell, Robbin Finch, Dennis Smith, LaVelle Braun, Henry Haminishi, Dick Rogers

Attendees: Lance Holloway, Julia Achabal, Danielle Robbins, Troy Smith, Dave Pisarski, Pete Wagner

Meeting was called to order by Chairman, Jim Moyer at 9:07a.m.

Welcome and introductions.

Members were asked to review meeting minutes. During the review of past topics, Chairman Moyer began a discussion regarding the chance of lowering the maximum funding request for individual §319 projects. Jim reached out to other BAG chairmen to investigate whether there was interest in lowering the cap. He received positive responses from the Lewiston, Twin Falls, and Coeur d'Alene regional offices. This information has now been passed to the State §319 program office.

Regarding the topic of water reuse: The city of Meridian's Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) is very active in reusing treated water in neighborhoods. Robbin Finch was asked about the national direction of water reuse. Robbin reports that there is a movement to recover nutrients, energy and recycle water from WWTPs.

Meeting minutes were approved.

§319 Recap - Dave Pisarski –

This is the first time in 3 years that we are not expecting a reduction in §319 funds. Similar to last year, we are anticipating approximately \$1.4 Million in project funds. For FY 2013, there are 25 applications across the State. The 2006 federal grant is expiring and DEQ does not expect to have any carry-over funds.

Nationally: the Office of the Inspector General and Office of Management and Budget audited state §319 programs. There were no surprises. The audit determined a lack of accountability in fund reporting and record keeping. As a result, there will likely be increased reporting requirements for the states.

Earlier this year in Maryland, EPA met with national air and water administrators to look at state programs. Idaho participated with 44 other states. A group of Midwest and eastern states are moving toward using §319 funds for protection of high quality waters.

Nonpoint source program and SRF: Recently, DEQ has begun using the interest rates from loans issued through the State Revolving Loan Fund to implement ranked, but unfunded §319 nonpoint source projects. There have been 6 partnerships already established across the State.

This meeting was primarily set to hear and rank FY2013 §319 project proposals. There were four (4) projects on the agenda for the day.

FINAL RANKING:

1. Middle Snake-Payette Clean Water Project- Phase II – *Payette SCD*
2. Owyhee Restoration Incentive Program – *Owyhee Watershed Council*
3. Continued Canyon County BMP Program: Extending into Ada County – *Lower Boise Watershed Council*
4. South Boise Drain Water Quality Improvement – *Idaho Watershed Solutions*

The group decided to set a standing meeting on a quarterly basis. Meetings will be set for the third Wednesday of the month as follows.

January, 2013 – Wednesday, 16th

April, 2013 – Wednesday, 17th

July, 2013 – Wednesday, 17th

October, 2013 – Wednesday, 16th

Meeting was adjourned at 12:25pm.