



Lower Boise Watershed Council

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING Boise WaterShed Thursday, September 10, 2009 - 7:30 p.m.

Attendees: Tom Dupuis, Sherrill Doran, Dennis Searle, Dan Steenson, Andy Waldera, Erica Anderson Maguire, Jack Harrison, Jon Gould, Lee Van De Bogart, Liz Paul, Henry Hamanishi, Kendra Willett, Cyndy Bratz, Jim Taylor, Susan Beattie, Craig Shepard, Barry Burnell, Nick Smith, Robbin Finch, Johanna Bell

Meeting called to order, introductions made. The minutes from the July 9, 2009, meeting were reviewed and approved by the Directors.

IDEQ Integrated Reports

Barry Burnell informed the group that EPA is still in the process of preparing responses to the Boise River nutrients delisting decision. Region 10 did submit their initial comments to EPA headquarters for final review and Barry hopes to see the final responses in September 2009. Dave Croxton indicated to Barry that he could come to Idaho to provide EPA's response to comments and Liz suggested that we invite Dave to present EPA's response directly to the Lower Boise Watershed Council. The group agreed that was a good idea.

In addition, Susan Beattie reiterated that the deadline for the call for data for the 2010 Integrated Report was September 11, 2009.

Collaboration Between DEQ and LBWC

The group discussion focused on what activities IDEQ was anticipating completing in FY2010. Barry noted that the agency continues to need to significantly cut its activities in response to the state budget deficit. Within the southwest region, cuts include suspension of the BURP program and limited ability to deal with outstanding TMDL issues. Priorities will be 1) court-ordered activities (including temperature on large rivers), and 2) waterbodies that are the most impaired, with the most parameters and the highest beneficial uses. For the Lower Boise this means that Susan will be focusing on Indian Creek and Sand Hollow Creek. Given the impasse with the use attainability/use evaluation process, water quality management plans will focus on meeting existing designated uses to achieve reasonable water quality improvements.

DEQ circulated the draft Lake Lowell TMDL prior to the formal comment period for input. The group briefly discussed the highlights including: 1) the target is tied to blue-green algae blooms, 2) biggest total phosphorus loader to reservoir is New York Canal but concentrations are below the target, and 3) there are no allocations for stormwater

runoff in the draft document. A TAC meeting will be scheduled prior to the next monthly meeting to focus on TMDL details; Dan Steenson asked that water users and irrigation districts be involved and that the TAC meeting be coordinated to occur prior to their October board meetings.

The Snake River- Hells Canyon TP target evaluation is on hold pending the Idaho Power Hells Canyon Complex Relicensing 401 Certification process. This process may be complete in 2010.

Status of 319 Program / CIG Grant

Sherrill updated the group that the 319 grant funds were officially awarded in July and that program announcements would be included in the Canyon Soil Water Conservation District September 2009 newsletter, the Capital Press, and the Idaho Press Tribune. The grant review committee is made up of the following representatives: Sherrill Doran (LBWC, representing Alan Newbill and Dan Steenson); Lance Holloway (ISCC); Tanya Allemang (NRCS, representing Jeff Bohr and Mary Bodley); Marcella Stewart (CSWD, representing the board); and Julia Achabal (IDEQ). We expect to start evaluating projects in the last quarter of 2009.

We did not win the CIG grant funding and are requesting a debrief to strengthen our application for the next funding cycle. We are also pursuing additional grant funding for the project through other federal programs, state grant programs, and private foundations.

Meeting Adjourned