



# Lower Boise Watershed Council

## REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING IDEQ State Headquarters Office Thursday, May 13, 2010 - 7:30 p.m.

**Attendees:** See attached sign-in list.

Meeting called to order, introductions made. The minutes from the April 8, 2010, meeting were reviewed and approved by the Directors.

Two additions were made to the agenda: 1) USGS monitoring suggestion for FY 2011, and 2) reuse conference information.

Liz announced that the sign at Barber Park, which includes LBWC information on a part of the sign, will be dedicated on May 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm.

### Phosphorus Wasteload Allocations for Sorrento Lactalis

John Moeller gave a powerpoint presentation (with handout) summarizing Sorrento's request for a wasteload allocation (WLA) for total phosphorus (TP). The presentation emphasized the employment and economic importance of the existing plant in the Valley, and the significance of the planned expansion that would double the capacity over the next 6 to 8 years. Although EPA issued a NPDES permit to Sorrento in 2005 that included a permitted load of TP, the 2008 Lower Boise Implementation Plan for TP did not include the permitted load as an explicit wasteload allocation (WLA). That WLA should have been 0.29 lb/day consistent with the permit. Sorrento now estimates that it needs a WLA of 1.05 lb/day to accommodate the capacity increase. The TP concentration limit of 0.07 mg/L (consistent with the river target concentration) would remain the same. John said that the desired load represents 9.5% of the reserve for growth in the Implementation Plan, and is small compared to the total of 1300 lb/day total allocation in the Plan. Henry noted that 9.5% of the reserve is not an insignificant portion of the reserve.

The ensuing discussion included the possibility of reducing the load via water conservation, reuse of dairy waste by cities for biological TP control, reducing TP in dairy cow diets, and use of offsets or trades.

Craig said that EPA does not recognize the Implementation Plan anyway, so modifying the plan may not help Sorrento get a permit from EPA with a higher load. John responded that Sorrento still sees value in a modified plan so that DEQ could certify a permit should EPA agree to reissue the permit with a higher load. To date, EPA has said that they have such a large permitting backlog that they will not be able to reissue permit anytime soon.

Several directors said they would not be comfortable deciding on modifying the plan at this meeting. Others noted that the LBWC is still in the process of deciding how the group wants to approach the TP issues for the Lower Boise River, and if a TMDL does have to be done, it will

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have to address reserve for growth again anyway. Thus, the decision was tabled for a later meeting.

## **Nutrient Updates**

### *Nutrient Strategy Update*

Tom noted that an action item from the April meeting was to set up a TAC to further discuss this issue. Direction from the April meeting was to include key DEQ and EPA decision-makers so that the LBWC would have a better understanding of what might be possible. Tom said he was still working on identifying who these key individuals might be and how to best organize a TAC meeting.

### *2010 Integrated Listing Schedule Update*

Craig said the public comment draft list might be out by the end of June, but that is probably a best case scenario.

## **TMDL Program**

### *Lake Lowell TMDL Public Review Draft (due 6/4)*

This TMDL is currently out for formal public comment, with comments due on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Lauri said that this version addresses the list of issues that LBWC members brought up at the TAC meeting, and she worked with those identified at the TAC to address those issues. Therefore, this version should not have any major surprises for LBWC members. She said they had not yet received input from the Board of Control, but anticipated that happening soon. The draft is available on DEQ's website. Tom noted in previous WAG meetings it was recognized that this TMDL affects certain specific stakeholders more than the larger group, and thus any further comments would likely come from those stakeholders. He also noted that Sherrill is reviewing the document and will send out a summary email to the LBWC directors. If that, or input from other reviewers, suggests the potential need for LBWC action, then a special meeting could be held.

### *Indian Creek TMDL Public Review Draft (coming)*

Tom noted that this was on the agenda in response to a letter from the City of Nampa to the LBWC requesting more WAG involvement in the ongoing TMDL, and that the City requested a TAC meeting be held prior to the TMDL being released for formal public comment.

Susan Beattie said that, consistent with DEQ's input to the LBWC last fall, they have been working on TMDLs for Indian Creek and Sand Hollow Creek, and will soon be working on Mason Creek. Tom said that his recollection was that DEQ wouldn't be making significant progress on TMDLs in the lower Boise basin this fiscal year. Craig said that DEQ headquarters had directed the region to focus on TMDLs rather than 5-year reviews, due to its limited resources with the budget cuts. Thus, their priorities were shifted to making more progress on TMDLs.

Susan said the Indian Creek TMDL includes sediment, bacteria and temperature; and extends from Sand Creek to the mouth. The temperature TMDL is serving as "pilot" as the first urban temperature TMDL that DEQ has done. Mark Shumar has done the stream temperature modeling, using "urban park" shade to define Potential Natural Vegetation (PNV) for

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urbanized areas. The vegetation types used are consistent with approved lists and comprehensive plans for the urban areas involved. DEQ thinks this approach will be approvable by EPA.

Susan and Craig said that they would be willing to participate in a TAC meeting, so Tom said he would set one up. Susan also said she sent an email to see if she could get approval to release the current version of the draft (which has gone to DEQ's technical editor) to the WAG as a pre-public draft for early input.

### **Water Quality Monitoring on Snake and Lower Boise Rivers**

Molly gave a powerpoint presentation on the results so far of specialized monitoring that USGS is doing at Parma and out in the Snake River. This work is being funded separately by Boise, Meridian, Nampa and Caldwell. Data from 2009 showed that the Boise River contributes 16% of the Total Nitrogen load in the Snake River at Nyssa, and 32% of the TP load. She said 24% of the TN and TP loads in the Snake were not accounted for in their analyses, with some or most of that probably coming from the Owyhee River, which was not sampled by USGS in 2009.

Molly said there is a strong relationship between ortho-P and chlorophyll in the Snake River, although this is not the case for the Lower Boise at Parma. There does not appear to be a strong relationship between nitrate/nitrite and chlorophyll in either river. Continuous monitoring shows relatively high levels of chlorophyll in non-summer periods. Diel monitoring showed large swings in dissolved oxygen coincident with periods of high algae levels.

This work is continuing in 2010. In addition, USGS is doing algae taxonomy, depth profiles (light, turbidity, and chlorophyll), suspended sediment, and flow and quality analyses of the Owyhee River inputs. February-March results show that diatoms are the dominant species, but that the species dominating are very different between the Boise and Snake rivers (Navicula in Boise, Stephanodiscus in Snake).

The data being collected are available on USGS' website ([id.water.usgs.gov/projects/BoiseWatershed/BoiseWQ](http://id.water.usgs.gov/projects/BoiseWatershed/BoiseWQ)).

### **Summer River Floats**

Liz asked for input and volunteer assistance for a half-day float on the lower Boise River in July or August. IRU would lead the effort and provide the equipment needed. Interested individuals should contact her directly. This will be further discussed at the next meeting.

### **Board Retreat Reminder/Details**

Robbin handed out the agenda for the Directors' retreat on May 14<sup>th</sup>. He also passed out a draft timeline with WAG and TMDL history regarding the Lower Boise River. The timeline will be included in new directors' information packets. Comments on the draft are welcome.

### **USGS Monitoring Suggestion for FY 2011**

Mark distributed a handout that summarized monitoring 2009 results from the Fifteenmile Creek watershed. He said these data show that it would be desirable to find resources to maintain the 3<sup>rd</sup> monitoring event for Indian Creek (would be in November 2010), and would cost an additional \$12,800 in FY 2011 (cost to LBWC = \$6,400). Further discussion of USGS

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monitoring for the next FY will be discussed in a monitoring TAC and regular meetings this summer.

**Reuse Conference**

Henry said DEQ's reuse conference would be on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of May. The program is on DEQ's website. He will be there and will man a LBWC table during breaks and lunch. Tom will get the LBWC banner and some handout literature to Henry. Henry encouraged others to attend the conference.

**Meeting Adjourned**

## Lower Boise Watershed Council

Meeting Title: Regular Meeting  
 Meeting Date: 5/13/10

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