



Ada County Environmental Advisory Board Meeting

January 19, 2016

Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS: Tamsen Binggeli, Boise River Enhancement Network - absent
Andy Brunelle, Ted Trueblood Chapter of Trout Unlimited - absent
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
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: Ax Yewer, Ada County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
Conrad St. Pierre, Enel Green Power North America
Mike McGann, Enel Green Power North America

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Selena O'Neal at 1:30. Roll call was administered by each member introducing themselves and the organization they represented for the benefit of the guests in attendance. There was not a quorum with only 3 of the 7 voting members present. (Absent members and guests are noted above. Ada County and Enel staff are nonvoting members.)

Approval of the Agenda

Liz Paul made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Christy Meyer. All voting members voted in favor, there were no opposed. The motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes

Liz Paul made a motion to approve the minutes of the December meeting. The motion was seconded by Christy Meyer. All voting members voted in favor, there were no opposed. The motion carried.

In-Stream Project Updates

Selena O'Neal provided a list of project update items for discussion (attachment A).

Joe Kozfkay reported that the design is 60% complete (attachment B) and the application for the 404 permit has been submitted to the Army Corp of Engineers. There may be some concern with the 404

permit regarding a couple of the structures closest to the Eckert Road bridge. The woody structures would need to be hard driven into the riverbed and this would be an added expense. The early estimates are \$10,000 to \$15,000 per woody structure. The boulders should be a lot cheaper with the only expense involving placement of the items. There could be an issue with the zero flood rise plan and that will be vetted in the 404 permit phase.

All necessary applications and permits have been submitted and are awaiting approval. There are many tasks to get this project through the approval process including a review of the Boise River System ordinance. There are many people working on it from different agencies including Fish and Game, Army Corp of Engineers, and the City of Boise. DEQ was informed of the project and had no concerns or requirements.

Scott Koberg reported that there are plenty of trees now stockpiled at Barber Park for use in the project. Some were recently salvaged from the Broadway Bridge project and are longer than those already salvaged from the Simplot Park construction and have root wads intact (see photos below).



Liz Paul inquired about possibly planting willows along the bank of the designed construction area or if there were any manual tasks that individual volunteers could help with. Scott Koberg suggested there could be an additional project once this one is done; some restoration work may be needed on the bank depending on how the installation goes.

The group then watched a flyover video provided by Joe of some in-stream work done in the Little Truckee River: <http://theflysyndicate.blogspot.com/2015/09/little-truckee-river-fish-habitat.html>.

Action Items for the Project

- Verify the large boulders that are available and determine exact size and quantity.
- Selena O'Neal will follow-up with Tamsen Binggeli about the boulders previously identified on the Harris property.
- Liz Paul will check with Doug Fowler (Harris Ranch) about the potential use of the property on the north side of the river, if needed, for access by the equipment putting the structures in place.
- Joe Kozfkay will prepare and release a bid package for the construction piece.

Other Business

Kerry Strunk explained the most recent outage that occurred at Barber Dam on 12/31/15. The plant went off-line due to an Idaho Power outage at approximately 2:00 a.m. The plant operator was immediately notified and on site within approximately 20 minutes. The water crested the spillway within about 15 minutes and resumed normal flows within about 30 minutes. Idaho Power restored service and the plant was back on-line within 2 hours and 40 minutes.

Larry James reported that the majority of outages are unplanned and outside of Fulcrum's control. He provided data on the most recent 3-year history of outages, and of the 161 occurrences, 7 were directly attributable to Barber Dam. He further stated that his company cannot be held accountable for what is clearly an Idaho Power issue.

Joe Kozfkay asked about Fulcrum's requirement to maintain "run of river" and how it is defined. He stated that interruptions to water flow impede Fish and Game's water rights and have adverse effects, especially in non-irrigation months, with October-April being the most sensitive times. Joe expressed his concern with the outages and felt that perhaps Enel could place a generator at the plant for these types of emergencies. Liz Paul concurred with Joe's assessment.

The group discussed the ongoing concern of future outages and the fact that there is no easy solution at this time. Scott Koberg requested additional data from Larry James to better understand when the river flows are changing.

The board meeting adjourned @ 2:43.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2016, 1:30 p.m. (3rd Tuesday of the month).

Minutes recorded by Selena O'Neal.