



Lower Boise Watershed Council

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
USDA-Farm Service Center, Caldwell, Idaho
Thursday, February 8, 2007 - 7:30 p.m.

Attendees: Sherrill Doran, Tom Dupuis, Jack Harrison, Basil Tupyi, Dennis Searle, Scott Campbell, Alan Newbill, Kevin Lewis, Henry Haminishi, Lee Van De Bogart, Johanna Bell, Robbin Finch, Jon Gould, Kevin Wentland, Bryan Horsburgh, Cyndy Bratz, Dan Steenson, Dorene MacCoy

Meeting called to order by Tom Dupuis, introductions made. The minutes from the January meeting were reviewed and approved by the Directors with two corrections (“cold” to “warm” and add Carri Hessman to list of attendees). There were two additions to the agenda: 1) new USGS web site for fish data, and 2) USGS phosphorus tracking method.

Phosphorus TMDL - Sherrill Doran, Dan Steenson, Jack Harrison

Sherrill summarized the status of the TMDL work, including the outcomes of additional allocation workshops in December and January. She said she has all the technical data needed to develop the draft allocations, with the exception of some additional residential water use data being developed by Dan Steenson. She said that participants at these meetings have not really reached a consensus regarding all aspects of the allocations.

Dan said he has compiled and is currently reviewing the residential irrigation data that could be used as input to the water balance portion of the river model. He will provide that data to Sherrill as soon as he completes his analysis, probably within a couple of weeks.

Jack presented powerpoint slides to raise an issue of fairness that he thinks the LBWC should consider in this TMDL decision-making. He noted that the most cost-effective solution is not necessarily the fairest solution. In particular, he said future allocations to wastewater facilities that have been suggested so far provide an inequity between the upper and lower reaches of the river. This would occur because most of the land that will be converted from agricultural use to urban/suburban is in the lower reaches, while most of the future allocation for wastewater is in the upper reaches (above Middleton). Henry noted that there likely will have to be some inherent inequity as an artifact of historical development, and that air quality issues may force denser future development in the eastern portion of the watershed. Scott noted that this kind of trade-off issue is really being discussed for the first time, and that we need to have more of these discussions.

Tom said that the trading call with EPA occurred on January 29, and included a number of LBWC stakeholders in addition to Claire Schary and Bill Stewart with EPA and Marti Bridges and Susan Burke with DEQ. The main purpose of the call was to discuss the trading issues raised in a December 2006 draft EPA letter to DEQ. Tom reported that all the issues were apparently resolved, with one outstanding action item for Robbin Finch to further discuss with Claire the issue of environmental equity associated with differing implementation time frames between point and non-point sources.

Regarding schedule and next steps for the TMDL, Sherrill said she hopes to have the draft report ready to bring to the March meeting, the purpose of the March discussion will not be to make a decision on approval of the allocations, but for her to walk through the document so we can make a decision on how much time it will take for stakeholder reviews and comments, and to schedule the associated follow-up meetings. She said she would try to get the detailed appendixes out before the March meeting so people can start reviewing that material sooner. Lee said that the follow-up meeting to discuss comments and make a decision would have to be a lengthy meeting so it should be scheduled during the daytime. Tom suggested it be a specially called meeting of the Board of Directors.

Resolution of IDFG Draft Fisheries Management Plan – Sherrill Doran

The public comment draft plan was discussed at the January meeting and it was decided that the LBWC should prepare a comment letter and meet with IDFG. Sherrill reported that a number of LBWC stakeholders did meet with Jeff Dillon, regional fish manager for IDFG, and a comment letter was subsequently drafted and emailed to the LBWC Directors for review and approval. With some additions and changes based on comments from directors, the letter was finalized and sent to IDFG. Copies of the final letter were available as a handout. Sherrill noted that Jeff agreed in the meeting to make the changes recommended by the LBWC pertaining to the lower Boise drains.

USGS News – Dorene MacCoy

Dorene described the new website for fish data, which provides better tools for viewing and accessing the data that have been collected throughout Idaho, including the lower Boise collection sites. She also noted that USGS in Menlo Park has recently developed an oxygen isotope signatures method for tracking the sources of phosphorus in the San Joaquin River. This may be a valuable research project for the lower Boise for TMDL implementation.

Meeting Adjourned