

MID SNAKE WATERSHED ADVISORY GROUP

Meeting Minutes

Department of Environmental Quality
650 Addison Avenue West, Suite 110, Twin Falls, Idaho
Wednesday, September 17, 2014, 6:00 p.m.

Attendees

David Anderson – DEQ, Twin Falls Regional Office
Marti Bridges – DEQ, State Office
Sonny Buhidar – DEQ, Twin Falls Regional Office
Greg Clark - USGS
Bruce Cleland – Tetra Tech
Mark Daily – Aquaculture
Alex Etheridge – USGS
Gary Fornshell – University of Idaho
Brian Hoelscher – Idaho Power
Michael Lewis - USGS
Andy Morton – Clear Springs Food
Chuck Pentzer – Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Sue Switzer – DEQ, Twin Falls Regional Office
Craig Thomas – DEQ, Twin Falls Regional Office
Mike Trabert – McClure Engineering
Jeff Williams - Grazing
Leigh Woodruff – EPA, Boise
Jim Younk – Idaho Power

Welcome

The meeting of the Mid Snake Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) was called to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. by Mike Trabert, WAG Chairman. The attendees introduced themselves.

WAG Business

- The minutes for the previous meeting on August 13, 2014 were reviewed. A motion was made by Mark Daily to approve the minutes, and seconded by Brian Hoelscher. It was a unanimous vote to approve the minutes as written.

Reevaluation of Mid Snake/Upper Snake Rock Subbasin TMDL: Final September 2014

Marti Bridges presented a brief introduction to the presentation. She discussed the 5-year review and the attenuation of TP in the Snake River. She discussed DEQ's lack of monitoring funds and resources EPA had available for assisting the TMDL program. A brief origin of the Tetra Tech Re-Evaluation Report was provided. In answer to one of the premises of this document Marti repeated, "There is no intention at this point in time to re-open the Mid Snake TMDL."

Bruce Cleland from Tetra Tech presented a PowerPoint providing the Mid Snake TMDL background 1997 to 2014. The scope intended to provide an integrated analysis of available data for TP. The driver for assessing TP was concerns with excessive algal growth. He referred to issues that were brought up in comments and additional data received. The data driven analysis was emphasized throughout the presentation. The role of hydrology took into consideration the seasonality of the flow. Data collection and analysis methods were discussed as well as the nutrient cycles of macrophytes. Key findings were; lower water flow and TP concentrations than when the original TMDL was developed, point sources generally meet waste load allocation and macrophytes continue to be a concern.

Marti addressed the next steps and what could be expected as implementation. Data gaps need to be answered with an emphasis on tributaries and drains. Additional work needs to be done on macrophyte cycle, nitrogen, periphyton and chlorophyll-a. Flow Shaping, gauge rating curves, and future data collection and evaluation of Lake Walcott HUC were also suggested.

Brian Hoelscher encouraged more work be done on water flows, how to account for actual results and developing flow thresholds for positive results.

With the reduction in flow, it was suggested to look at continuous temperature; is the temperature going up and affecting macrophyte growth.

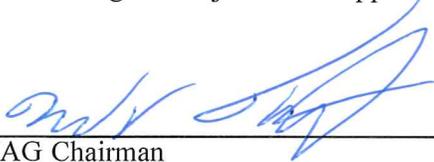
Mike Trabert suggested a whole watershed management approach. The challenge would be encouraging all inputs to join together.

Leigh asked how or what is next? What is the game plan?

Sonny replied essentially there is not enough funding.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.



WAG Chairman

2/11/2015

Approval Date