

The Middle Snake River Watershed Advisory Group

*Meeting Minutes
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
319 South 417 East, Jerome, ID
Wednesday, September 15, 2010
Time: 6:00 PM*

Attendees:

Mike Trabert – City of Twin Falls
Andy Morton – Clear Springs Foods
Sue Switzer – DEQ-TFRO
Chad Chorney – DEQ-TFRO
Gary Fornshell – University of Idaho
Larry Pennington – Northside Canal Company
Mark Daily – Aquaculture

The meeting was brought to order by Mike Trabert, WAG Chairman. The attendees introduced themselves and who they represented.

The minutes for the previous Middle Snake WAG meeting on August 11, 2010 were reviewed and approved.

The current vice-chairman, Jeff Williams, has stated that he would like to still be involved with the WAG but feels he cannot attend enough to fill the position of vice-chairman. Larry Pennington was voted as the new vice-chairman of the Middle Snake WAG.

Article VII of the Middle Snake River Watershed Advisory Group Bylaws was discussed in connection with a quorum of voting members. Some of the interests are not currently represented: Food Processors, CAFOs, Recreation, and Soil Conservation Districts (a stakeholder on the board not an employee). Everyone was asked to brainstorm and if they are aware of someone who would be interested in being a representative on the WAG, please let Sue Switzer know. We would like to get to where we have a voting member in each of the Middle Snake Watershed Interests. Under the Idaho code we are to make every attempt to have representation from each interest.

Technical Advisory Committee update – The TAC's main discussion is "reasonable period of time." Today's meeting set direction on what areas to look for for technical research. We would like to set up a web site where papers can be posted and everyone can retrieve them, read them and post your comments. Mike Trabert is working with the City of Twin Falls to create a site that can be used by the WAG.

The State Office is working on getting the necessary documents signed on the 2010 Integrated Report so it can go out for public comment this week. We will send out an email to everyone when it becomes available for public comment. Watch for it this week. If you see major errors, we can meet as the WAG to go over it as well.

The *Final Draft of the Anti-Degradation* is available. It is open for public comment until October 1. If you have comments, contact Don Essig at the DEQ State Office. The WAG members were encouraged to read the documents and send in their comments.

Barry Burnell of the DEQ State Office has asked that as a watershed we look at total phosphorus trading within the watershed. This will be a big project, and the TAC will help with the technical aspect. We will keep EPA involved in the process; have someone here at our meetings. The *2010 Pollutant Trading Guidance* document is available.

There was some discussion at the last WAG meeting concerning Sonny's participation at the TAC and WAG meetings. Starting in November 2006 Sue has become the point of contact for DEQ. Sonny can provide technical assistance to the TAC, the WAG and to Sue; therefore, if a subject comes up that we need his expertise, he would be happy to provide that.

There is not going to be a Temperature TMDL on the river as previously discussed because it is more than 30 meters across. The PNV will be focused on the tributaries and upstream uses of water, and the Lake Walcott reach has to be included as a direct influence into the Snake River. We have not started the temperature TMDL for the Mid Snake. Once we get started on it, we will be getting you those components as quickly as possible.

The meeting concluded at 7:00 pm.



WAG Chairman

10/13/10
Date