

Lake Walcott Watershed Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes

Burley City Council Room
Burley, Idaho
Thursday May 24, 2012
7:00 pm

ATTENDEES:

Mike Beus - USBR
Mark Dallon – US Forest Service
Deven Elison - Civil Science
Tom Geary - Rancher
Stan Lloyd - Cassia Creek Irrigation
Pat McCammon - 6S Ranch
Katie Shewmaker - DEQ-TFRO
Brent Stoker – West Cassia SWID, Cassia Farmer
Craig Thomas - DEQ-TFRO
Bill Thompson – MID

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Tom Geary. Everyone in attendance was welcomed and each of the attendees introduced themselves and whom they represented at the meeting. Clyde Lay with The Bureau of Reclamation tried to call in on the conference phone, but the phone would not work.

Wag Business

- The minutes from the previous Lake Walcott Watershed Advisory Group meeting on November 17, 2011, were reviewed and approved as written.
- An update on the Cassia Creek Irrigation District was given by Stan Lloyd. The group is working with IDWR to finalize the correct paperwork for the District and a project on Clyde Creek is being considered for the future.
- Mike Beus with BOR explained that an increased demand and diversion of water has already occurred this year as compared with last year. BOR is anticipating that Palisades Lake will fill and water may be moved out of Jackson Lake if conditions necessitate the move.
- The next meeting for the Lake Walcott WAG will be held in July.

Forest Service Water Quality Projects

Mark Dallon presented a power point presentation on the Forest Service water quality improvement projects from the Minidoka District Ranger Office from 2008 to 2011. The projects included road and trail reconstruction, 75 miles of unauthorized route decommissioning and 24 stream crossing eliminations. A road relocation on Trout Creek, a hardened crossing at Big Cottonwood Creek and new ATV bridges at both Goose Creek and Cave Canyon were also discussed. Grape Creek Grazing Allotment changes included fence relocation, willow plantings and several new offsite watering sites. Future projects include Eightmile Creek Allotment analysis, Coalpit Creek improvements and continued road decommissioning.

DEQ Updates

Katie Shewmaker reported that the Goose Creek and Raft River Temperature TMDLs received approval from EPA and are now assessable on the DEQ website.

Copies of the final Lake Walcott Five-Year Review were handed out. The Five-Year Reviews are mandated by the state and do not have to be approved by EPA; so the document is already available on the DEQ website. No drastic changes were recommended from the original TMDL, so there should be no surprises in the document.

The Marsh Creek Temperature TMDL is in the final stages and should be completed this year.

If anyone has ideas for future meeting presentations, please contact Katie.

319 Projects

Jordan Tollefson, 319 Coordinator, has left DEQ to take a job in Montana. There will be an opening at DEQ in the near future that will be advertised if anyone knows of an interested party.

Katie Shewmaker explained that the Pre-application is closed and so far there are two projects that fall within the WAG region. The full application is due August 1st, 2012.

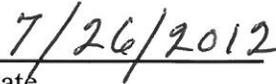
Deven Elison from Civil Science spoke on the 319 pre-application project for the Elba Basin Watershed Drainage Study. The study would consider ways to improve road and culvert issues and better management options to properly plan for runoff and flooding events in conjunction with improving the overall health of the creek systems in the area.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Tom Geary at 8:30 p.m.



WAG Chairman



Date