

SOUTHWEST BASIN ADVISORY GROUP

Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2015

BAG Members Present: Jim Moyer, Dick Rogers, Tim Mosko, Robbin Finch, Herb Malany; Tom Pence, Chris Randolph

Meeting was called to order by Chairman, Jim Moyer at 9:15 a.m.
Meeting minutes were read and approved with a minor change.

Dave Pisarski provided an overview of the 319 for 2016.

- 28 applications for review statewide requesting a total of ~ \$6 million.
- 8 Regional Office projects.
- FY2016 there will be \$1.87 million to distribute.
- Changes to expect:
 - DEQ has decided to eliminate the BAG Chairman's project selection meeting. This is a trial experiment.
 - Regional project rankings will be put forward to the 319 program office.
 - DEQ will make recommendations for funding and release for regional BAG approval.
 - Easements: The federal gov't is now allowing the purchase of property to be covered with 319 funds. The value of the land is requested in the application. Value must reflect market value of the land in that area. In this situation, DEQ would receive a signed cop of the easement.
 - The 319 program will begin to disburse funds in a manner similar to that of the State Revolving Loan Fund. Receipts will be required up front.

2015 in review:

- The Federal 319 grant funds are usually released in the May-June timeframe. This year they came to DEQ in September. The delay was on account of contract terms and conditions being substantially changed. DEQ needed additional time to process and have questions answered by EPA. A deal was signed on October 14, 2015. This delay resulted in the loss of a field season and DEQ will work with applicants to modify work schedules

The meeting set forth to hear and rank FY 2016 319 project proposals.
There were six (8) projects on the agenda for the day.

After much consideration, the SWBAG proposed a top three ranking which went to the program office as follows:

1. IDFG and Valley SCD – Combine these two projects into one proposal. Request that Valley Co drop their road project totaling \$35,000. Total 319 request for all Valley County projects = **\$106,380**
2. OWC – Owyhee Restoration Incentive Program – Offer reduced funding amount. Total = **\$120,000**
3. LBWC – Continued Canyon/Ada County BMP Program – Offer reduced funding amount. Total = **\$150,000**

After discussion with the 319 program office, it was determined that combining project proposals at this stage of the selection process was unprecedented and untimely.

Since the idea of combining project proposals came after the individual project ranking in an effort to fund a greater number of projects and to spread the wealth, the original rankings follow:

1. IDFG – Boulder Creek and NFPR Streambank Stabilization
 2. Valley SWCD – NFPR Watershed Improvement Project
 3. OWC – Owyhee Restoration Incentive Program
 4. LBWC – Continued Canyon/Ada County BMP Program
 5. Weiser River SCD – Crane Creek/Mill Ditch Automated Head Gates
 6. CJ Watson - Conway Gulch Drain Water Quality Improvement Project
 7. Weiser River SCD – City of Weiser Drinking Water Intake Project
- The OWC and LBWC were asked and both agreed to reduced funding if it would mean being funded at all.
 - Valley County was not asked about taking a reduction in funds at their presentation, however offering them a lesser amount was discussed during the selection process. Again, the idea was to fund a larger number of projects at reduced amounts.
 - Crane Creek/Mill Ditch, Weiser River SCD was also asked about taking reduced funds. The Crane Creek Project is their priority.

A request was added to the submission of final ranking: *The SWBAG's desire was to combine proposals and to fund as originally described. Understanding administrative decisions are made to allocate funds somewhat equitably across the State, Dave was asked to please consider the BAG's original proposal of priority and recommended allocation of funds during his analysis.*

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.