

Middle Snake River Watershed Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Twin Falls Regional Office
1363 Fillmore Street, Twin Falls, Idaho
Wednesday, July 20, 2011, 6:00 p.m.

Attendees

Andy Morton – Clear Springs Foods, Inc.
Bob Bolte – Gooding Soil Conservation District (SCD)
Brian Hoelscher – Idaho Power Company (IPC)
Brian Olmstead – Twin Falls Canal Company (TFCC)
Chad Chorney – DEQ-Twin Falls Regional Office (TFRO)
Clyde Lay – U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)
Craig Brown – Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG)
Derek Hankins – Idaho Erosion Control (IEC)
Gary Fornshell – University of Idaho (UI)
Jay Barlogi – Twin Falls Canal Company (TFCC)
Jennifer Hankins – Idaho Erosion Control (IEC)
Jordan Tollefson – DEQ-Twin Falls Regional Office (TFRO)
Larry Pennington – North Side Canal Company (NSCC)
Mark Daily – Aquaculture Industry Representative
Mike Beus – U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)
Sue Switzer – DEQ-Twin Falls Regional Office (TFRO)

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:05 p.m. by Larry Pennington, WAG vice-chairman. The attendees introduced themselves and whom they represented.

WAG Business

- The minutes from the May 18th, 2011 Middle Snake WAG meeting were reviewed and approved as written.
- Brian Hoelscher made a motion that the WAG support both projects presented. Andy Morton seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously. A letter of support for each project was signed by Larry Pennington.
- The next meeting is anticipated for September, Gary Fornshell, University of Idaho, offered to make a presentation.

- The revised Mid-Snake Bylaws were emailed as an attachment to the agenda one week prior to the meeting. Sue read an email received from Rich Bupp, BLM, suggesting Salmon Falls Creek be included in Article II – Area of Responsibility and also included in the attached map. Andy Morton suggested formatting/grammatical on Page 3, Article VIII and Page 8. The WAG supported the suggested changes being made.

319 Program Updates

Jordan Tollefson reviewed a letter dated June 23, 2011, from the Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators detailing funding cuts to the 319 program for last year. At the last minute there was a funding cut of \$304,000 for Idaho 319 projects. Due to this shortfall, two projects that were funded last year were cut. A third project was funded at a lower level. The funding amount for 2012 projects has not been disclosed; however, the grant funding will be competitive again this year. We definitely need the WAG support if the WAG finds them a good project. Copies of the letter were provided to the group.

Twin Falls Coulee Wetlands Project

Jay Barlogi presented the merits of the Twin Falls Coulee Wetlands Project. This project consists of the construction of a series of 9 wetland cells on the Twin Falls Coulee to filter sediment and improve water quality prior to discharge into the Snake River. It is estimated that the project will reduce TSS 64%, TP 60%, and E.coli 89%. Total cost of the project is \$178,600; matching funds of \$72,300 and grant amount \$106,300. Matching funds would be from Twin Falls Canal Company, Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission and the landowner.

LQ Drain Wildlife Habitat Area WQ Enhancement Project

Craig Brown presented the merits of the LQ Drain Wildlife Habitat Area WQ Enhancement Project. This project is the second phase of an existing water quality enhancement project that began in 2010. The purpose of this project is to reduce gravity flow inducted sediments and phosphorous into the LQ drain and the Snake River and enhance wildlife habitat by converting the gated pipe irrigation system to a pressurized sprinkler irrigation system. There is an estimated 90% reduction in sediments as a result of this project. The total cost of the project is \$45,675: matching funds of \$19,360 and grant amount of \$26,314.

Mid Snake Updates

Sue Switzer made the WAG aware of the new DEQ website and demonstrated how the group could access agendas and minutes through the Twin Falls Regional Office link.

Brian Holscher demonstrated how to access Idaho Power data by selecting water quality from the Idaho Power website. He asked if a link to the data could be included on the DEQ website specifically on Mid Snake WAG page. Sue agreed to follow-up on the request with DEQ State Office.

Larry Pennington shared a product label for Natrix, a product that has been approved to use in controlling invasive/exotic aquatic mussel, snail, oyster, or clam species. Conservation groups have supported the use of Natrix if quagga mussels are detected in Idaho waters. Twenty-one boats so far this year have been found trying to enter Idaho waters with quagga mussels.

Mike Beus, Bureau of Reclamation, presented the tea-cup report demonstrating fullness of reservoirs and lakes in Southeastern Idaho.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Larry Pennington at a time estimated to be 7:15.



WAG Chairman



Date Approved