

The Middle Snake River Watershed Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes

601 Poleline Road, Twin Falls, Idaho

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Time: 2:00 PM

Attendees:

Larry Pennington – North Side Canal Company
Laura Knothe – The New Energy Company
Brian Hoelscher – Idaho Power
Terry Edwards – NRCS
Matt Thompson – AgTec Engineering
Jay Barlogi – Twin Falls Canal Company
Andy Morton – Clear Springs Foods
Sue Switzer – DEQ-TFRO
Jordan Tollefson – ISCC
Rich Bupp – BLM-Twin Falls
Sean Woodhead – DEQ-TFRO
Mark Daily – Aquaculture
Chuck Pentzer – ISCC
Brian Olmstead – Twin Falls Canal Company
Gary Fornshell – University of Idaho
Chad Chorney – DEQ-TFRO

I. Welcome and Introductions

Larry Pennington – Acting Chairman

The meeting was called to order by Larry Pennington, who was asked to fill in by Chairman, Mike Trabert. Every one in attendance was welcomed and each of the attendees introduced themselves and whom they represented at the meeting.

II. WAG Business

Larry Pennington – Acting Chairman

- A. The minutes for the past two meetings, February 17 and June 22, were reviewed. The minutes for the February 17 meeting were approved as written. There were two corrections to be made in the June 22 minutes. The web site for the Anti-Degradation Implementation Procedures should be www.deq.idaho.gov/rules/water/58_0102_1001_negotiated.cfm, and the web site for the Upper Snake Rock 5-Year Review should be http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/data_reports/surface_water/tmdls/snake_rock_upper/snake_rock_upper_five_year_review_0409.pdf. The minutes were approved with these corrections. The change will be made and the minutes will be signed and put into the administrative record.

B. Sean Woodhead handed out a schedule of the 319 calendar and process. Following the presentations, each project was voted on separately and all four projects were approved.

C. A meeting for the Technical Advisory Committee will be held in August.

III. 319 Proposal – Twin Falls Coulee Wetlands Project

Jordan Tollefson – Idaho Soil Conservation Commission

The project is sponsored and administered by the Snake River Soil and Water Conservation District. It is located in Twin Falls County approximately 2 miles northeast of the town of Kimberly on the Twin Falls coulee. The Twin Falls coulee is an agricultural return drain on the Twin Falls Canal Company System that directly discharges into the Middle Snake River.

The project will consist of constructing 14 sediment basins and one large wetland to filter out sediment, nutrients, and bacteria. It is estimated that there will be a 64% reduction in TSS, a 60% reduction in TP, and an 89% reduction in E. coli bacteria. This project will help meet the water quality standards for the Middle Snake River set forth in the Upper Snake Rock TMDL as well as improve wildlife habitat and add scenic beauty to the area.

The estimated cost of the project is \$178,600 with a grant amount of \$106,300 and matching funds of \$72,300. The construction would be done by the Twin Falls Canal Company.

IV. 319 Proposal – Magic Valley Residue Management Initiative

Chuck Pentzer– Idaho Soil Conservation Commission

The Magic Valley Residue Management Initiative is being sponsored and administered by the North Side Soil and Water Conservation District. The purpose of this project is to enroll approximately 3,000 acres in residue management practices. It will be used to show farmers in the area the benefits of residue management.

Runoff from agricultural fields can enter drainage ditches which eventually discharge into the Snake River. The greatest period of erosion occurs during years of low residue crops. Soil erosion can be decreased by switching to residue management practices. Using strip-till/no-till machinery allows the farmer to plant directly into existing crop residue. By keeping more crop residue on the ground, the soil loss due to irrigation, precipitation and wind erosion is decreased.

This project is set up to offer a \$30 per acre incentive payment so the farmers can help implement the practices with less risk involved. It will improve the water quality in these drainage ditches to help meet the water quality standards for the Middle Snake River set forth in the Upper Snake Rock TMDL. This project will also

help meet the goals of reducing the amount of nitrate being leached into the groundwater in Nitrate Priority Areas. With full project implementation, there will be an estimated decrease in sediment loading of 150 ton/year, 420 lbs/year of phosphorus, and 840 lbs/year of nitrogen entering the Snake River. The estimated cost of the project is \$217,200 for 319 grant with \$376,700 matching funds for a total project cost of \$593,900.

V. 319 Proposal – Dry Creek Watershed Improvement Project

Jordan Tollefson – Idaho Soil Conservation Commission

This project is being sponsored and administered by the Snake River Soil and Water Conservation District. It is located on Dry Creek approximately 3.5 miles south of Murtaugh. It falls within the Upper Snake Rock subbasin TMDL.

The natural contour of the stream has been completely altered into an irrigation system and drain. Dry Creek has a minimal flow during base flow periods; however, it is capable of producing extremely high flows during large spring runoff and storm events. These heavy flows have caused bank erosion on Dry Creek resulting in concrete irrigation ditches collapsing into the stream channel.

This project will consist of channel stabilization of approximately 0.9 miles of Dry Creek where the channel has been severely altered. It will include reshaping the banks so they are more trapezoidal not u-shapes and vertical to help reduce bank erosion; installing vegetation on the banks to prevent further bank erosion and provide a buffer between the adjacent cropland and Dry Creek; and installing several grade stabilization structures to slow down the huge flows when they come through, raise the water level of the channel, increase sedimentation of the channel, and over time, help restore the channel to its original condition.

After the project has been implemented, the estimated load reductions based on an average year for TSS would be 365.28 ton/year and TP would be 3.84 lbs/day. The estimated reductions for a large storm event would be TSS 1,826.40 ton/year and TP 19.24 lbs/day.

The total cost of this project is \$231,700; grant amount is \$137,680 with matching funds of \$94,020.

VI. 319 Proposal – Rock Creek Dairy Power Project

Laura Knothe – The New Energy Company

Matt Thompson – AgTech Engineering

This project places an anaerobic digester on the Rock Creek dairies south of Filer. The anaerobic digester is co-located to handle the waste from three neighboring dairies on the headwaters of the Cedar Draw.

We will take all the manure from all three dairies to one digester. It will be treated, and the F1 from that digester will be solid separated to reduce the amount of phosphorous and solids in the liquid waste before land application. We will treat the waste water to reduce the load that goes back to the fields. In addition, berming on the fields would be done to prevent sheet flow from getting down into the draw and add a sediment pond at the base of the head of Cedar Draw to help reduce the sediment load.


This project will reduce pollutants to Cedar Draw to assist in meeting the goals and objectives of the Upper Snake Rock TMDL. Cedar Draw is a high priority stream in the TMDL. Use of these BMP's will result in an estimated 94% reduction of phosphorus loading and 98% reduction of sediment.

The cost of the entire project including the anaerobic digester will be 11 to 12 million dollars total. In this proposal we have included just the water cleanup portion of the project; for this portion, we are at over 62% matching funds. For water cleanup only the 319 proposal is \$250,000 with matching funds of \$415,000 for a total cost of \$665,000.

VII. Adjourn

Larry Pennington – Acting Chairman

Motion to adjourn was made and passed; the meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.



WAG Chairman

8/11/10
Date

The Meeting was recorded, and the recording is included as part of the administrative record.