

Wood River Watershed Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes

Big Wood Canal Company
409 North Apple Street, Shoshone, Idaho
May 10, 2016, 7 p.m.

Attendees

Bill Davis – Camas Conservation District
Lynn Harmon – Big Wood Canal Company
Shell Howard – DEQ, Twin Falls Regional Office
Patti Lousen – Wood River Land Trust
Dorene MacCoy - USGS
Chuck Pentzer – Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Cory Sandow – DEQ, State Office
Mark Shumar – DEQ, State Office
Bob Simpson – City of Carey
Sue Switzer – DEQ, Twin Falls Regional Office
Mark Toone – Livestock

Welcome

The meeting of the Wood River Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) was called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. by Chairman, Bob Simpson. The attendees introduced themselves and who they represented. The meeting is being recorded.

WAG Business

- The minutes for the Wood River WAG meeting held on February 23, 2016, were reviewed. A motion was made by Patti Lousen to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

DEQ Updates

Shell Howard gave an update of the documents DEQ has had out for public comment: the Water Quality Trading Guidance document is open for comments now; the IPDES Guidance Update is open for comment now; Use and Attainability comment period just closed; the Draft Permit to Control Discharges from Pesticides closed yesterday. You can find any of these documents on the DEQ website.

Big Wood River Biological Survey Update

Dorene McCoy of USGS presented information from an assessment done on 7 sites on the Big Wood River and the tributaries to establish a trend monitoring network. Trout Unlimited, Nature Conservancy, Wood River Land Trust, and DEQ were jointly funding this project. The data has been analyzed and a report has been completed. The report needs to go through approval and is scheduled to be published by September this year. Plans are to work with the non-profit groups to continue monitoring and trend monitoring so questions can be answered. Dorene presented information, sampling protocols used, and some data analysis from the survey.

Dorene gave an indication of what you can answer with continued monitoring. The first year is just an initial assessment. You need at least a 1-5 year set of data in order to compare the criteria to see if you are meeting TMDL goals. With 5-10 years you can do trend analysis: natural variability, restoration planning, and extreme impacts of fire and drought. At least 10 years of data is needed for climate change or land use change.

DEQ Camas PNV Update


Mark Shumar discussed the history of temperature TMDLs and DEQ's process for developing temperature TMDLs. Originally, temperature TMDLs looked at water quality criteria. Then EPA said that is not working very well. Shade is now used because it is very easy to convert to a daily load using solar energy. All of the shade curves, the procedures used to develop them and anything else about our TMDLs are in the procedures manual, which can be found on the DEQ website.

DEQ developed target shade values for the Camas Creek watershed, which goes into a load table for a specific assessment unit. Using weather station data, which comes in kilowatt hours per meters square per day, and the area of the segment and its shade, the solar load can be calculated for each segment. It is calculated once using target shade and once using existing shade. The difference in the target shade value and the existing shade value is the excess solar load, which satisfies the requirements of the TMDL load reduction. The difference between the target shade and the existing shade can be used to locate the problem spots.

The Camas Creek TMDL was approved years ago by EPA. This new revision has the newer shade data; therefore, it will need to go back to EPA for approval.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m. by chairman, Bob Simpson.



WAG Chairman

4-28-17

Date approved