



Lower Boise Watershed Council

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING IDEQ State Office, Conference Room A Thursday, April 10, 2008 - 7:30 p.m.

Attendees: Tom Dupuis, Dennis Searle, Johanna Bell, Robbin Finch, Lee Van de Bogart, Henry Hamanishi, Jack Harrison, Lauri Monnot, Craig Shepard, Andy Waldera, Kevin Lewis, Jon Gould, Norbert Cannon, Larry Bennett

Meeting called to order, introductions made. The minutes from the February meeting were reviewed and approved by the Directors. Additions to the agenda included status of the Aquatox modeling, an upcoming monitoring meeting, and EPA's draft water program plan regarding climate change.

Update on LBWC Public Outreach Plan

Tom went over the list of assigned outreach contacts for each Director. Dennis noted that at the last LBWC meeting it was decided that presentations were not supposed to be scheduled until the Directors had approved the content of the PowerPoint presentations. That did not occur at the last meeting and was scheduled to occur at this meeting. As a result, a motion was made and seconded to approve the presentations without any changes. It was approved unanimously. Tom said a status review on contacts will be included in the May meeting.

Johanna noted that Phase II stormwater permittees in the watershed (e.g., highway districts in Canyon County) should be added to the contacts list, with members of the Stormwater Workgroup taking responsibility for outreach to them.

Update on Phosphorus Allocation Process

Craig said that DEQ has decided to adopt the allocations as an Implementation Plan (IP), not a TMDL. He said DEQ decided to take the same IP approach for the Weiser allocations. He has a rough draft of the Lower Boise IP report, but is awaiting some input regarding municipal implementation schedules. He anticipated that the document would be noticed for public comment sometime in the next couple of weeks. He noted the allocations are the same as those recommended by the LBWC.

Revised Sediment and Bacteria TMDLs

Craig said DEQ public noticed the draft TMDL Addendum that included allocations for a new discharge for Kuna, consistent with recommendations from the LBWC. Craig said that the comment period on the Addendum has closed, and that he did get some comments on the draft to provide allocations for some additional new

dischargers, and so the draft Addendum was modified in that respect to provide an allocation for Avimor. He said that the revised final Addendum has been provided to EPA Region 10 for approval. He noted that Region 10 had forwarded the Addendum to EPA Headquarters for further review, presumably in the context of the Pinto Creek decision. He did not know how long that further review would delay approval.

Treasure Valley Water Use and the Boise River

Jack gave a PowerPoint presentation on his thoughts on water use and water quality issues in the valley. He had previously given this presentation at the annual northwest water quality conference in January in Boise. After summarizing existing and future water uses, and how these uses may affect water quality, he concluded with a recommendation that major infrastructure investments needs to be made so that wastewater can be more readily reused throughout the valley. He said that putting in reuse pipelines (purple pipe) should be a mandatory best management practice for road construction projects. It will be more cost-effective to install it when roadways are under construction than later when the pipe will be used. But having it in place will provide incentive and opportunity for future reuse.

Robbin noted that the City of Boise is currently contemplating substantial reuse as part of its ongoing wastewater facilities planning project. It was also noted that the phosphorus allocations discussed earlier in the meeting also included a future requirement for 50% reuse of wastewater associated with new growth. Others noted that Jack's idea has merit, but may be difficult to implement.

Aquatox Modeling

Jack asked about the status of the modeling of the Lower Boise River with EPA's Aquatox model. Tom said that the project has been underway for a couple of years (kicked off with a public workshop in Boise attended by a large group of stakeholders), and is funded in part by EPA Office of Science and Technology in Washington DC. CH2M HILL is managing the project, and the model's developer, Dr. Richard Park, is a sub-consultant and was responsible for model setup and validation. That work is now done and a draft report is due to EPA in mid-April. A final report is scheduled to be complete in mid-June. Tom said that he anticipates further discussion of the modeling with local stakeholders before the report is finalized.

Monitoring Meeting

Jack asked about the purpose of a monitoring meeting scheduled for the following week on April 15. Robbin said that USGS had come up with some additional matching funds for this fiscal year, and the purpose of the meeting is to discuss if that money could be applied to additional TMDL-focused monitoring of the Boise and Snake Rivers this summer.

EPA Climate Change Plan

Robbin said EPA has just released a draft report on how the water management programs at EPA may need to be adjusted to account for the effects of climate change on water resources and water quality. He gave a quick summary and concluded that there will likely be substantive programmatic changes that those of us in the Boise watershed will ultimately be faced with in the future and may need to start planning for.

Meeting Adjourned