

# Mid Snake Watershed Advisory Group

## Meeting Minutes

Department of Environmental Quality  
650 Addison Avenue West, Suite 110, Twin Falls, Idaho  
Wednesday, August 14, 2013, 6:00 p.m.

### Attendees

Jay Barlogi – Twin Falls Canal Company  
Jason Brown – City of Twin Falls  
Sonny Buhidar – Department of Environmental Quality, Twin Falls Regional Office  
Richard Bupp – Department of Environmental Quality, Twin Falls Regional Office  
Gary Fornshell – University of Idaho  
Stan Haye – National Resources Conservation Service  
Randy MacMillan – Clear Springs Foods  
Andy Morton – Clear Springs Foods  
Larry Pennington – North Side Canal Company  
Chuck Pentzer – Soil and Water Conservation Commission  
Sue Switzer – Department of Environmental Quality, Twin Falls Regional Office  
Craig Thomas – Department of Environmental Quality, Twin Falls Regional Office  
Mike Trabert – McClure Engineering  
Troy Vitek – City of Twin Falls  
Jim Younk – Idaho Power Company

### Welcome

The meeting of the Mid Snake Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) was called to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. by Mike Trabert, WAG chairman. The attendees introduced themselves and who they represented

### WAG Business

- The minutes for the last meeting were not presented. They will go out for the next meeting and be voted on at then.
- The progression of the 319 project presentation was explained by Mike Trabert. A motion was made for the WAG to approve all three projects that were presented, and the vote was unanimous. A letter of recommendation from the WAG was signed by Mike Trabert for each project. These projects will go on to be presented to the BAG.
- Mike Trabert brought up Public Law 111-353 on Food Safety Drug Administration. This law has rules that put in an E-coli limit on all farm ground. The water entering your farm ground at the headgate must be monitored weekly; and if e-coli are over a certain limit,

you have to shut down the irrigation. You have to locate the source and correct it before you can start back up. This is for every headgate that enters your field. Mike will try to bring someone in to speak to the WAG on this law. The comment period has been extended until November 15 if anyone would like to comment.

### **DEQ Updates**

- The 2012 Draft Integrated Report comment period was closed. We are waiting for comments back from EPA.
- Mid Snake Data Analysis, the EPA contracted report from Tetra Tech, will be handed out at a WAG meeting on September 11. On September 24, Bruce Cleland with EPA will be here, as well as someone from the DEQ State Office, and someone from the local EPA, Leigh Woodruff. That gives the WAG two weeks to review the document and bring your questions back; they will be here to present and answer questions from the WAG. Then you will have two more weeks to provide comments and suggestions. If you wanted a third meeting with just the WAG members to discuss comment, that could be arranged.

### **Lateral 39/39A Water Quality Project**

Jay Barlogi gave a slide presentation on the drain that combines Lateral 39 and 39A. For many years it had been one of the poorest drains on our system. We are working with a man, Jim Miller, who owns a power plant in the area. The water goes into the power plant and back out and through the drain. The local area of the drainage is about 12,000 acres. There is a coulee that runs down through there about 8 miles that feeds this. It picks up quite a bit of wastewater clear through the 8 miles and then re-diverts it out into what is the head of Lateral 39A then it splits into 39 and 39A. There is currently a wetlands area that is required by FERC to be maintained. We talked to the FERC people in Portland, and they said it would not be an issue to rewrite their contract for the wetlands; however, it is something we will have to deal with as well. The project will basically have 4 cleaning cells dumping into a large finishing pond. Total cost for the project is about \$135,000; we are asking about \$78,000 from 319.

### **Mud Creek/Silo Creek Water Quality Project Phase II**

A slide presentation of this project was given by Jay Barlogi. This project is located northwest of Buhl. These are a couple of drains that parrallel the canyon. The drainages that parrallel the canyon pick up wastewater from all the tribs and carry it to one local area. The minimum flow of the Silo Creek drainage is 10 to 15 cfs., that is winter flows, and the maximum flow is 50 to 60 cfs. To put a water quality project in a flow that large it becomes a very large project. Our thought is to clean this up on some of the tribs. The Phase I project was cleaning up the I6 drain. This Phase II project will include where Lateral 23 intersects J1 Coulee, and I1 Coulee. The project will consist of 2 cleaning ponds and 2 big finishing cells. The conservation easement is about 5 acres. Jay was not sure of the total cost of the project.

## **N Coulee Irrigation Conversion Project**

Stan Hays presented a slideshow on this project to the WAG. This project is located northwest of Castleford on the rim of Salmon Falls Creek. About 320 acres of very steep cropland will be impacted by this project. Irrigation-induced erosion resulting in about 6-10 tons per acre soil loss is degrading the water quality. The project would be installing four sprinkler irrigation systems to reduce the erosion loss to approximately 1 ton per acre. Overall the total cost of the project will be about \$400,000.

## **House Bill 271**

Sonny handed out a copy of the information he presented on House Bill 271 (HB 271). This bill was introduced on March 7, 2013, approved by the House on the 19<sup>th</sup>, approved by the Senate April 1, and signed by the governor on April 11. This legislation updates water quality statutes that authorize DEQ to designate, review, and assess the status of beneficial uses for Idaho water bodies. This legislation requires DEQ to consider hydrologic and atmospheric conditions and to consult with BAGs and WAGs when designating, revising or assessing the status of beneficial uses. There are 6 areas of the Idaho code that have been changed.

1. 39-3602 – Definitions. To define terms of consultation with BAGs and WAGs. DEQ has had consultations with BAGs and WAGs in this region informally. HB 271 sets up a formal process for consultations that must be historically noted. DEQ still has yet to define this formal process.
2. 39-3604 – Designation of Instream Beneficial Uses. To clarify the director's considerations in designating beneficial uses and to provide that the director consult with BAGs and WAGs.
3. 39-3605 – Identification of Reference Streams or Conditions. To clarify the requirement that the director consult with BAGs and to make technical corrections. DEQ has reference streams that we use. These reference streams are basically created utilizing a method that is used in the State Office to go out into the entire state to select certain streams that are going to be representative of what goes into the report that goes to congress. From that they determine which streams to utilize to assess the waters of the State of Idaho.
4. 39-3606 – Monitoring and Use of Reference Streams or Conditions and Beneficial Use Support Assessment. To clarify the director's considerations when determining support of beneficial uses, to provide that the director consult with BAGs and WAGs and make technical corrections.
5. 39-3607 – Revisions and Attainability of Beneficial Uses. To provide that the director consult with BAGs and WAGs and to make a technical correction.

6. 39-3609 – Identification of Water Bodies where Beneficial Uses are Not Fully Supported. To provide that the director consult with BAGs and WAGs and to make technical correction.

One final Item: 39-3611 – Development and implementation of TMDLs or Equivalent Processes. This is already in the regulation. The Big Wood River TMDL was used as an example of this. The WAG had issues with phenolic acid. DEQ took all the information that was provided by the WAG and various agencies then did their own research and came to the conclusion that we believed phenolic acid was not the issue. It was specifically put into the TMDL that the WAG had this issue, that we disagreed, and that sometime in the future when money became available we would then do monitoring for phenolic acid.

This is state legislation for DEQ; it is not federal legislation that effect EPA.

Sonny entertained discussion and questions. To get to the internet site that shows the change process, type in [idaho.housebill271](http://idaho.housebill271). It will show the comparison between the old and new legislation.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by Mike Trabert at approximately 8:05 p.m.

  
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WAG Chairman

9/24/13  
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Date