



Ada County Environmental Advisory Board Meeting
August 18, 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
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) - absent
Kate Thorpe, Conservation Voters for Idaho
Brandy Wilson, Barber Valley Neighborhood Association - absent

MINUTES

The meeting began at 1:30 with a round of introductions. Selena O'Neal informed the group that Enel had confirmed their financial contribution for a project would remain at \$15,000 cash + Enel staff labor estimated at a value of \$3,000-\$8,000. Commissioner Case stated that the County's contribution would be \$30,000, for a total project budget of \$45,000 (+ undefined volunteer time). Selena suggested that grant funds may also be available and it is still the 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.

The group reviewed the list of projects including how each member ranked them. The results were that the unanimous first choice was for an in-stream project, although there had not been an in-stream project submitted or formally proposed. The most common second choice was project #1, the Bank Erosion / Riparian Demonstration Project proposed by Trout Unlimited to be done on the south bank of the Boise River, across from Marianne Williams Park.

Liz Paul suggested that the group look into determining if an in-stream project could be done on the \$45,000 budget. Commissioner Case advised the group to consider the time it might take to get the needed permits and approvals from the agencies that would come into play for an in-stream project. The hope was that a project could be done in a reasonably short timeframe.

The group decided that it would be worth taking a closer look to see if it would be feasible on the existing budget before eliminating it as an option. Scott Koberg suggested that the area near the Eckert Road bridge would be a good area for an in-stream project. Joe Kozfkay asked if the City of Boise's design for the Whitewater Park might provide some answers. Andy Brunelle offered to look into a few in-stream projects he is aware of. Christy Meyer confirmed that if there was a way to do an in-stream project on the existing budget, it would be preferred.

The group decided to pursue the in-stream project idea as "Plan A" with the agreement that the Bank Erosion / Riparian Demonstration project on the south bank across from the Marianne Williams Park would be "Plan B", if the in-stream project is a no-go. Selena suggested that the "Plan B" project would be a great project if Plan A falls through because it's on Ada County property within the Barber Park area, and it lends itself well to volunteer work where many people can get involved and help out, whereas an in-stream project may not.

The group wrapped up the meeting with the following action items:

Larry James with Enel will check on the funding that is being provided to see if would be available after December 31, 2015.

Joe Kozfkay will see if his department can donate staff time to do a simple design.

Andy Brunelle will verify the project's viability and budget based on other projects.

Tamsen Binggeli will talk to Doug Fowler (Harris Ranch) about possible donation of rocks and/or equipment.

Kate Thorpe will talk to the City of Boise regarding the Whitewater Park project.

Jan Johns will check with Riverstone School about developing some of the interpretive signage.

Everyone will get their information to Selena by September 1.

The meeting adjourned @ 2:30. Next meeting will be September 15, 2015, 1:30 p.m.

Notes taken by Selena O'Neal.