

## Lake Walcott Watershed Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

Bureau of Reclamation Field Office  
470 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Heyburn, Idaho  
Thursday April 21, 2016, 2 p.m.

### Attendees

Mike Beus – Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)  
Rich Bupp – - DEQ-Twin Falls Regional Office  
Dan Davidson – Minidoka Irrigation District  
Carolyn Firth – Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC)  
Tom Geary – Rancher, Chairman  
Dee Hodge – City of Burley  
Shell Howard – DEQ, Twin Falls Regional Office  
John Lind – Burley Irrigation District  
Alan Monek – Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)

The meeting was brought to order by Tom Geary, chairman, at about 2:05 p.m. The meeting is being recorded.

### Wag Business

- The minutes from the previous Lake Walcott Watershed Advisory Group meeting on August 27, 2015. Dan Davidson made a motion to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Dee Hodge. The motion carried unanimously.
- A copy of the WAG bylaws was distributed to the attendees. Tom is resigning as chairman of the WAG. Attendees were asked to review the bylaws as to replacing the chairman and filling empty slots in the membership of the WAG. Dee Hodge made a motion that the City of Burley will authorize Jean Gorringer, who has been attending these WAG meetings for quite a while, to act as interim chairman. Everyone can email her with nomination for new chairman to be voted on at the next meeting. Jean will contact them to see if they are interested and make a list that can be voted on at the next meeting. The motion was seconded and the vote was passed. Jean's email is [jgorringe@emt.org](mailto:jgorringe@emt.org). She can be contacted at the City of Burley's WWTP. Her phone number is 878-5249. Carolyn will send in the nomination for Mike Etcheverry.

### DEQ Updates

- Shell Howard was introduced as the new 319 Implementation Coordinator for DEQ. Sonny was not able to attend this meeting;
- IPDES Guidance meeting will be next Monday. You can participate in that meeting via web conference at the DEQ Twin Falls Regional Office at 9 a.m. Information about the meeting can be found on our DEQ website. A draft agenda was handed out to attendees.

- The new Waterbody Assessment Guide (WBAG III) is out for public comment. You can find that information on the DEQ website under “News, Public Comments, and Events”. Comment period ends May 23.
- The Draft Integrated Report for 2014 is out and ready to go to EPA. .
- Shoreline stabilization is regulated by the counties and the Corp, but there seems to be a lot of issues with building below the waterline. DEQ would review the permit and writes a water quality certification to support the Army Corp of Engineers permit.

#### Lake Walcott Watershed Tetra Tech WQ Report

It has been decided that the subbasin assessment which was used to write the TMDL in 2000 needs to be revised. The first step in the process was to do a basin wide data assessment, which has been completed. Rich Bupp made available the introduction and conclusion because the rest is just data. If anyone is interested in the data and analyses, contact Rich and he will see that you get a copy of the complete document.

Basically, the data analysis identified data gaps with unknown information. The next step in moving towards a data assessment revision is to try to fill those data gaps. EPA paid the contractor, Tetra Tech, to write a quality assurance project plan for DEQ so that they can collect data sets to fill in the gaps. The quality assurance project plan is being finalized right now and DEQ will start sampling in the next few months. When all the data collection is finished, the data sets will be turned over to the contractor and the contractor will be rewriting the data assessment. After that, we have no idea. We will have a better understanding of the nutrients, where they are coming from, how they are moving through the system, and where they go.

Rich entertained questions and discussion from the attendees. Carolyn would like an electronic copy of the entire document.

#### Bureau of Reclamation Report

Mike Beus gave a report of the water supply. American Falls water rights are very close to being filled so that the rest of the system can come on. Things are changing really fast. The most unusually thing this year is that snow is melting early, but irrigation demand did not start early. Snow pack is melting rapidly; it is more early than deficient. The problem that we may have is that the storage may max out early so we have a longer storage delivery season. The long-lead forecast is pretty encouraging.

#### Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Tom Geary at approximately 3:20 p.m.

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WAG Chairman

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Date