

# STRATEGIC PLAN

## Lower Boise Watershed Council

### October 2019

The mission of the Lower Boise Watershed Council is to foster and support the protection and enhancement of water quality of the lower Boise watershed, with the vision of supporting all appropriate uses in the lower Boise River. The goals relate directly to watershed advisory group functions, set forth in Idaho Code.

- **GOAL 1: Consult with DEQ on development and periodic review of watershed water quality management plans as they relate to point sources (PS) and non-point sources (NPS)**
  - Objective: Participate in TMDL development/periodic reevaluation
    - Assist Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in the development of technically-sound and economically feasible water quality management plans, known as Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)
    - Provide technical input to DEQ during the periodic TMDL reevaluation process and the Integrated Report (e.g., impairment listings)
  - Objective: Focus and prioritize monitoring and modeling
    - Encourage the collection of high-quality monitoring data through supporting (financially and otherwise) science that defines critical watershed processes needed for understanding and managing stream quality, though the existing partnership with USGS and potentially others such as local universities and schools
    - Further develop, update and apply watershed tools and models, including the Boise River Management Tool, AQUATOX model, and others
  - Objective: Remain involved in other water quality related developments applicable to this watershed
    - Assist DEQ in the evaluation and/or development of technically-sound water quality standards, rules and guidance, initiatives and innovations related to water quality challenges in this watershed
    - Provide DEQ data needed to support appropriate uses and related criteria
- **GOAL 2: Recommend actions for NPS and PS to meet designated beneficial uses**
  - Objective: Spearhead TMDL implementation
    - Develop TMDL implementation plans
    - Examine best management practice (BMP) effectiveness data and trend data to determine that actions taken to meet TMDLs cause desired improvements, and report back in periodic TMDL status reports
    - Prioritize water quality improvement projects through encouraging habitat improvements, water quality trading, and other innovative tools (example mitigation banking)
    - Encourage designated management agencies (DMAs) and other management entities to work with landowners and PS to implement water quality improvement projects as well as pollution prevention

- Objective: Improve funding coordination and fundraising
  - Advise state, local and federal entities on the highest priority urban/suburban and agricultural NPS projects and align with TMDL implementation plans
  - Continue to apply for and effectively administer the state and federal 319 grant funding programs
  - Pursue funding through other applicable grant programs
  - Take advantage of private, foundation and other sources of funds
  
- **GOAL 3: Assist in facilitating public involvement**
  - Objective: Strengthen partnerships
    - Define key messages
    - Develop and maintain strong community partners to educate decision makers about TMDL requirements as well as growth impacts on water quality
      - Identify, target, and coordinate with local groups
      - Attend/participate in local meetings to educate diverse interests about LBWC efforts (these include DMAs, county and city planning and zoning, irrigation districts, canal companies)
  - Objective: Improve diversity of LBWC involvement
    - Alternate meeting locations from Canyon to Ada Counties
    - Encourage County representative to participate
    - Solicit participation of under-represented watershed stakeholders, such as DMAs, developers, conservation groups, county interests, etc.
  - Objective: Enhance information sharing
    - Identify community interests and develop email distribution list to disseminate key messages/information
    - Draft and publish quarterly public service announcements
    - Post information on the website (such as presentation on Council initiatives, etc.) and social media such as Facebook
    - Create information links to data and other agencies
    - Identify organizations that distribute environmental information and dovetail outreach, including outreach and participation by schools in the valley
    - Network with other Idaho Watershed Advisory Groups in Idaho and similar watershed organizations in other states