



Lower Boise Watershed Council

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING IDEQ State Offices Thursday, October 8, 2009 - 7:30 p.m.

Attendees: Erica Anderson Maguire, Johanna Bell, Robbin Finch, Liz Paul, Dennis Searle, Lee Van De Bogart, Tom Dupuis, Sherrill Doran, Craig Shepard, Jon Gould, Mark Hardy, Clyde Lay, Nick Smith, Helen Harrington

Meeting called to order, introductions made. The minutes from the September 10, 2009, meeting were reviewed and approved by the Directors.

USGS Monitoring Scope and Budget

Mark Hardy presented a summary of available water quality data that was collected from Five Mile and Ten Mile creeks in 2009. This information was presented to help inform the discussion about an appropriate FY2010 monitoring approach. The data were preliminary and suggest that: 1) irrigation season base flow sampling represented the largest loading timeframe and should be retained for future sampling, 2) first-season irrigation flush sampling also had high loads, but not as large as expected, and 3) post-irrigation season flow sampling represented the highest concentrations of nutrients but relatively less loading.

Mark presented a number of helpful graphs relating the observations by station and season, which the group discussed at length. Given the budget constraints, the group needs to decide which two events will be retained in the FY2010 monitoring cycle. All agreed that the summer baseflow event provided good information for determining typical irrigation season loads. The benefits to keeping the spring flush event include a better understanding of "first flush" conditions within the irrigation system, and the benefits to keeping the non-irrigation event include evaluating relatively high nutrient concentrations and nonpoint signatures in groundwater. The final decision was to retain April and July sampling, assess the budget situation as the fiscal year progresses, and evaluate whether an additional November sampling makes sense as part of FY2011.

A TAC will be called this fall to help determine where sampling in Indian Creek should be targeted. The group also decided to retain Plan D so that the survey for emerging contaminants in sediments is retained. Plan D had a total cost of \$87,500 (half of which would come from the LBWC, half of which would come from USGS, with no cost share available from IDEQ). The Board voted and approved Plan D as the monitoring program for FY2010. One other note is that Craig indicated that DEQ could continue to be the invoicing partner for the cooperative monitoring program, even though no DEQ dollars are available for match during FY2010.

FY2010 Budget and Planning

Sherrill Doran and Tom Dupuis presented the year-end financials for FY2009 so that the group could discuss the FY2010 scope and budget. Because money was set aside for contingency in March 2009, the financial position of the Council is relatively strong. The FY2010 scope and budget represents a shift in priorities toward finding and managing grant money for TMDL implementation, as well as additional fundraising for the council, and away from technical support given that IDEQ's TMDL-related activities in the watershed will slow down until the economic situation improves.

The Board voted to approve the FY2010 budget and scope of work, which included the USGS monitoring component.

A new contract was also distributed to Board members at the request of CH2M HILL. This contract represents a new Master Services Agreement to replace the 1996 contract, with more recent terms and conditions that have no net effect on the budget for facilitation. The Board deferred a decision on the contract, so that Board members could review the MSA and coordinate comments with the Chairperson within a week. If no questions or comments are received, the new contract would be authorized.

Lake Lowell TMDL TAC Update

Sherrill provided an overview of the Lake Lowell TAC meeting that was held with DEQ on October 1, 2009. The TAC meeting helped clarify how the TMDL should focus on Lake Lowell as a reservoir, including an estimation of long-term, internal sediment sources of phosphorus. Allocations for point source stormwater discharges will also be included consistent with the mainstem Boise River TMDL Implementation Plan for phosphorus. A revised public review comment version is expected to be released by the end of the year.

Boise River Observatory Update

The Boise River Observatory coalition is the name of the group of individuals that have been convening from the Lower Boise Watershed Council, the Boise WaterShed, Boise State University, University of Idaho, and Reclamation. These periodic meetings have made it clear that a network in which to share local water data would be valuable from a number of different perspectives and the idea of a Treasure Valley Water Quality forum has been discussed. The idea behind the initial forum would focus on three questions:

1. What research/ data collection efforts has each entity done?
2. What research/ data collection efforts is each entity currently doing?
3. What research/ data collection efforts does each entity plan to do?

Meeting Adjourned