



# Lower Boise Watershed Council

## REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING Maple Grove Grange, Idaho Thursday, January 11, 2007 - 7:30 p.m.

**Attendees:** Sherrill Doran, Dennis Searle, Erica Anderson Maguire, Tom Burgess, Dave Keil, Scott Campbell, Alan Newbill, Kevin Lewis, Henry Haminishi, Lauri Monnot, Lee Van De Bogart, Johanna Bell, Robbin Finch, Jon Gould, Craig Shepard, Carri Hessman

Meeting called to order by Sherrill Doran, introductions made. The minutes from the November meeting were reviewed and approved by the Directors without changes.

### **Environmental Board of Directors Position - Sherrill Doran**

Kevin Lewis from Idaho Rivers United was introduced to the group as a potential candidate to fill the vacant Environmental Representative position on the Board. All Board members present voted to have Kevin assume that position.

### **IDFG 2007-2012 Fisheries Management Plan - Robbin Finch**

Robbin updated the group on the draft fisheries plan, which includes fishery management goals for the lower Boise River and Boise River Drains. Erica made the excellent point that someone from IDFG should have been invited to attend our meeting. Sherrill agreed that would have been the ideal but was unable to secure a representative in time, given that the group learned about the draft plan in early January. The group agreed that there was some ambiguous language in the draft management plan, which if left unchanged, could be misused in future situations even though the management plan is not a regulatory document.

The group discussed the WAG's support for the best attainable uses in the mainstem, and that fisheries expectations in the drains/canals were different than in natural systems. If an opportunity for restoration arises, it would need to occur in cooperation with local land owners and other affected parties.

Reclamation's perspective is that the drains aren't too warm, but that the agencies need to work together to maintain the primary mission of delivering water through the system. The group agreed on three action items: 1) Request an extension of the comment period beyond January 16<sup>th</sup>; 2) Draft a comment letter in the event the extension cannot be granted, and 3) Set-up a meeting with IDFG to discuss our questions and get more clarification on the agency's perspective.

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## **Update on Phosphorus TMDL - Sherrill Doran**

Sherrill provided the group a summary of the workgroup meetings that had been conducted in early January, including talking with water users in Water District #63. This group will be providing additional water use data for the water balance portion of the model. Scott also commented that he didn't believe that future DCM&I water would need to come from existing irrigation users, as the workgroup in December had discussed. Instead, Scott supports relying on Reclamation efforts focused on potentially building new storage upstream to supply future DCM&I needs. These issues will be discussed at upcoming allocation workshops.

The group also touched on the need to have this TMDL be developed and implemented in coordination with the existing sediment and bacteria TMDLs (Scott reiterated his concerns from years past about the inadequacy of these documents) and the Snake River-Hells Canyon TMDL. The point of this discussion is that the TMDLs need to be internally consistent, to the extent possible. It was agreed that each of these documents will be re-evaluated in the future as part of the new state regulatory framework and adaptive management, and that development of the TMDLs will necessarily be an iterative process.

Sherrill handed out a draft TMDL schedule to the group, which specified a number of additional allocation meetings, trading conversations, and a draft TMDL deadline of February 6<sup>th</sup>. The timeliness of this process is important for a number of point sources that are awaiting NPDES permits, but that needs to be balanced with making sure the product is done well and is defensible.

Finally, EPA is circulating a draft phased TMDL policy document that provides states additional flexibility in TMDL development under specific circumstances. This information and language will be incorporated in our TMDL, as appropriate.

## **Meeting Adjourned**