Upper Snake Basin Advisory Group Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
444 Hospital Way #300, Pocatello, Idaho

Wednesday, October 5, 2011

ATTENDEES

Allan Johnson – ISWCC
Brian Olmstead – BAG-Irrigated Agriculture
Carolyn Firth – ISWCC
Chris Banks – IASCD
Craig Brown – Department of Fish and Game
Dave Pisarski – DEQ-State Office
David Goings – DEQ-PRO
Gary Marquardt – BAG-Non-Municipal
Greg Shenton – BAG-Local Government
Jay Barlogi – Twin Falls Canal Company
Joel Teeley – Wood River Valley Irrigation District
Jordon Tollefson – DEQ-TFRO
Justin Skinner – Agrium (alternate for Kathryn McKinley-BAG-mining)
Katie Shewmaker – DEQ-TFRO
Krystal Harmon – Portneuf SWCD
Lisa Transtrom – Bear Lake SWCD
Mason Lefevre – ISWCC
Mike Etcheverry – (alternate for Don Mays, BAG-Recreation)
Mike Lien – Friends of the Teton River
Laurie Stone – BAG-Forestry
Lynn Van Every – DEQ-PRO
Pepin Corso-Harris – Wood River Valley Irrigation District
Ralph Myers – BAG-Hydropower
Richard Savage – BAG-Livestock
Roger Blew – BAG- Representative at large
Ryan Colyer – Biota Research and Consulting
Sonny Buhidar – DEQ-TFRO
Steven Smith – ISWCC
Sue Switzer – DEQ-TFRO
Sunny Healey – Wood River Valley Irrigation District
Tom Geary – Lake Walcott WAG Chairman

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was brought to order at 10:05 a.m. by Brian Olmstead, who was asked to fill in for Chairman Matt Woodard, who could not attend this meeting. Everyone in attendance was welcomed and each introduced themselves and whom they represented at the meeting.

BAG BUSINESS

- Brian Olmstead entertained a motion by Ralph Meyers to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on April 6, 2011, as written. Greg Shenton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- The Super BAG meeting will be on Wednesday, December 7 to determine the recipients of 319 grants.

- The next Upper Snake BAG meeting is scheduled for April 4, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in Idaho Falls. The BAG agreed to meet three times a year.

- Changes in the agenda were presented and agreed upon. There will be an order change in the presentations: Pebble Creek, first: Upper Blackfoot River, second; Marsh Creek, third; and Upper Portneuf River, forth. Steven Smith with the Soil Conservation Commission will present the Upper Portneuf River. Craig Brown of Department of Fish and Game will present the LQ Drain.

- Dave Pisarski explained that the Idaho 319 Program's funding was decreased by $330,000 last year, so two of the projects that the Super BAG voted for did not receive funding. This year the program is slated to begin with 1.9 million in funding. However, there could be a 30-35% funding decrease before the fiscal year is over. There are 31 projects statewide.

- Sonny Buhidar explained that DEQ employees were there to provide technical assistance, but the present BAG members, or their alternates were the only ones that were there to vote. BAG members discussed ranking projects from one to ten, with one being the first place vote and ten, the last. Richard Savage moved that the ranking of the 319 projects be approved as discussed. Gary Marquardt seconded. There was not a specific proxy for Matt Woodard present; therefore, the voting quorum will be the 9 BAG members and alternates who are present: Brian Olmstead, irrigated Ag; Ralph Myers, hydropower; Greg Shenton, local government; Richard Savage, livestock; Roger Bleu, at-large; Mike Etcheverry, recreation; Gary Marquardt, non-municipal; Justin Skinner, mining; Laurie Stone, forestry.

PRESENTATION OF 319 PROJECTS

- **Pebble Creek Project- presented by Chris Banks**
  This project includes offsite watering systems, exclusion fencing, willow planting along with reconstruction of the original channel for Pebble Creek, a large tributary to the Portneuf River. Estimated reductions include 125 head of cattle from direct steam contact, approximately 150 tons of sediment, 200 pounds of phosphorous, and 80 pounds of nitrogen.

Total estimated cost of the project is $318,025 with a 319 grant request of $180,729 and matching funds of $137,296. It was suggested that a memo differentiating the partners of USFWS be sent in and attached to the application file prior to the meeting with BAG Chairs.

- **Upper Blackfoot River Phase 2- presented by Chris Banks**
  This project will reduce sediment and nutrient loads by installing offsite watering facilities, constructing pasture and exclusion fencing, riparian restoration, weed reduction and brush and pest management. The total cost of the project is $398,850. The 319 grant request is for $229,367 and $169,483 of matching funds will be provided by public and private organizations and participating landowners.

- **Marsh Creek Phase IV- presented by Chris Banks**
  The goals of this project are to reduce run-off from approximately 6,000 acres of dry farm land and expiring CRP lands. Along with two animal facilities with waste storage and nutrient management; improve one mile of riparian habitat with grazing management, watering facilities, fencing, and riparian vegetation; and reduce erosion on crop and range lands with conservation cover, sediment basins and residue management. This project would result in estimated pollutant load reductions of 600 lbs. of nitrogen and 500 lbs. of phosphorous. The 319 grant request of $249,916 with matching funds of $169,005 for a total project cost of $418,921. Matching funds would be provided by PSCWD, PWP, ISWCC, ISDA, and participating landowners.

- **Upper Portneuf River Project- presented by Steven Smith**
  This project will reduce livestock impacts from approximately 1 ½ miles of Portneuf River streambank, improve 1 ½ miles of critical riparian habitat, and eliminate grazing on approximately 15 acres of range and pasture land. The project estimates a decrease in sediment loading of 50,400 lbs/year, and 126 tons/year of phosphorus. Estimated total cost of the project is $325,031: $178,184 in 319 grant and $146,847 matching funds.

- **Desert Canal Diversion Modification Project – presented by Ryan Colyer**
  The project focus is to modify the Desert Canal diversion structure and to restore approximately a 1,000 ft. reach of stream channel that has been adversely impacted by the operation and maintenance of that stream. The estimated load reduction for this project includes 154 tons/year of sediment, 246 lbs/year phosphorus, and 493 lbs/year of nitrogen. The estimated total cost of this project is $175,500, with an estimated 319 grant amount of $105,300 and matching funds of $70,200.

- **LQ Drain Wildlife Habitat Area Water Quality Enhancement Project- presented by Craig Brown**
  This project is in the second phase of a 2010 existing water quality enhancement project. The goal of phase two is to convert a gravity irrigation system to pressurized sprinkler irrigation system further reducing sediment and phosphorous entering the LQ drain, and establishing permanent upland wildlife habitat. By converting to a pressurized system, it is anticipated that a 90-95% reduction in sediments resulting in a reduction of 95.84 tons/year to 155.19 tons /year that enter into the LQ drain and eventually into the Middle Snake River. The

estimated total cost of this project is $45,676, with an estimated 319 grant amount of $26,314 and matching funds of $19,362.

- **Teton Creek Restoration Project – presented by Mike Lien**
  The purpose of this project is to improve water quality in Teton Creek and the Teton River by stabilizing approximately one mile of unstable stream channel, improving habitat conditions, and by reestablishing a functional aquatic and riparian ecosystem. The FY 2012 grant proposal will include construction of 700 feet of inset floodplain, stabilization of 1,400 feet of eroding streambanks. There will be an estimated sediment reduction of 560 tons per year. The total project cost is $260,000 with a 310 grant request for $150,000 and matching funds of $110,000.

- **Twin Falls Coulee Wetlands Project – presented by Jay Barlogi**
  The project will consist of constructing a series of sediment basins and one large wetland to filter out sediment, nutrients, and bacteria. It is estimated that there will be a 64% reduction of TSS, a 60% reduction in TP, and an 89% reduction in E. coli bacteria. The estimated cost of the project is $178,600 with a grant amount of $106,300 and matching funds of $72,300 from Twin Falls Canal Company, ISWCC, and private landowners. This project will help meet the water quality standards for the Middle Snake River Set forth in the Upper Snake Rock TMDL, improve wildlife habitat, and add scenic beauty to the area.

- **Almo Creek Streambank and Trout Protection Project– Presented by Carolyn Firth**
  The proposed project on Almo Creek consists of replacing worn out, damaged and non-functioning concrete diversion structures on the Almo Water Company irrigation system; including a fish passage structure on US Forest Service land. The estimated reductions for the project are: sediment 25-55% and bacteria 30-55%. The total estimated cost of the project is $156,580 with $93,900 from 319 grant and $62,680 in matching funds. Contributors include Almo Water Company, Raft River Flood Control District, US Forest Service and landowners.

- **Marsh Creek Restoration – presented by Carolyn Firth** The project involves fencing of riparian areas along some portions of the creek, planting riparian vegetation, installation of stream crossings that will function as water gaps for stock water, and installing offsite watering facilities, rock barbs, rock drop structures, rip rap, tree revetments, sediment basins, and possibly water control structures. It is expected to reduce sediment 35-55%, phosphorus 45-60%, and E. coli 40-55%. The total estimated cost of the project is $358,700 with $215,000 requested 319 grant and $143,700 in matching funds from landowners, Ag Program Specialists and ISWCC. This project was originally funded two years ago, but was pulled due to funding shortage.

BAG RANKINGS

- All voting representatives stayed until the votes were tallied and agreed upon. Richard Savaged moved that the following results be sent to the Super BAG. Gary Marquardt seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Twin Falls Coulee Wetlands Project	30
Pebble Creek	35
Marsh Creek Phase IV (Portneuf)	43
Marsh Creek Riparian Restoration (Lake Walcott)	44
Teton Creek Restoration Project	46
LQ Drain Wildlife Habitat Area	48
Upper Portneuf River Project	55
Upper Blackfoot River Phase 2	57
Desert Canal Diversion Modification Project	66
Almo Creek Streambank and Trout Protection	71

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned by Brian Olmstead at 2:55 p.m.

Matt Woodland

Chairman

4/4/2012

Date of Approval