



Ada County Environmental Advisory Board Meeting

November 17, 2015

Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS: Tamsen Binggeli, Boise River Enhancement Network
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 - absent
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 - absent
Kerry Strunk, Enel Green Power North America (dba Fulcrum)
Kate Thorpe, Conservation Voters for Idaho

OTHERS: Ax Yewer, Ada County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office
Megan Basham, Ada County Development Services

Roll Call

The meeting began with roll call at 1:30. There was a quorum with 4 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

Tamsen Binggeli 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

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

Ada County 2025 – Comprehensive Plan Update

Megan Basham gave a presentation on the Ada County 2025 project underway to update the Ada County Comprehensive Plan and create a new Ada County Strategic Plan. (The presentation is provided as Attachment A to the minutes.) Megan introduced the “online workshop” designed to get public input. Megan asked for feedback and Liz Paul noted that it needs to be very interesting to get people involved.

In-Stream Project Updates

Scott Koberg reported on the trees that were removed from the new Esther Simplot Park. About a dozen trees were hauled and are stockpiled in Barber Park for potential use in the project. Scott sent photos of the trees to the Fish and Game folks to ask for their input. Fish and Game replied that 20' trees would be good - the longer the better and root wads intact if possible.

Liz Paul reported that Knife River may have some trees from the Broadway Bridge project that could possibly be used. Selena will follow-up with Knife River.

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. The agreement is now fully executed with the Board of County Commissioners signing it at the open business meeting earlier in the day on 11/17/15.

The next step is for the folks and Fish and Game to design the in-stream project. The hope is that the design will be completed by the end of December so the 404 permit application can be submitted to Army Corp of Engineers. If all goes well, the 404 permit would be approved within 60-90 days, by the end of March 2016. The river should still be low enough to work in until mid-April 2016.

Other Business

Kerry Strunk reported on the generator test at Barber Dam. Fulcrum rented a generator to test a workaround in the event of another Idaho Power equipment failure. An Idaho Power outage in September 2015 shut down the transformer that powers the controls for the turbine, leaving the plant unable to operate and no way to deliver power even if it was operational. The test concluded that in the case of a long-term outage, a generator could be used to keep the turbine operating and the river flowing. Fulcrum is also looking into other options.

Selena O'Neal opened discussion of the board's function and the way it is structured going forward. Do the members see a formal board with a County Resolution and bylaws to stipulate seats on the board, how those seats are filled, voting and nonvoting members, etc? Bylaws would also establish attendance requirements a formal process to replace members who are removed or step down. Tamsen said she would prefer not to make it overly complicated. Liz said the group needs to decide what the purpose of the board is. Natural resource advising is good, but we may not have the proper people on the board to do that. Kate said that if the board's mission is broadening, maybe we should change the membership. Larry said he is interested in remaining involved. Scott said the group could be duplicating efforts of other river committees. Christy agreed that we don't need to create a committee that already exists. Selena suggested it operate more as an ad hoc committee that comes together when there is a particular issue to discuss. She asked those present to think about how they see the group functioning and we would discuss further at the next meeting.

Action Items

Selena to follow up with Knife River about getting trees from the Broadway Bridge project.

Other Discussion

The next meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2015, 1:30 p.m. (3rd Tuesday of the month).
The board meeting adjourned @ 2:38.

Minutes recorded by Selena O'Neal.