



Lower Boise Watershed Council

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING USDA Farm Service Center, Caldwell Thursday, March 13, 2008 - 7:30 p.m.

Attendees: Mark Hardy, Norbert Cannon, Lee Van de Bogart, Johanna Bell, Ed Cryer, Dennis Searle, Robbin Finch, Sherrill Doran, Henry Hamanishi, Mathew Johnson, Susan Beattie, Craig Shepard, Cindy Busche, Tim Burgess, Andy Waldera, Jack Harrison

Meeting called to order, introductions made. The minutes from the February meeting were not available to be reviewed by the Directors. An addition to the agenda was to discuss sediment and bacteria allocations for new dischargers.

Update on Phosphorus Allocation Process

Craig let the group know that the numbers in the allocation process have been under review by IDEQ. IDEQ management believes that two parallel processes are best: 1) Adaptive WQ Management Plan (TMDL-like document) to provide allocations that meet the Snake River-Hells Canyon target for phosphorus, and 2) An Implementation Plan that will be incorporated into the state's water quality management plan. IDEQ hasn't decided yet how they might certify upcoming NPDES documents. IDEQ would like to get these documents out for public comment by the end of March.

Discussion Regarding Sediment and Bacteria TMDL Addendum

This issue was revisited in light of additional dischargers (beyond Kuna) needing to receive an allocation in order to have draft NPDES permits issued. Jack Harrison made three points: 1) Avimor would like to be listed specifically, similar to Kuna, 2) Reserve WWTF capacity should be open for any new/existing discharger, and 3) ACHD would like the reserve capacity to be open to all point source dischargers. Jack made a motion (acting in proxy for Erica Anderson Maguire) that Avimor should be included in the TMDL addendum similar to Kuna. The resulting discussion focused around whether the new dischargers (including Kuna) should be provided sediment allocations that are much larger than the anticipated treatment processes will produce (i.e., let's save as much reserve growth as possible if we know that tertiary treatment for nutrients will produce TSS levels below 10 mg/L). Because the issue was sufficiently complex, it was agreed that a municipal workgroup meeting would be scheduled to discuss further and derive an acceptable allocation approach that can be applied fairly in the future with a minimum of administrative burden as new facilities come online. Comments are due back to

IDEQ by March 28. A vote was passed by the Board that recognized that new facilities should receive an allocation from the reserve growth, consistent with the forthcoming municipal workgroup recommendations.

Craig also introduced Susan Beattie, who will be working on the 5-year revision to the sediment and bacteria TMDL. She will be compiling and analyzing additional data that have been collected since the 2000 TMDL was approved.

Continue Discussion on LBWC Public Outreach Plan

Updated presentations were provided to the group that incorporated suggestions and revisions from the February meeting. Presentations were also provided electronically to Board members who would be presenting to groups. A vote was not taken on whether the updated presentations were acceptable because the group needed to review the latest versions. Such a vote is anticipated at the April monthly meeting.

Sourcing Phosphorus in the Boise River

Mark Hardy presented "Using stable isotopes to understand nutrient sources and cycling in river systems: an initial investigation of the Boise River area", which was originally developed by Megan Young in the USGS Menlo Park office. The focus of the USGS isotope tracers project attempts to define what physical and biological processes occur and how do they affect the health and functioning of specific aquatic systems?" Specific to the Boise River, Megan's research goals were to determine 1) Can the oxygen isotope composition of phosphate be used to distinguish phosphate sources in the Boise River?, and 2) Will other standard isotope analyses yield interesting information about nutrient dynamics in the Boise River?

Samples were collected from four major tributaries (Five[Fifteen]mile, Indian Creek, Mason Creek, and Dixie Slough), as well as from two wastewater treatment plants. The data suggest a measurable difference in oxygen signatures between tributaries and mainstem river, with increasing tributary "signature" in the downstream direction. Other isotopes studies included nitrogen isotopes, organic matter (particulates and plants), and phosphate isotopes.

Meeting Adjourned