

# Upper Snake Basin Advisory Group

## Meeting Minutes

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
444 Hospital Way #300  
Pocatello, ID 83201  
Wednesday, April 1, 2015

### Attendees

David Anderson – DEQ-Twin Falls Regional Office  
Katy Bergholm – BAG, Mining  
Roger Blew – BAG, Representative at large  
Sonny Buhidar – DEQ-Twin Falls Regional Office  
Nicole Deinarowicz – DEQ-State Office  
Hannah Harris – DEQ-Pocatello Regional Office  
Justin Hays – BAG, Recreation  
Gary Marquardt – BAG, Non-Municipal  
Richard Savage – BAG, Livestock  
Katie Shewmaker – DEQ-Twin Falls Regional Office  
Michael Stephenson – (alternate for Ralph Myer – BAG, Hydropower)  
Craig Thomas – DEQ-Twin Falls Regional Office  
Lynn Van Every – DEQ-Pocatello Regional Office  
Matt Woodard – BAG-Environmental, Chairman

### Welcome and introductions

The meeting was brought to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. by Matt Woodard, BAG Chairman. Everyone in attendance was welcomed and each introduced themselves and whom they represented at the meeting.

### Bag business

- A motion was made Katy Bergholm to approve the minutes for the October 1, 2014 meeting. It was seconded by Richard Savage. The motion passed and the minutes were approved as written.
- The BAG Summer Tour will be held on July 16, 2015 in Pocatello. The BAG will tour Upper Lanes Creek.
- The next meeting will be the 319 Ranking Meeting. It is scheduled for October 7, 2015, in Idaho Falls.
- A motion was made by Gary Marquardt to support the suggested names for appointment to both the Mid Snake WAG and the Wood River WAG. It was seconded by Richard Savage. The names will now be sent to Curt Fransen for approval.

### Super bag meeting updates on 319 projects

Matt Woodard presented information from the last Super BAG meeting that occurred in December 2014. Ranking recommendations were made, and the top two projects from each Basin will be funded. Matt received a letter from Barry Burnell that stated that after this year the Super BAG would no longer meet in Boise to review the projects due to budget constraints.

### Clean Water Act Section 319 Load Reduction Estimations

Darcy Sharp, DEQ State Office Technical Services Section, gave a PowerPoint presentation via video conference regarding the legal basis for reporting load reduction based on the Clean Water Act Section 319 and the requirements of each state to produce an annual progress report. Estimated load reductions show accountability and support continued 319 funding. Darcy also discussed EPA-recommended tools for estimating load reductions including several different models and calculation methods.

### Review of WAG's and their status

Lynn reported that Pocatello will be working on the Bear River 5-year Review this year. However, this watershed falls under the Bear River BAG for review. The Portneuf watershed has moved to the implementation phase and there is not an active WAG. Work continues in the Blackfoot watershed which has a myriad issues including phosphate mining. Currently DEQ is working actively with stakeholders in the American Falls watershed. A meeting is scheduled with the Bureau of Reclamation on May 18, at 5:30 p.m. at the American Falls Public Library to discuss water management issues with interested stakeholders on this section of the river. Lynn will email an agenda and reminder to the BAG members.

Katie reported that there are three WAGs from the Twin Falls Regional Office and they are all active and meet regularly. The Lake Walcott WAG has reviewed the Marsh Creek TMDL. The document was just returned from EPA as final and is now listed on the website. The Wood River WAG will be reviewing the Camas Creek Subbasin 5-year Review that is just getting wrapped up. The Big Wood Five-Year Review is slated to begin this summer. The Mid Snake WAG has reviewed the Tetra tech Water Quality Report. That document is final and the decision was made to not open the TMDL.

### Review of TMDLs and their status

Hannah Harris from the Pocatello Regional Office presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Salt River and Blackfoot Watersheds. She included an overview of the watersheds, the listed pollutants, landownership, uses affected, beneficial uses, data collected and recommendations. Monitoring this summer will include multiple parameters. The Blackfoot Five-Year to do list consists of state office review, input and review from the WAG, and public comment and finalization. The Salt River TMDL has been reviewed by the state office and EPA; however, EPA is concerned about stormwater wasteload allocations for Simplot's Smoky Canyon Mine. It is ready for public comment as soon as things are worked out between DEQ, EPA, and Simplot's.

Sonny reported that data has been collected for the Mud Creek/Cedar Draw Temperature TMDL, but the document has not been started due to priority changes. Monitoring for the Big

Wood River Five-Year Review will begin this summer. The Little Wood Five-Year Review has been sent to the state office and comments have been received. The Camas Five-Year Review is nearing completion. There is no activity in the Goose Creek Watershed currently slated for this year. Monitoring in the Raft River watershed will occur this summer. Work is near completion for the fish farm component of the Bruneau Temperature TMDL. A Five-Year Review is slated for Salmon Falls Creek Watershed next year.

#### Cyanobacteria in Salmon Falls Creek Reservoir

Sonny presented a power point on cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) found in the Salmon Falls Creek Reservoir in 2014. The presentation included where the bacteria was found, monitoring locations, digital evidence, a review of the field and lab data and stakeholder involvement. A list of reported sites of cyanobacteria in 2014 was handed out. On April 16, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the DEQ Twin Falls Regional Office there will be training on cyanobacteria.

#### NPDES and GAP Updates

Craig Thomas passed out a handout (The Idaho Department of Fish and Game and Lost River Hatchery Waste Load Allocation Modification (HUC17040218)) for Troy since he could not attend the meeting. The document discusses the completed monitoring and modified waste load allocations for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the Lost River Hatcheries in the Big Lost River Subbasin. This is ready to go out for public comment.

Craig gave a PowerPoint presentation on the General Aquaculture Permit containing information received from Dirk Helder, EPA. The permit has been completed and EPA is waiting for Fish and Wildlife Services to complete their ESA consultation. EPA is hopeful that they can open the public comment period this spring or summer and have the document finalized in the next year.

Craig gave a second PowerPoint presentation on the NPDES program. Idaho DEQ has applied for authorization to write NPDES permits for facilities from EPA. This would be a phased approach to gain delegated authority. DEQ is currently developing the program structure and rule development; along with applying for a grant to help with infrastructure development. The Rulemaking Schedule was listed on the PowerPoint and is available on the DEQ website.

#### 2014 Integrated Report

Nicole Deinarowicz gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Integrated Report. The Integrated Report is a biennial report that states are required to publish by the federal Clean Water Act. The report describes ongoing efforts to monitor, assess, track and restore the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of Idaho's waters. Nicole discussed the reporting process and functions, along with the proposed delistings for the Twin Falls, Idaho Falls and Pocatello regional offices for the next cycle.

Adjourn

Katy Bergholm made a motion to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded by Richard Savage.  
The meeting was adjourned by Matt Woodard at 2:15 p.m.

                    Matt Woodard                      
**Chairman**

                    7/16/2015                      
**Date of Approval**