

Upper Snake Basin Advisory Group
DRAFT

Meeting Minutes February 8, 2017

Video Conference

Attendees

DEQ Idaho Falls Regional Office:

Roger Blew – BAG, Public at large
Justin Hayes – BAG, Recreation
Lisa Cawley – DEQ, Administrative Assistant
Richard Savage – BAG, Livestock
Laurie Stone – BAG, Forestry
Matt Woodard – BAG-Environmental, Chairman

DEQ Pocatello Regional Office:

Lynn Van Every – DEQ, Regional Water Quality Manager

DEQ Twin Falls Regional Office:

Burl Ackerman – BAG, Mining
Dave Anderson – DEQ, Regional Administrator
Jay Barlogi – Twin Falls Canal Company
Sonny Buhidar – DEQ, Regional Water Quality Manager
Shell Howard – DEQ, TMDL Implementation Coordinator
Sean Woodhead – DEQ, BURP Coordinator

Welcome

The meeting convened via video conference and was brought to order shortly after 10 a.m. by Matt Woodard, BAG Chairman. A rollcall was taken from each region. Lisa Cawley is sitting in for Troy Saffle in Idaho Fall. Jay Barlogi is representing Irrigated Ag for Brian Olmstead. A special welcome was given to the new mining representative, Burl Ackerman. The audio of the meeting is being recorded.

Bag business

- The minutes of the meeting on October 5, 2016 were reviewed. A motion was made by Laurie to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Roger. The vote was unanimous. The minutes will be sent by email to Matt for signature.
- Gary Marquardt has retired from the BAG; therefore, we will be looking for someone to fill the non-municipal permittee position. Sonny reviewed the process used to replace a BAG member. There was discussion as to what type of interests fell within the title of non-municipal permittee. Sonny will coordinate with Lynn and Troy to compile a list of entities within the upper and mid Snake that are permitted and would have an interest in the BAG. Sonny will also get a newspaper advertisement prepared for this position. When the advertisement is put out, notification will also be sent to the organizations on the list.

- The next meeting will be a BAG tour in the Idaho Falls region on Wednesday, July 12, the time to be determined.

DEQ Water Quality Managers' Updates

Sonny reviewed the information that he sent out to the BAG members prior to the meeting (attached to the minutes). He started with an update of the WAGs in the region. There was a Mid Snake WAG meeting scheduled for February 7; EPA was to present on their NPDES strategy for the Mid-Snake. Because of weather, EPA could not make it, and the meeting was cancelled. It will be rescheduled for early March, and the BAG will be notified. For the most part all the WAGs have been meeting regularly. He then gave updates on the TMDLs and 5-year reviews. Sean Woodhead added some comments concerning the 290 BURP site assessments, which will be completed very soon.

Lynn presented the updates for the Pocatello region. They are still trying to get the TMDLs approved for the Salt River. It was submitted in August 2015 with a number of tributary TMDLs included. This also included Simplot Smokey Canyon Mine. The holdup is that EPA has a desire to place numeric stormwater wasteload allocations for sediment. DEQ made the case that they did not have sufficient information to write numeric wasteload allocations for sediment, and that the nature and extent of stormwater discharges at Smokey Canyon Mine did not lend themselves to some numeric wasteload allocation for sediment. EPA disagreed. EPA is still working through the issues. The section EPA has written will be inserted into the TMDL and will have to go out for public comment. The public comment period will be for that specific section of the TMDL and should be within the next couple of months.

The Blackfoot 5-year review is done and posted. The Bear River 5-year review is completed and posted. The field work has been completed for the Porteuf River 5-year review, and we are in the process of putting all the data into a document to have completed and posted by the end of the year. Pocatello's BURP site assessments are completed on 148 units for the 2016 Integrated Report. It is still in review on the state level. The 2014 Integrated Report is in the state office and should be headed to EPA soon.

Matt read Troy's report for the Idaho Falls region. They are completing 188 assessments for the Integrated Report. If any of the BAG members have questions on specific springs, they can contact Troy.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Richard and seconded by Jay to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:40 a.m. by Matt Woodard, BAG chairman.

Chairman

Date of Approval

TFRO Update for Upper Snake BAG

Upper Snake BAG Meeting

February 8, 2017 – Telephone Conference (10:00-12:00)

TFRO's Updates on WAGs, TMDLs, Five-Year Reviews and BURP Season

WAGs Update

Mid-Snake WAG – Includes Upper Snake Rock, Salmon Falls & Bruneau River HUCs.

- Sue Switzer coordinating.
- Feb 07, 2017 – Mid-Snake WAG and EPA's Presentation on their NPDES strategy for the Mid-Snake NPDES permittees. See Exhibit A of this update document about EPA's position/concerns with the TMDL and why it should be revised.

Lake Walcott WAG – Includes Lake Walcott, Raft River & Goose Creek HUCs.

- Rich Bupp coordinating.

Wood River WAG – Includes Big Wood River, Little Wood River & Camas Creek HUCs.

- Shell Howard coordinating.

TMDLs Update

- Camas Creek Subbasin TMDLs (TRIM 2016AKV229) – EPA approved 15 revised temperature TMDLs on December 20, 2016 as the Camas Creek Subbasin TMDL – 2016 Temperature Addendum.
- Little Wood River Subbasin Assessment & TMDL (2016 Temperature Addendum; TRIM 2016AKV272) – Draft update with most recent imagery. Currently in progress.
- Big Wood River – No activity here. Previously the BWR Tributaries Temperature TMDL was approved by EPA on December 23, 2013.
- Upper Snake Rock – Mud Creek/Cedar Draw Temp TMDL – Undergoing revision in State Office. The Temperature & Flow Measurement Analysis (DEQ Technical Services; TRIM 2016AKV88) is currently completed.
- Salmon Falls Creek TMDL – No activity here.
- Lake Walcott TMDL – Currently in progress.

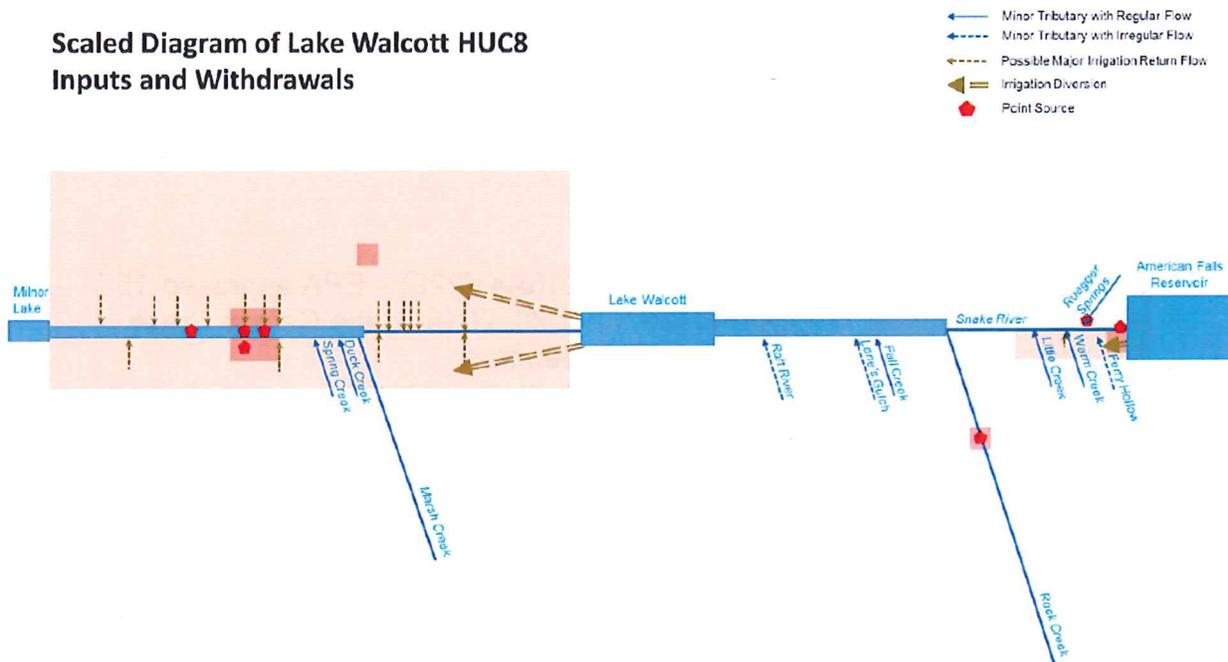
Five-Year Reviews Update

- Big Wood River Five-Year Review (TRIM 2016AKV271) – Undergoing revision in State Office & Tech Editing. Once finalized, it will be presented to the Wood River WAG for comments.
- Camas Creek Subbasin TMDLs (TRIM 2016AKV229) – A component of the Camas Creek Temperature TMDL.
- Little Wood River Five-Year Review (TRIM 2016AKV34) – Being joined with the Temp TMDL.
- Upper Snake Rock Five-Year Review – No activity but it is due to be revisited.
- Salmon Falls Five-Year Review – No activity here.

TFRO Update for Upper Snake BAG

- Lake Walcott Five-Year Review – Currently in progress. A QAPP (TRIM 2016AKV76) is in place as of 05/25/2016 and discusses monitoring for nutrients, sediment and bacteria. The QAPP also describes the association between DEQ and EPA, as EPA has provided dollars for some of the monitoring effort. The QAPP was developed in order to facilitate the collection of additional data by DEQ that will be used to fill data gaps in the Lake Walcott subbasin, which will then be used to update the 2010 Lake Walcott Subbasin Assessment. DEQ will be collecting additional water quality, biological, and habitat data in order to identify sources of pollutant loadings, quantify impacts to water quality, and update and revise the subbasin assessment. The EPA has contracted with Tetra Tech to develop the QAPP for additional data collection in the Lake Walcott HUC8 basin.

Scaled Diagram of Lake Walcott HUC8 Inputs and Withdrawals



Questions that will be addressed in the subbasin assessment updating include the following:

- What are the nutrient related and other water quality impairment status (recreational use) of the Snake River, Lake Walcott, Milner Lake, and tributaries?
- What are the sediment and phosphorus concentrations and loadings within the Snake River, Lake Walcott, Milner Lake, and tributaries; and how do they compare to TMDL and targets?
- What are the primary sediment and nutrient loading sources to the Snake River, Lake Walcott, and Milner Lake?
- Are previously unidentified irrigation return drains significant sources of nutrients?

TFRO Update for Upper Snake BAG

- What are the aquatic life impairment statuses of the Snake River and key tributaries?
- The data may eventually be used to develop a model or models of the Snake River-Lake Walcott-Milner Lake system using a three dimensional model to simulate longitudinal and vertical hydrodynamics and water quality in the lakes and river, including stratification that may occur in lakes, as well as basic eutrophication processes and sediment relationships.

BURP & 2016 Integrated Report Update

Data compilation includes BURP data for the last 5 years; so 2017 – 5 years = 2012. The 2016 Integrated Report will involve the BURP data from 2012 through 2017.

Number of BURP Sites being assessed at TFRO = 288

HUCs involved:

- 17040209 – Lake Walcott - 3 BURP sites
- 17040210 – Raft River - 21 BURP sites (8 dry sites)
- 17040211 – Goose Creek - 25 BURP sites (5 dry sites)
- 17040212 – Upper Snake Rock - 18 BURP sites
- 17040213 – Salmon Falls Creek - 28 BURP sites
- 17040219 – Big Wood River - 116 BURP sites + 11 TMDL Bacteria data
- 17040220 – Camas Creek - 34 BURP sites
- 17040221 – Little Wood River - 32 BURP sites