



Ada County Environmental Advisory Board Meeting
October 20, 2015

Meeting Minutes

- MEMBERS:** Tamsen Binggeli, Boise River Enhancement Network
Andy Brunelle, Ted Trueblood Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Dave Case, Ada County Commissioner - absent
Larry James, Enel Green Power North America (dba Fulcrum)
Jan Johns, Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands - absent
Scott Koberg, Ada County Parks and Waterways, Co-Chair
Joe Kozfkay, Idaho Department of Fish and Game (Art Butts attended for Joe)
Christy Meyer, The Freshwater Trust
Selena O'Neal, Ada County Operations, Chairperson
Liz Paul, Idaho Rivers United
Benny Poole, Ada County Commissioners Office, Co-Chair
Kerry Strunk, Enel Green Power North America (dba Fulcrum)
Kate Thorpe, Conservation Voters for Idaho - absent
- OTHERS:** Daren Daters, Enel Green Power North America
Ax Yewer, Ada County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
Scott Williams, Ada County Operations

Roll Call

The meeting began with roll call at 1:32. There was a quorum with 4 voting members present. (Absent members and guests are noted above. Ada County and Enel staff are nonvoting members.)

Note: Brandy Wilson from the Barber Valley Homeowners Association notified Selena O'Neal via email on 10/5/15 that she will no longer be serving on the board due to other obligations and time constraints. The decision to fill or close that seat is still to be determined.

Approval of the Agenda

Selena O'Neal called for a motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Liz Paul made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Tamsen Binggeli. All voting members voted in favor, there were no opposed. The motion carried.

In-Stream Project Updates

Tamsen Binggeli gave an update on a potential donation of boulders from the Harris Ranch property including photos of different piles of rocks and large pieces of concrete that could be used. She met with Doug Fowler from the Harris Ranch who gave permission for rocks from several different sites to be used. It is not completely clear in a couple of instances who owns the rocks, so depending on which ones are selected, further permissions may be needed. (Attachment A)

Scott Koberg thanked Tamsen for her work with Doug Fowler to get the rock sources identified. He mentioned that based discussions during last month's meeting, woody material seems to be the preferred material for this project. Christy Meyer noted that it could be a mixture of wood and rock with rocks being used to hold the woody material in place.

Scott Koberg gave a brief update on the project status including information provided by Joe Kozfkay. Fish and Game engineers have surveyed the project area but there has been no movement on design. The plan is for design work to occur this winter with project implementation to occur before mid-April.

Selena O'Neal reported on the status of the agreement to transfer Ada County's \$30,000 project contribution to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. A draft agreement was sent to Joe Kozfkay on 10/15/15 and the County is waiting to hear if there are any changes. If not, the contract could be signed and in place in a few weeks.

Larry James reported that the contract for Enel to transfer their project funds is also in progress.

Liz Paul reported that the City of Boise and others have projects currently going on in the area where large trees are being removed. She will contact Boise City and ITD about possibly salvaging some of those trees to be used for the in-stream project.

Art Butts joined the meeting @ 1:53. Art confirmed that Flood Control District 10 sometimes has woody material available.

Scott Koberg stated that there may be some trees in Barber Park that could be used. He also suggested that any trees donated or salvaged by others for the project could be stored at Barber Park until such time as they are ready to be placed in the river.

Other Business

Selena O'Neal reported that she has begun receiving water flow reports provided by Boise River Watermaster, Rex Barrie. Some members of the advisory board also receive them regularly. Anyone who is interested in receiving them can contact Selena and she will forward the information to them.

Larry James reported on the power outage that occurred at Barber Dam on 9/17/15 due to an Idaho Power equipment failure which shut down the transformer that powers the controls for the turbine. This left the plant unable to operate and no way to deliver power even if it was operational. Larry explained in more detail how and to what extent outages impact river flows. Kerry Strunk drew diagrams on the white board to further explain and better illustrate the matter. They fielded questions, described recent improvements made to the plant's notification system, and other changes being considered to improve operations.

Art Butts talked about the effects from a fisheries/aquatic perspective when the flow drops, even for a short period of time.

Liz Paul mentioned a river cleanup event held Friday, October 16. Several Enel employees joined folks from Idaho Rivers United, Boise City Parks and Rec, and Boise River Enhancement Network to clear out Russian olive trees and other invasive plants along the river banks in Ann Morrison Park. (Attachment B)

Selena O'Neal provided an update on the development of a County Resolution and bylaws for the advisory board. The bylaws will stipulate seats on the board, how those seats are filled, voting and nonvoting members, etc. The bylaws will also address attendance requirements and replacement of members who are removed or step down. The new bylaws will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Action Items

Liz Paul will look into opportunities to salvage trees being removed in other projects for use in this project.

Ada County will finalize agreement with Idaho Department of Fish and Game to transfer project funds in exchange for project design and oversight.

Enel will implement contract with Idaho Department of Fish and Game to transfer project funds.

Other Discussion

The next meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2015, 1:30 p.m. (3rd Tuesday of the month). Liz Paul proposed that the board suspend monthly meetings as there were no pressing issues. Selena O'Neal responded that the monthly meetings should continue to keep the momentum of the project moving. Larry James recommended the board consider moving the meetings up to the earlier in the month due to the upcoming holidays in November and December. Selena will poll the board to see if the meetings need to be moved to the 2nd Tuesday.

The board meeting adjourned @ 2:35.

Board members went to the Eckert bridge to observe the existing conditions of the proposed project location (Attachment C). The size, scope, and exact location of the project will not be known until the design phase is completed.

Minutes recorded by Benny Poole and Selena O'Neal.