



Ada County Environmental Advisory Board Meeting
July 21, 2015

Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES: Tamsen Binggeli, Boise River Enhancement Network
Andy Brunelle, Ted Trueblood Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Dave Case, Ada County Commissioner
Larry James, Enel Green Power North America (dba Fulcrum)
Jan Johns, Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands
Marie Kellner, Idaho Conservation League
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
Brandy Wilson, Barber Valley Neighborhood Association

AGENDA

The meeting opened at 1:30 with Commissioner Dave Case addressing the letter and voter petition received by Ada County and Enel from the Conservation Voters for Idaho. Commissioner Case also addressed the project budget and explained that the County is still in discussions with Enel and that it is his hope that some of the organizations represented on the Environmental Advisory Board would also provide funding and/or in-kind support to help leverage the project funds.

There was a brief round of introductions and everyone listed above was in attendance.

Selena O'Neal opened the group discussion on the list of proposed projects by asking Andy Brunelle to elaborate on the first project on the list, a Bank Erosion / Riparian Demonstration project on the south bank across from the Marianne Williams Park. Scott Koberg added that this project is on Ada County property within the Barber Park area.

The group then looked at the 2 projects submitted by USGS for Biological and Water Quality sampling, similar to what was done in October 2014, with 2a being a data collection project and 2b being a project to summarize previous reports and evaluate trends in biological data.

Tamsen Binggeli mentioned that the BREN has already done a portion of the work described in 2b and recently released a report on their website that looked at the existing reports that have been published. Kate Thorpe commented that projects didn't seem to be tangible enough, would like to see something that improves the stream. Joe Kozfkay agreed with Kate's comment.

Project 3 was a project submitted by USGS to install a stream gauge and there was discussion regarding where along the river the gauge would be installed. Liz Paul stated that it was not a high priority for the use this money but thought it was something that should be done by Enel as part of operating a hydro facility.

Projects 4, 5, and 6 were explained to the group by Christy Meyer. She stated that it is possible that the City of Boise could support a portion of the Marianne Williams Park bank project by providing in-kind resources. The group then discussed the 3 projects individually using the map provided that showed their location along the Boise River. Christy noted the property owners for each project. Projects 4 and 5 have multiple property owners. Project 6 has a single property owner, City of Boise.

Tamsen Binggeli presented a recommended priority list developed by BREN with 6 types of projects: 3 above Barber Dam and 3 below Barber Dam. She stated that the projects had been reviewed by others and ranked based on importance to do, and ranked based on a given budget.

Tamsen expressed a desire to see an instream project done, however, the costs seemed to be greater than the budget would allow. Andy Brunelle suggested there may be an instream project that could be done near Eckert Bridge.

Scott Koberg asked the group to consider ranking the projects that had been submitted two ways. First, just based on willingness to do and second, based on budget. He also asked the group members to consider which projects they might have resources to contribute toward.

Selena O'Neal shared a memo of support sent by Tim Breuer, Executive Director of the Land Trust of Treasure Valley in which he offered to bring "some community spirit and volunteerism to whatever project might be undertaken".

The meeting adjourned at 3:00. The next meeting will be August 18, 2015, 1:30 p.m.

Notes taken by Selena O'Neal.