



Lower Boise Watershed Council

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING USDA Farm Service Center, Caldwell Thursday, January 8, 2009 - 7:30 p.m.

Attendees: Sherrill Doran, Cyndy Bratz, Lee Van De Bogart, Henry Hamanishi, Robbin Finch, Tom Dupuis, Robert Braun, Johanna Bell, Clyde Lay, Jon Gould, Phil Johnson, Erica Anderson Maguire, Monica Lowe, Andy Waldera, Jack Harrison, Larry Bennett, Craig Shepard

Meeting called to order, introductions made. The minutes from the November 2008 meeting were reviewed and approved by the Directors with minor edits.

Elections of Officers

The three current officers have completed their 3-year terms (Dennis Searle, Chair; Johanna Bell, Vice-Chair; and Henry Hamanishi, Secretary-Treasurer). Johanna Bell agreed to begin serving as Chair, Henry Hamanishi agreed to move to Vice-Chair, and Lee Van de Bogart agreed to become Secretary-Treasurer. A motion was made and seconded to appoint these officers for 2009. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of IDEQ 5-Year Review of Sediment and Bacteria TMDLs

A draft 5-year review document was posted by Susan Beattie to IDEQ's website on December 30, 2008. She solicited comments and suggestions by the WAG, with the final edit schedule for the third week of January 2009. The group agreed that the document was very thorough, and that some additional information should be included (that is, there are some additional data that can be included, and some areas where more discussion of the available data is warranted). Craig indicated that additional data that was not included was welcome, and the group decided that a separate TAC meeting should be scheduled so that comments could be passed to Susan directly and efficiently, in order to meet the publishing deadline. That TAC meeting was scheduled for January 16, 2009.

Update on Phosphorus Allocation Settlement Agreement

Craig brought a hard copy mark-up of changes to the July 2008 Implementation Plan resulting from the conclusion of the 2008 Settlement Agreement process. These changes include a commitment by IDEQ to re-examine the Snake River-Hells Canyon TMDL target; this target is to be re-assessed before deciding whether the TMDL should be re-opened. Other changes included slight modifications to the Star WWTF allocation, and the inclusion of the Wilder WWTF facility in the allocations.

Andy Waldera noted that the Settlement Agreement process was highly irregular from a procedural standpoint. Specifically, he recalled that at the November 13, 2008, LBWC meeting, IDEQ indicated the WAG would be able to provide input. We later found out that the mayors of the intervening cities had signed the final version in early November, and IDEQ executed the Settlement Agreement on November 21, 2008, without LBWC input. Andy also wanted the record to note that he felt the timing of the challenge and interveners was irregular because IDEQ had not yet determined whether the Implementation Plan was an appealable document nor were the appeal petitions readily available. In all, Andy was disappointed that the LBWC members that were not interveners had no opportunity to review the proposed changes and some of our members would have appreciated the ability to submit a comment letter to IDEQ on the proposed changes. Craig indicated that he would check with IDEQ management and see if a clarification of the appeal process could be provided at the next WAG meeting in February.

NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant

Sherrill introduced the CIG grant program to the group, and explained that this NRCS grant program was available to groups nation-wide who were interested in implementing innovative conservation technologies. The nationwide grant program awards grants of \$1M toward on-the-ground conservation, pilot projects, and field demonstrations that address water resources, soil resources, and market-based approaches. As part of the LBWC mission to bring more funding into the watershed for implementing non-point source BMPs, this program appears to hold some promise specifically for the Lower Boise watershed given our pollutant trading framework, nutrient and sediment control goals, and existing stakeholder cooperation.

Specifically, Sherrill introduced the concept of applying for this grant money to direct funding toward a wetland project aimed at controlling nutrient and sediment loading at the mouth of a drain. This concept has certainly been discussed before, but no similar projects have been implemented yet, in part, due to funding limitations. Sherrill suggested that a TAC meeting be scheduled to discuss this potential trading opportunity, as well as other trading activities that are happening in the watershed so that all parties are on the same page and working cooperatively to forward any parallel opportunities. That TAC meeting was also scheduled for January 16, 2009.

Update on LBWC Public Outreach Campaign

This topic was postponed until the February 2009 meeting due to time considerations.

Meeting Adjourned