



Lower Boise Watershed Council

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
USDA Farm Service Center, Caldwell
Thursday, April 12, 2012 - 7:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Introduction

Attendees: See attached sign-in list.

Meeting called to order, introductions made.

Proxies – Steve for Helen, Andy for Allen.

Agenda was approved as presented.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

The minutes from the regular meeting on March 8, 2012 were approved as presented.

Approval of Invoices

Invoices were approved as presented.

Discussion Agenda

DEQ Update

Peter met with Pioneer Irrigation board and plans to do other similar meetings with boards and irrigation companies to discuss grants available, 319 opportunities and other funding available.

Work has started on Indian Creek temperature and sediment. Work is being done by Hawke.

A new permit for Boise NPDS has been approved. Idaho Rivers Unlimited is appealing two permits granted in March because they don't meet clean water act limits for phosphorus discharge. One point has been appealed – asking EPA to revise permits to set phosphorus limits during the months of May through September. Request was not made for specific limits during the October through April time period. Permits are effective May 1. Comments can be made at the EPA site – page 27.

Flood Control District #10 Update – Steve Sweet

Steve is responsible for District 10 and 11 flood control in Canyon County. These districts cover 60,000 acres of irrigated lands. The districts try to hold the river at 6500 cfs to avoid flood stages at Glenwood. Flood district 10 includes about 22 miles of the Boise River, while district 11 covers 5-10 miles of the river.

Flood district 10 goes from Boise to Caldwell.

Flood district 11 goes from Caldwell to Parma.

About 40-45,000 people reside inside these flood districts.

These flood districts has numerous powers and duties, including taxation, corp of engineers, can sue and be sued, authority to maintain structures, acquire property, power of eminent domain, convey rights of way, use natural streams and improve them for flood control among others.

Annual revenues for district 10 are about \$250,000. This covers 1 full-time employee and Steve on a part-time basis (covers Eagle and Parma). District 11 revenues are about \$25,000.

Daily discharge data for the Boise River – Max 7000cfs – Minimum 109cfs – daily average is about 3000cfs.

Because of the excess snow fall and rain last year, there were 61+ days over 6000cfs.

High water impact includes loss of trees and bank erosion. 120 trees were knocked down – these affect irrigation and cause erosion, but are great for fishing, creating habitat for fish.

This year could see the same flood scenario as last year – there is more junk in the river this year.

NRCS Report – James Eller

NRCS has received 41 applications for agricultural improvements – 5 in Ada County, 36 in Canyon County.

12 of the applications have been obligated and work is underway.

James has an email newsletter outlining opportunities and projects that are under way or have been completed. Sign-up form was available for this email blast.

James discussed a new initiative program.

At the last meeting, board members ask about a possible way to rank and weigh applications for our 319 grant money. James presented a recommended ranking criteria for these applications. One criteria discussed at length were tiers 1-3+. Initially priority was placed on tiers 1 & 2 because they were directly adjacent to the main stream, however, since tributaries have been added to the impact, tier 3 projects may be more relevant now. Tier one projects are in direct proximity to the Lower Boise River. Tier 2 projects are located on tributaries with direct proximity to the river, while tier 3 projects are up stream on tributaries without having direct proximity to the river. With the inclusion of tributaries to the LB watershed, these projects can affect the main stem but with less impact.

Question was asked about whether removal of trash and tributary clean up would fit into 319 projects. Does it reduce phosphorus, does it meet water quality issues? It was suggested that a water quality ranking should also be established. Because there is already a sediment TMDL in place there is an incentive to reduce sediment through clean-up.

James also discussed the National Water Quality Initiative. It covers three areas, with a total of \$608,000 for the projects. Money must be obligated by July 2. There is a very short sign-up period of 3-4 weeks. It provides a 75% cost share compared to the normal Equip project funding which is only 50%. Projects are capped at \$300,000.

Kuna Water Treatment Plant Update – Royce Davis

Kuna has a new plant and lagoons south of town. Total phosphorus load is .8. This is reached using 2mm fine screens, water goes through a bioreactor membrane with a pore size of .04microns. Water also goes through ultraviolet disinfection. Discharge from Kuna goes down 10 mile and down Lake Hazel and then south into Indian Creek. BOD is 30mg/l/month – test is less than 3 for e.coli - phosphorus is .07 May-Sept with no limit from Oct-Apr.

4.1 is phosphorus for off months – last year’s average was 3.5-4.5 affluent for off months (Oct-Apr).

Alum is used to remove phosphorus. They start with a low dose about a month ahead and increase to reach .07 limit (approx. 4.3 gallons).

40 gallons of Alum got the limits down to .07 – goal was .05

Have monthly and weekly averages.

5 loads of alum - \$5,760 per load – about \$30,000 – approximately \$7 to remove a pound of phosphorus - \$200/day.

Council Business

Executive Director Report

Meeting with board to review strategic plan for increase membership and funding. Mailed out invoices. Continuing to research possible funding opportunities.

Phosphorus TMDL Informational Meetings Update

Liz reported on two informational meeting that were held on the phosphorus TMDL process. DEQ did a great job giving information and outlined an aggressive timeline to get something done by July 2014.

Letter to EPA re: phosphorus TMDL model selection

Liz lead the discussion on the importance of a TMDL model being one that is agreed upon by all. EPA is the ultimate approval source, so they should be involved early on in the program planning efforts. There is a history – in past models have been developed than EPA disapproved. The idea is to get EPA involved early on model development rather than waiting – have modeler involved from the beginning so when they do review, there aren’t a lot of questions. By involving EPA early, it helps streamline the process and creates a mass-balance model to compare to Aquatox.

Will have to have resources to have someone attend meetings and to what extent that person will be involved. Board approved having Tom DuPruis draft the first letter for the next meeting and send out in the next few weeks.

Next Meeting Prep: Proposed Agenda Items

The following agenda items were suggested:

1. Stormwater - Erica
2. Financial and fundraising update

Police department in Caldwell will be used for the next two Caldwell meetings.

A display and handouts will be put up at the Water Reuse Conference April 17-18.

Regular Meeting Adjourned at 9:15 p.m.