

Lake Walcott Watershed Advisory Group

DRAFT

Meeting Minutes

Burley City Council Room
Burley, Idaho
Thursday, July 25, 2013, 7:00 pm

Attendees:

Mike Beus – Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
Rich Bupp – Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Twin Falls Regional Office (TFRO)
Carolyn Firth – Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC)
Tom Geary - Rancher
Rich Jackson – Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
Clyde Lay – Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
Amanda Russell – Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) volunteer
Katie Shewmaker – Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Twin Falls Regional Office (TFRO)
Roland Springer – Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:15 p.m. 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 from the previous Lake Walcott Watershed Advisory Group meeting on February 28, 2013, were reviewed and approved as written.
- The next meeting for the Lake Walcott WAG will be held October 17, 2013.

Water Storage Carryover in the Upper Snake River

Mike Beus from the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) presented on the water storage outlook in the Upper Snake River and American Falls. The sources of water include: carryover storage, winter precipitation, base flow of rivers and tributaries, ground water (springs) and spring and summer precipitation. BOR manages the demands from multiple users on storage water that include irrigation and canal companies, ESA anadromous fish, hydropower production, water delivery to certain water users, and groundwater recharge. The system is managed to utilize low capacity reservoirs first, then drawdown begins on the larger reservoirs. This year, in comparison with 2007 data, water usage has not been as high due to conservation efforts from those that were aware of the impending drought. BOR is currently working hard to keep American Falls above 50,000 acre-feet. As of now, American

Falls Reservoir can be kept at high storage and water can be delivered as slow, low flow so sediment mobilization doesn't become a problem down river.

Marsh Creek Temperature PNV and E. coli TMDL

Rich Bupp presented on the current draft of the Marsh Creek Temperature PNV and E. coli TMDL. The document is close to completion and a copy of the draft was provided to the WAG and to EPA so they would have access to the document before it is sent out for public comment. DEQ received comments and questions from EPA this week and will review those before sending the document out for public comment. At this point no comments have been received from the WAG. Please read through the material and send questions and comments to Katie or Rich at DEQ.

DEQ Updates

Katie Shewmaker presented on the following updates:

- 2012 Integrated Report: A request for an extension on the public comment period was received from EPA and the Greater Yellowstone Coalition. Due to this request, the public comment period was extended until August 9, 2013. This information was sent by email to the WAG on June 27, 2013.
- Raft River: Several articles have appeared in different publications lately in regards to the water quality efforts on the stretch of Raft River at the Narrows from state, federal and private landowners. Katie has copies of the articles if anyone is interested.
- DEQ's new business location: DEQ has moved to 650 Addison Ave W., Ste. 110 in Twin Falls. This location is the former St. Luke's Medical Center.
- 319 Projects: There were two proposed projects in the surrounding watersheds for this year. However, both applicants decided to postpone the applications

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Tom Geary at approximately 9:30 p.m.

WAG Chairman

Date