



Lower Boise Watershed Council

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING USDA Farm Service Center, Caldwell Thursday, February 14, 2008 - 7:30 p.m.

Attendees: Tom Dupuis, Emily Boerner, Dennis Searle, Johanna Bell, Robbin Finch, Lee Van de Bogart, Henry Hamanishi, Jack Harrison, Lauri Monnot, Craig Shepard, Andy Waldera, Kevin Lewis, Jon Gould, Larry Rupp, Chris Lammer, Carl Ellsworth

Meeting called to order, introductions made. The minutes from the January meeting were reviewed and approved by the Directors with minor edits. An addition to the agenda was to discuss sediment and bacteria allocations for Kuna.

Continue Discussion on LBWC Public Outreach Plan

Emily led an extensive discussion of specific wording in the draft public information brochure. Following this discussion, a motion was made to approve the brochure with the changes all agreed to. The motion was approved unanimously.

Regarding the draft Powerpoint presentations, it was agreed that the same changes that were made to the brochure need to be incorporated into the presentations. In addition, several other comments were made about the presentations. It was decided that modified draft presentations would be brought to the next LBWC meeting for final review and approval.

Emily then went through the list of potential outreach contacts and discussed who each of the directors present would contact. Emily said she would email Alan and Erica, who were not present at this meeting, regarding their contact assignments.

Update on Phosphorus Allocation Process

Craig said DEQ had met with EPA and EPA reiterated previous concerns about several aspects of the proposed allocations: 1) how low flows are addressed, 2) confusion about Relative Contributions, and 3) proposed municipal allocations. He said subsequent to the meeting that Bill Stewart with EPA has done some additional work with the allocation model and is now convinced the target cannot be met at low flows. A followup meeting with EPA, and including municipal representatives, is planned.

Craig said that his opinion is that a phased approach is the only viable option, and it likely would be done via an Implementation Plan. He said DEQ does not want to reopen the Snake River-Hells Canyon TMDL.

Revised Sediment and Bacteria TMDLs

Craig handed out and summarized proposed language to be added to the previous TMDLs that would provide allocations for the City of Kuna's planned new wastewater discharge. This change to the TMDL would allow EPA to issue the discharge permit to Kuna. This language would be adopted into the TMDLs via an Addendum that would be issued for public comment and then submitted to EPA for approval. Craig noted that the EPA permit writer has reviewed the language in the draft Addendum and said it was fine.

Johanna noted that language for the bacteria allocation should state that it is a geometric mean of 5 values over a 30-day period, consistent with the bacteria standard. Craig agreed to include that language.

A motion was then made for the LBWC to support the language in the public comment Addendum, with Johanna's suggested change. The motion was unanimously approved.

Discussion of Comments on Draft 2008 Integrated Report

Tom passed out a draft comment letter from the LBWC on the Integrated Report. He noted that most of the comments were the same as those made on the previous report, but did not get incorporated into the 2008 report. One of the previous comments that did get incorporated was to delist the Boise River for nutrients, consistent with DEQ's 2001 Subbasin Assessment. This draft letter on the 2008 report reiterated the LBWC's support for delisting. Craig indicated that EPA is not convinced that the river is not impaired by nutrients.

Robbin said the City of Boise is compiling more recent data (since 2001) to submit to DEQ along with their comments on the report. He said the recent data supports delisting, and passed out a chart showing phytoplankton data for 2000-2006, and noted that the more recent dissolved oxygen (DO) data also show that standards are met.

Jack said that there is data that shows the river has a problem, including periphyton data collected by USGS. He said it is to be expected that DO would be high because of algal related saturation. But Craig said diel data show no nighttime sags in DO below the standard, and that DEQ still believes the river is not impaired by nutrients; any lack of recreational use on the lower portion of the river is due to sediment in the water, not algae.

A motion was then made to approve the draft letter for submittal to DEQ. It was approved with one abstention (Kevin abstained because he said that Idaho Rivers will be submitting a separate letter).

Meeting Adjourned