

Utah Water Quality Task Force Meeting Minutes

June 28th, 2012 9:30am-11:30am
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
350 North Redwood Road
Salt Lake City, Utah

Attendance

Name	Representing
Jim Bowcutt	DEQ/DWQ
Nathan Daus	UACD
Nancy Mesner	USU Extension
W.D. Robinson	UDAF
Norm Evenstad	NRCS
Jan Andersen	Utah Farm Bureau
John Whitehead	DWQ
Ben Radcliffe	USBR
Jack Wilbur	UDAF
Carl Adams	DWQ
Rhonda Miller	USU Extension
Ray Loveless	UACD
Walt Baker	DWQ
Telephone	
Marian Hubbard	Salt Lake County
Gary Kleeman	Region 8 EPA
Bill Goodman	US Forest Service

Walt Baker- Welcome and Introductions

Ray Loveless- UDAF Staffing Changes

- The Conservation section has changed. Ron Davidson has quit and Thayne Mickelson will be fulfilling his responsibilities.
- Mark Quilter, Bracken Davis, and WD Robinson were previously employed in the conservation section but will now be part of the Plant Services section.
- There will be new district managers that will work with the districts in three areas across the state as part of a pilot program. Ron Davidson will be in the Weber/Davis area, Clint Hill will be in the Box Elder area, and they will be hiring a new position in the Utah County area. These will be 2 year positions.

Ray Loveless- Environmental Stewardship Program

- Progress continues to be made on the Program.

- Air Quality and dust control are beginning to be a hot topic and is sure to increase in regulations.
- Certification program will be implemented under the Utah code by the Utah Conservation Commission.
- There are four sectors that should cover all the issues in the state
 1. AFOs
 2. Farm Steads
 3. Cropping systems
 4. Grazing and pasturelands
- There will be applications available for each sector, and one land owner could have all four certificates if his farm meets the requirements.
- If the certificate is issued then:
 - o UDAF will stand with producer in any regulatory issues
 - o Signs will be developed and put on the certifying farms
 - o Logos can be placed on products when they are sold
- They are currently working on a website for the certification program.
- USU already has many resources that can be used in conjunction with the certification program.
- It may be beneficial for landowners to receive an economic incentive for obtaining the certification. For example, a reduced interest rate on ARDL loans for those receiving the certification.
- Information and Education funds will be needed to get the word out, and may become available as the program grows.
- UDAF should begin the rule making process and invite several stakeholders to participate in the program development.
- Possibly other grant programs managed by other agencies can rank project that obtain the Environmental Stewardship Certification higher in the ranking process.

Jim Bowcutt-FY-2013 NPS Grants Awarded

- Jim passed out list of proposed projects for funding. 31 applications were received, 22 were funded with State NPS funds, and 3 were funded with Section 319 funding. (see attached list for all projects funded)

- The state must do a better job of documenting water quality benefits achieved by each project. We need to keep pressure on cooperating agencies to help tell out story.
- Projects funded in the Uintah basin were selected at the local level, and the local steering committee has already selected various projects that will be funded next year. Many of them will be on the Duchesne River.
- NRCS was not party to the selection process and may have had additional input, especially on the Millsite Reservoir Proposal.
- It was noted that the Division of Water Quality would like to have more help in evaluating and ranking projects funded with NPS funds.
- Walt Baker recommended that endure coordination of funding and include it in an MOU with partnering agencies.
- Walt set up a subcommittee to evaluate proposal ranking and evaluation process. This committee will include: Jim Bowcutt, Norm Evenstad, Nathan Daus, Carl Adams, a representative from the DWR, and Karl Flemming. This group will come back to the Task Force with a report on how to further our goals, what are the rules of the game? This will be a straight forward description of how the moey gets on the ground and respective priorities. This group will be headed by Carl Adams from DEQ.

Norm Evenstad- NRCS Water Quality Initiative Funding

- In 2012 three HUC 12 watersheds were selected in the State of Utah. Each watershed received roughly \$166,000 to implement water quality related projects. There were 303(d) impaired waterbodies in each HUC 12 selected. The decision of what watersheds to focus on was shared between DWQ and the NRCS.
- It was noted that when making these decisions we should use all resources available including academic studies that are taking place throughout the state, and other evaluations that may be done by other agencies.
- This year there was not much time to identify projects that were shovel ready by the given deadline. The NRCS and the Division of Water Quality have already begun discussing what watersheds will be selected next year. They are looking at the Uinta Basin since it is the targeted basin next year.
- Monitoring should be a critical component for the WQI funding, and can be taken care of by project partners. Often times we do a good job of showing what projects we have implemented, but not what kind of environmental results we are getting form the projects.

Jim Bowcutt- Statewide NPS Management Plan

- Jim Bowcutt gave a short power point showing what changes have been made to the document, and what sections were still needing an update. (See the attached power point).
- Each agency that has agreed to help with the update of the management plan will have their respective section to Jim Bowcutt by July 20th.
- The drafts of the management plans that will be included in the appendices will be due to Jim by August 17th.
- Jim will contact each of the agencies reminding them of their responsibilities before the July 20th deadline.
- Jim will develop a “Drop Box” that will allow members of the Task Force to view the most recent drafts of the document.
- It was decided that the plan would still make mention of Steering Committees and technical Advisory committees in the plan instead of just referring to them as watershed groups.
- The Task Force began reviewing the section of the management plan the stated how the Task Force will be involved in water quality activities throughout the state. It was decided that it would be best if we just gave a short summary of the Task Force and included the charter that was revised in 2010.
- It was brought up that we need to have better participation from other agencies. It seems like it is always the same faces sitting around the table and some very important agencies are no longer participating in our meetings. This could be done by improving the quality of meetings, or by meeting with a real purpose.
- The Task Force needs to be more involved with decisions that are being made. It seems like we have gone away from this in the past few years.
- The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 18th at 9:30 at the Division of Water Quality.

Meeting was adjourned