


Lower Boise Watershed Council

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
Caldwell Airport, Caldwell, Idaho
Thursday, June 11, 2015 - 7:00 p.m.

Introduction

Attendees: See attached sign-in list.

Changes to Agenda:

None.

Proxies:

John Prigge was a proxy to Bob Braun

Nate Runyan was a proxy to Michael Fuss

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Prior minutes were approved.

Approval of Invoices

Two HDR invoices approved. Invoice for Coles Reinstein tax preparation approved.

Liz Announcement: Idaho Rivers United (IRU) is planning two float trips. The first is on July 23rd in the morning from Willow Lane Park in Boise down to Eagle Road. The second trip is August 27th from Caldwell to Notus Bridge. Jack Harrison and others will show us the Indian Creek/Riverside Canal and how that's been re-plumbed. They provide rafts and raft captain. IRU and Ada Soil and Water Conservation District are doing a healthy horses/healthy river event. There will be discussion about manure, water management, xeriscaping, etc. This will happen on June 25th and hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be provided.

Discussion Agenda

Boise River Enhancement Network Plan – Liz Paul and Derek Risso

Liz

Four years ago a group of interested stakeholders started meeting. This is an unincorporated group. You can sign up as a member on-line.

A coordinating team was elected last September.

The network and plan were funded by a two year \$100,000 grant from the Bureau's WaterSmart Program, one task was to develop a watershed plan.

Derek

Derek showed a computerized presentation on draft plan, also an on-line presentation, meant to be viewed on your computer. See handouts:

- 1st part is where we came from, why we plan, and the setting of the river.
- 2nd is essential features of the ecological enhancement plan.
- 3rd is how to achieve the plan and go forward.

The focus of the plan is about the main river channel, and it was initiated in 2011 with a Boise River workshop. It describes how the river works, with storage reservoirs, and how it's managed. Anyone can use it as a tool (scientists, farmers, etc.). We're not looking to go back to what the river used to be, but instead are looking forward. This 1st part describes how they came up with plan. They gathered existing literature (cited and available on their web), had a review panel for the 1st part (DEQ, F&G, scientists, consultants, etc.).

The 2nd part describes key issues and key solutions (issues: geomorphology, fisheries and aquatic habitat, wetland and riparian habitat, water quality). They are looking for input, they know the LBWC is an expert group on water quality. Look at literature also, reality check if it is still valid. Dissolved oxygen (DO), phosphorus, sediment, temperature, bacteria were addressed. Water quality enhancements are summarized on page 9 of the handout.

August 12th is the deadline for all comments. They will address input and modify to get the best plan they can. Will ask for expert reviewers on each subject area and will get their input as well.

The 3rd part is looking for multiple benefits, and they identified three key areas: 1) protect functional areas, 2) improve channel form, complexity and floodplain protection, and 3) improve water quality (will help all other areas).

Who is doing what, and where are identified. The plan provides examples of successful collaborative watershed enhancement.

What is BREN going to do? Bring people together, educate, and network the community to get more projects implemented. Lots of people are donating time to put together the plan.

The plan is on-line and has some appendices so far. An email feedback form is available.

Liz - The plan looks really good and the information is compiled in user friendly way

Derek - There is a digital geo-database and on-line library.

Tom - With the Watersmart grant will there be follow up Reclamation funding to implement the plan?

Derek - It does not appear to have funding available. Funding was to establish the organization in addition to the plan. Specific projects are not identified yet. It would be a good next step if funding can be found.

Liz - We will be talking to Senator Crapo's office, he is major player in the process.

Liz - BREN wants input from all groups represented by the LBWC. They would love to come and meet with you and your colleagues if that is more convenient. They will meet with the Treasure Valley Partnership, ASWCD, etc.

Andy - What exactly is this BREN group? For example, a WAG has a statutory charge to advise DEQ.

Liz - This is unincorporated, like a lot of watershed councils in other states. We see it as more of a role like a seed growers association. Bring everyone to the table, and meet with local governments. If money is available they could come to BREN and decide what projects could be

done. Practitioners and scientists can come together and compare information, like the geomorphology work that was done for the plan.

Andy - When the plan is finalized, who do you shop it to?

Derek - One example is Ada emergency response, they can interface when they redo their plan. When others see what is in the plan, they can decide what is the best mitigation by going to plan? It needs to be updated over time. One of the inspirations for it was, if there is a large mitigation situation, the plan lays out the things that could be done to influence the river. Example, if F&G is planning something; this community based plan will give these things more credibility. Stormwater and wastewater management plans can be involved also. Hopefully this will be a team thing.

The Freshwater Trust is interested. Alex is on the board. It is a great resource, and the next step is to prioritize projects, so getting buy-in on the plan is important.

Liz - I hope it will bring irrigators to the table, though they are not in the river enhancement business, they do have impact and can have a role enhancement. And it provides kudos for the things they are already doing.

Robbin - Are there examples of best practices for some of these things?

Derek - Yes, they do have examples for types of structures and practices, such as drip irrigation. We do lay out top BMPs. And it's specific to Boise, but we only went to a certain level of detail. Appendices have more details by subject matter. The plan is an overview.

Erica - You all did a great job. She was there at the beginning, and wondered how this would work with that many people with different opinions. But she likes the plan, it's a great tool, especially for an overview, not overly technical, good graphics. That is were LBWC sometimes struggles with this, e.g. a DEQ TMDL is kind of scary.

Robbin - When I asked about best practices, I was thinking about Boise Whitewater Park (restored one mile of river), and Williams Park is another good example of restoration. When work is being done adjacent to river, when we doing comprehensive plans, these are examples that are not abstract.

Derek - The plan does note Whitewater Park is example of success.

USGS Monitoring Status Report - Alex Etheridge

Alex provided a handout with November 2014 periphyton sampling. There will be one more in summer? August would be good.

See PowerPoint.

Water Quality Trends, Boise River

Monitoring is funded by \$48,000 from LBWC, plus USGS matches. They have a continuous monitor at Parma measuring turbidity conductance, temperature, and DO. They have regression models to predict sediment and phosphorus. They collected 6 samples this year, for model validation. So far, they are getting very good agreement. Periphyton is sampled at five sites, another sampling will occur this summer, and will help fill in data gaps for implementation of the TMDL.

The rest of her presentation is for a different model, which was presented at the DEQ conference earlier this year. It's called the WRTDS model (Weighted Regression on Time, Discharge and Season).

Alex thought it would be good to develop the model now, with TMDL about to begin implementation. It's a trend model and so can compare now to 5 or 10 years down the road and see if trends are present.

This model can estimate concentration or load, given any flow on any or season. We can remove year to year variations in flow that are unnatural. Boise River at Parma is long term station: 827 samples since 1969 and 43 years of daily discharge record. Glenwood has a gap in the records. Parma is near the mouth, so it is an integrator site.

The WRTDS model is useful for TP compliance for May-September (not in winter), it is unable to explain winter storm response. Outliers really influence model results. Winter storms on frozen ground cause a huge influx of loads. Real time TP model is useful for winter storm predictions. Feb 1979 had a huge flow (1.5 mg/L TP), September 1988 had 2.0 mg/L and no associated event so she's not sure of this sample. February 2014 event had 0.84 mg/L. So WRTDS needs a different predictor for winter events. The ratio of runoff to total flow at Parma to TP seems like a decent correlation. Runoff is estimated from another model available free online.

We have a surrogate model, it's being hosted online. It is based on the real-time measurements at Parma, and provides real time estimates of TP. The model indicates 14-19% reduction in TP over a historical period (1990-2014) for May-September.

We need a TAC meeting soon to discuss the next Fiscal Year monitoring plans. We would like to do intensive work on a tributary again if possible.

Council Business

319 Grant Activities Update

John Prigge was at the 319 TAC meeting this morning and provided the update. They strongly suggest keeping the 319 summer tour it to 3 sites or projects: Maxwell (drip irrigation on hops), Marchbanks (conversion from flood irrigation on steep ground to center pivot sprinkler) and Alkali Drain (sediment basin and treatment wetlands). The date not set yet.

Farmers Coop Ditch Company project was discussed for potential funding with the LBWC 319 grant. John has paperwork on it, and it looks like pretty good project. It's a sediment basin in the canal.

Liz - Do we agree with 3 sites?

Erica - Why is the tour always in August when it's so hot?

We should provide them feedback that it should be as late in the season as possible, maybe mid-September.

Liz - We have not discussed Farmers Union in detail at a WAG yet. Someone is going to have to come to us with more details, how much money, what priority, etc.

Erica - What is the process for review now?

John - This is a pre-proposal. \$300K total project cost.

Interim ED Report

LBWC was paid for the 2011 319 grant (\$4,020).

Erica - We usually have Board retreat to look at budget issues for next FY.

Alex - Would like to have a preliminary monitoring meeting in July. Alex will propose some dates/times.

Liz - We could do the retreat in August. August 3rd thru 5th is good for the directors at this meeting, Tom and Clint to check with directors who were not at the meeting tonight.

Robbin - The City of Boise has two projects soon to be operational: 1) Dixie Drain will be treated, and 2) West Boise wastewater treatment facility is going to Enhanced Biological Nutrient Removal this month (goal is 0.6 mg/L). These will result in huge chunks of TP being removed with those two projects. Alex should be aware and maybe capture with monitoring. The city has a lot of data also but not at the mouth near Parma.

Next Meeting Agenda and Location

Meridian has a place for the future LBWC meetings in City Hall, and a new administration building at the Wastewater treatment plant is a good meeting place also.

Erica - Meridian should be considered only after I-84 construction is done, it's really hard to get there from Boise during construction. Let's put this on the agenda for the retreat.

Clint - Agenda items for July 9th meeting? Will DEQ have anything they want to present?

DEQ - Probably not, still working on finalizing the TMDLs.

Robbin - We could discuss EPA's final Waters of the U.S. rule. Also, EPA released a technical document on virus criteria, bacteriophages. These criteria are to be out in June sometime. This would impact MS4s and bacteria TMDLs. States will be expected to adopt.

Erica - At the retreat we should talk about regular meeting topics.

Meeting Adjourned