



Lower Boise Watershed Council

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING USDA Farm Service Center, Caldwell Thursday, May 14, 2009 - 7:30 p.m.

Attendees: Sherrill Doran, Dan Steenson, Dennis Searle, Johanna Bell, Phil Johnson, Lee Van De Bogart, Liz Paul, Tayna Allemang, Clyde Lay, Andy Waldera, Jon Gould, Craig Shepard, Mark Hardy

Meeting called to order, introductions made. The minutes from the March 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved by the Directors.

EPA's Approval/Disapproval of Idaho's Final 2008 303(d) List

Sherrill Doran provided an overview of the draft comment letter and report (due to EPA May 15, 2009) for the group, particularly for those members who were unable to attend the April TAC meeting. Dan Steenson provided some additional verbiage to include in the cover letter and report. This text helps strengthen our position that the extensive data and analysis demonstrate: (1) that there is insufficient evidence to establish nutrient-caused impairment of beneficial uses in the Lower Boise River; (2) that there is good cause for not including the Lower Boise River on Idaho's 2008 Section §303(d) list, and (3) a nutrient TMDL for the Lower Boise River is not necessary to ensure continued protection of beneficial uses in the Lower Boise River. Craig indicated he thought that IDEQ was also crafting a response to EPA supporting removing the mainstem from Category 5 into Category 4B or 4C, but he did not know the status of that response. The group discussed the verbiage and agreed that some additional minor changes would be circulated to the Board members for a final vote the following morning.

Monitoring Update

Johanna Bell provided an overview of a meeting that was held on May 6, 2009, between Sherrill Doran, Johanna, and Cindy Bushe from the Boise WaterShed Education Center with faculty of Boise State University. Faculty from Boise State University included representatives from the departments of Geological Sciences, Civil Engineering, GIS, and Biological Sciences. The objective of the meeting was to determine whether a partnership could result in developing and maintaining a public-friendly, GIS-based interactive monitoring map that can be used to educate the public and to inform regional planning. We came with information about the LBWC and Boise WaterShed, of which many of the faculty members were unaware. In turn, we learned about the faculty's research areas and interests, how partnering could help accomplish their research goals, curriculum objectives, and their community outreach.

Next steps include another follow-up meeting in June to help further define opportunities, both those that could be accomplished in the short-term and those that might be longer-term. In addition, the LBWC Monitoring Workgroup will schedule a meeting in June to assess the monitoring program for FY2010 and discuss whether BSU resources can help supplement that program.

In BSU discussion, the issue of the LBWC's role in funding projects was brought up. Johanna and Dan brought up the idea of developing a business plan that reflected our potential expanded role as a fundraising entity.

Update of FY2009 319 Fund Availability and FY2010 Process

Sherrill provided an update of the FY2009 activities. We are still waiting on receiving funding from IDEQ, which is now expected in mid-May. Once funding has been authorized, we will move forward with the first task of meeting with ISCC, NRCS, and CSWCD to find suitable projects to begin implementing the BMPs as outlined in the grant application.

In terms of FY2010, because we cannot yet show results from the FY2009 grant award (due to the timing issues and the fact that we still have not received the money), we elected to forgo the FY2010 319 grant cycle but be ready for FY2011 when we can show results from FY2009 and argue persuasively that the grant has made progress toward the TMDL goals.

Update on CIG Grant Process

Sherrill let the group know that the CIG award was submitted to NRCS on March 20, 2009, with strong support from the state conservationist. She also met with Representative Walt Minnick's staff to discuss the project. They were very supportive and were going to follow up on some additional potential funding sources, including the USACE. We are expecting to hear more on whether the grant was successful in Summer 2009. We have also visited with the Town of Notus and they are supportive of the project. Their city engineer is expected to contact us to make sure the design is coordinated with the existing nearby wastewater lagoon configuration.

Budget Discussions

As a follow-up to the March 2009 budget discussion, Sherrill let the group know that expenses through the end of April are at the expected level and we continue to expect that we will have enough funds remaining to meet the commitment to set aside \$15,000 for contingency for FY2010.

Meeting Adjourned