


Lower Boise Watershed Council

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
Caldwell Police Station, Caldwell
Thursday, September 11, 2014 - 7:00 p.m.

Introduction

Attendees: See attached sign-in list.

Changes to Agenda:

Deletions:

- DEQ did not attend, there will be no TMDL update.
- No website update either, Sherrill Doran had to attend to a family matter.

Additions:

- Alex needs LBWC approval of USGS' FY2015 Work Plan and budget.

Proxies:

Andy Waldera proxy for Alan Newbill.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Prior minutes approved, note that Jack and Liz were in attendance at that meeting.

Approval of Invoices

3 HDR invoices approved.

Steve - The website still needs to be updated, what is the status? Tom communicated with Sherrill during the meeting, she said the website update is nearly complete and should be live the following week.

Discussion Agenda

Agricultural Water Quality Program Update - Karie Pappani and Robin Haderler

Karie - Powerpoint Slides

Karie provided high level summary of TMDLs, listed streams.

Used Mason Creek as an example of 2014 land use inventory process, crop land, pasture and hay, dairies, urban, no public acres in Mason Creek:

- Quite a bit of idle ground
- Canyon County has more agricultural land, Ada more small acreage farms

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- USDA has privacy rules that prohibit direct sharing of electronic layers, so the individual fields are blurred, USDA has farm and track numbers associated that are confidential

She also did an irrigation inventory including types, drip, surface furrow, pivot; primarily surface. They can merge land use and irrigation layers to help prioritize, as Scott did for tiers for the existing implementation plan.

A BMP list (numbers and types installed 2008-2013) will be in the TMDL, she gave to Troy, along with a map of where they are located (federal NRCS dollars projects, not state of 319, not those done on their own). She also provided a list of conservation efforts, summarized by the whole watershed.

Steve – Do we have information on bang for the buck, how much load being reduced?

Robin – There are different ideas about how to report that, one year credit or each year?

Karie provided examples of BMPs by land use. NRCS is really focusing on soil health now; the 319 tour emphasized that this year.

Sources of funding: Caldwell NRCS office, in excess of \$1 million per year on average for a number of years, over \$1.5 million last year. Knowing the number of acres treated you can estimate dollars per acre on broad scale.

Robin – Powerpoint Slides

His presentation focuses on agricultural BMPs in Canyon County, those more related to water quality and soil savings:

- Articulated center pivot sprinkler
- Wheel line sprinkler
- Gated pipe surface irrigation, add PAM also
- Gated pipe and surge irrigation
- Siphon tube surface irrigation (better is managed efficiently, tip tubes over course of irrigation cycle)
- Sediment basin and filter strip (usually only for surface irrigated fields), filter reduces sediment by 50-55%, 65% sediment retention in basin, and together provide 75% removal of sediment and attached nutrients
- Strip-Till or No-Till
- Drip irrigation, no runoff or loss of sediment or nutrients, very effective BMP
- Cover crops
- Crop rotation change

The Weiser River sediment basin and wetland system achieves 86% sediment reduction and 60% total phosphorus reduction.

Steve – Is the value or cost of soil considered?

Robin - No, that is considered to be a cost of doing business by farmers.

Henry – Part of problem in our watershed is that much of the land is not owned by the farmer (it's leased land).

Robbin – How much of our watershed is in drip/sprinkler now?

Robin – About 20% of ground is drip/sprinkler now; maybe converting at about 1% per year. If we go to 100% drip/sprinkler we also have to consider loss of water to shallow groundwater (example is A&B irrigation district pertaining to water to Thousand Springs).

Council Business

Board Position Openings – Liz Paul

Liz – We missed the first deadline per our election policy, which was supposed to be August 1 to announce positions. We have 3 positions with terms ending at end of calendar year: Dan (agriculture), Liz (environmental), and Clint (municipal). By September 15 we were supposed to have a list of interested parties for the positions.

Given where we are now, we should have Tom send out call for nominations via the LBWC email list, noting the positions they represent, and note that email recipients should distribute to others who may be interested. Have the email say the nominations are due by Oct 1. We will then determine the slate of candidates for each position at the October 9th meeting and then have the vote at the November meeting. We would allow candidates to make a statement in November meeting.

It would be useful in the future if at the beginning of each year we identify which positions will be open at end of year on the monthly meeting agendas, that way interested parties can start coming to meetings.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to proceed with the notice as Liz recommended.

Board Retreat Summary- Lee Van De Bogart

Lee gave a summary of the Board Retreat, which occurred on August 12th. The main topics were the FY2015 LBWC budget (see next agenda item), replacement of the Executive Director (see separate agenda item), USGS monitoring scope and budget (see separate agenda item) and 2015 Work Plan update. Votes were not taken on key items and will be done at the regular LBWC meeting(s).

Fiscal Year 2015 Budget- Lee Van De Bogart

Budget items as discussed at the Board Retreat:

- \$50,000 HDR contract (\$30,000 for technical support; \$20,000 interim executive director support)
- \$48,840 USGS monitoring (as presented at this LBWC meeting, see separate agenda item)
- \$100 website
- \$700 tax filing
- \$735 D&O insurance
- \$500 conference sponsorship

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- \$250 miscellaneous
 - \$101, 125 total (very close to the FY2014 budget of \$101,697)

A motion was made to adopt the budget above, seconded and approved. It was also confirmed that contribution requests for FY2015 would request a 3% increase for inflation except for those already confirmed at the existing FY2014 values (City of Nampa, and Ada County Commissioners per the agreement provided by the commissioners). Those who can not do the requested increase will have the option to provide what they can afford.

319 Activities Update- Bob Braun

The 319 TAC meeting was held this morning. Robin Hadelier has offered to write final 319 summary report for the 2011 grant; he is working up budget estimate for that.

There was a summary of 319 tour at the TAC; there were 55 participants, the most ever.

There have been a number of applications for 2014 grant already, the TAC is reworking ranking/ scoring form, which will be circulated for comment. Applications will likely not be considered until calendar 2015, and there should be plenty of applicants to choose from based on recent years experience with the current grant.

Erica – Will we review as they come in? That is not ideal, it would be better if we compare all at the same time; that would make it a more competitive process.

Henry – This is a 3 year process, do you give it all away in first year? There is a new EQIP list each year. We are trying to use this for innovative technologies to demonstrate different ways of reductions. Onions with drip is now proven for our watershed, that is an example where the 319 grant has made a difference. The innovative ones may not always come in the first year.

There was suggestion to make it a multi-year process, some allocated each year.

Bob – Timing of applications should be consistent with NRCS process.

October 15 is the scheduled date for the BAG meeting for 319 grants for 2015; Robin Hadelier and Dan Steenson will present the LBWC grant application.

Ada County Contribution Request- Tom Dupuis

Ada County Commissioners had sent an agreement for the FY2015 contribution. A motion was made, seconded and approved to authorize Tom Dupuis to sign as interim executive director on behalf of the LBWC. The contribution amount in the agreement was the same as FY2014 (\$5,590).

Executive Director Search- Dan Steenson

There was discussion at the Board Retreat about the possibility of seeking a replacement for the Executive Director. Dan had volunteered to lead the search committee if the Board decides to seek a replacement.

Interim Executive Director Report- Lee Van De Bogart/Tom Dupuis

Budget tables for LBWC FY 2014 and 2011 319 Grant were provided in Board packets.

Meeting Adjourned

