

# Middle Snake River Watershed Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)  
Twin Falls Regional Office  
1363 Fillmore Street, Twin Falls, Idaho  
Wednesday, September 21, 2011, 6:00 p.m.

## Attendees

Andy Morton – Clear Springs Foods, Inc.  
Brian Olmstead – Twin Falls Canal Company (TFCC)  
Chuck Pentzer – Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC)  
Jordan Tollefson – DEQ-Twin Falls Regional Office (TFRO)  
Mark Daily – Aquaculture Industry Representative  
Mike Trabert – City of Twin Falls  
Sue Switzer – DEQ-Twin Falls Regional Office (TFRO)

## Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Mike Trabert, WAG Chairman. The attendees introduced themselves and whom they represented.

## WAG Business

- The minutes for the July 20, 2011, Middle Snake WAG meeting were reviewed. It was suggested that a statement be added in the WAG Business section saying that a letter of support for the 319 projects was signed by Larry Pennington. Andy Morton moved that the minutes be approved with this change. Mark Daily seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.
- The question was asked of Jordan, relating to the letter he read last meeting concerning 319 program funding cuts, what is Section 106? Section 106 is related to point sources rather than non-point sources and we are not aware of any money being received in this region.
- The next meeting will be December 14.

## City of Twin Falls TSS Project

Mike Trabert showed a PowerPoint presentation updating the Twin Falls TSS wetlands project. This year they were able to complete three ponds. The outlet structure is basically complete. The monitoring stations on the inlet and outlet structures are in and water quality samples are being pulled out of it right now. The inlet structure will need to go in this fall at the lateral 26 spill. The NPDES requirements are to remove 733 tons per year TSS by 2014. At this point, this first

year of putting these ponds in, 558 tons has been removed. Approximately 790 pounds of total phosphorus has been removed to date. Removal rates seem to be on target. The next phase is to put a few ponds at Auger Falls and do some work there.

**Pollutant Trading**

There was a significant discussion on pollutant trading for the Mid Snake and what direction the WAG would pursue. Sue related some comments from Marti Bridges, DEQ State Office. Pollutant trading is not approved in any of the WWTP permits for the Mid Snake. Trading can still occur for those authorized under the Aquaculture General Permit until it comes up for renewal in 2012 at which time it will be removed unless a new TMDL for TP for the Upper Snake Rock is analyzed and completed. It was concluded that Mike and Sue would get together and develop and email that would be sent out to the members of the WAG asking if they wanted to pursue this further over the next year or wait until EPA actually opens up the TMDL.

**Mid Snake Updates**

The final 2010 Integrated Report has been sent to EPA. It is on the website with a disclaimer that it has not been approved by EPA. Jordan handed out tables which came directly from the 2010 Integrated Report indicating the high priority waters remaining from the 2002 TMDL settlement agreement, showing the status of the applicable assessment unit coming from the Mid Snake, and a priority list for the Twin Falls Regional Office. Jordan presented an overview of these tables.

The Upper Snake BAG meeting is coming up October 5. The 319 projects will be reviewed and voted upon. We would like to have someone there to represent the WAG; Larry will be asked to be the representative.

Suggestions for agenda items for future meetings: someone from China Mountain, Idaho Power's grad student, Mark Shumar to present temperature data, Gary Fornshell, and Jordan to update 319 projects.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by Mike Trabert at approximately 6:30 p.m.

  
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WAG Chairman

  
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Date Approved