

Wood River Watershed Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes

Big Wood Canal Company
409 North Apple Street, Shoshone, Idaho
Tuesday, October 22, 2013, 7:00 p.m.

Attendees

Sonny Buhidar – DEQ, Twin Falls Regional Office
Rich Bupp – DEQ, Twin Falls Regional Office
Chad Chorney – Trout Unlimited
Bill Davis – CAFO
Lynn Harmon – Big Wood Canal Company
Tom Hellen – City of Hailey
Daryle James – Recreation
Patti Lousen – Wood River Land Trust
Jamie Mitchell – IDFG, Hayspur Fish Hatchery
Rob Sharpnack – Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Bob Simpson – City of Carey
Sue Switzer – DEQ, Twin Falls Regional Office
Craig Thomas – DEQ, Twin Falls Regional Office
Mark Toone – Livestock Permittees

Welcome

Bob Simpson, WAG Chairman, opened the meeting at approximately 7:00 p.m. The attendees introduced themselves.

WAG Business

- The minutes for the Wood River WAG meeting held on February 26, 2013 were reviewed. A motion was made by Lynn Harmon to approve the minutes as written. Daryl James seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Trout Unlimited, Big Wood River Home Rivers Initiative

Chad Chorney gave an overview of Trout Unlimited and the projects they are working on. Trout Unlimited recently opened an office in Hailey. Their focus is to preserve and protect cold water fisheries and their habitat. Trout Unlimited has a formal partnership with the Wood River Land Trust. A handout entitled "Big Wood River Home Rivers Initiative" was made available to the attendees. Chad's main focus is on the Big Wood. He has been working on several stream restoration projects, and will be undertaking an assessment river wide of the Big Wood River.

Little Wood Tributaries — A look at Sediment 2013

In the Little Wood 5-year review we looked at sediment based on total suspended solids. However, streambank stability and Wolman pebble counts were used to develop the TMDL. The total suspended solids approach did not seem to fully capture what was going on in the tributaries. Sue Switzer presented a sediment comparison using streams with a TMDL developed and 2013 streambank stability data. From the time the TMDL was developed to 10 years later, we have seen a great improvement. In conjunction with the streambank stability, McNeil Core was looked at. We are still collecting data. Once all the data is compiled, the WAG will see it again. Loads will not be developed off of this; we are just comparing it to the TMDL.

Bit Wood River Temperature TMDL

The PNV TMDL is not on the Big Wood River itself, just on the tributaries. It has been submitted to the DEQ State Office and also to EPA. We are waiting for their comments.

House Bill 271

The presentation covered the basic changes in Idaho Code 39-3601 et seq. that came into effect on April 11, 2013, which are to clarify DEQ's considerations in designating beneficial uses and DEQ's consultations with the WAGs and BAGs. Six (6) portions of the regulation were modified and these were discussed in a PowerPoint presentation by Sonny Buhidar.

DEQ's participation in post-fire discussions

DEQ is a member of the Silver Jackets, which is an interagency team of federal and state agencies involved in post fire rehab work. Sonny Buhidar presented information related to the Beaver Creek wildfire. The presentation covered five (5) basic components: (1) Silver Jackets and Interagency Involvement; (2) Financial Costs incurred by Federal and State Agencies; (3) Air quality considerations during the wildfire incident; (4) Sediment slough off events that have and will occur post-wildfire; and (5) Public Health concerns relative Escherichia coli. Pictures showed the extent of the wildfire along with monitoring results for AQI, E. coli and total suspended solids.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:40 p.m.



WAG Chairman

9-23-14

Date approved