

Utah Water Quality Task Force Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2013 9:30am-12:00am
Utah Division of Water Quality
195 N. 1950 W.
Salt Lake City, Utah

Attendance

Name	Representing
Jim Bowcutt	DEQ/DWQ
Bracken Hendersen	UACD
John Whitehead	DEQ/DWQ
Mitch Poulsen	BLRC
Niels Hansen	NRCS
Bill Zanotti	UFFSL
Scott Daly	DWQ
Geoff Mcnaughton	UFFSL
Carl Adams	DWQ
Rhonda Miller	USU Extension
Brian Greene	USU Extension
Walt Baker	DWQ
Jason Roper	NRCS
Marian Hubbard	Salt Lake County
Jay Olsen	UDAF
Ron Larsen	UDAF
Norm Evenstad	NRCS

Walt Baker- Welcome and Introductions

Jim Bowcutt- Utah Statewide NPS Management Plan Update

- DEQ received 34 comments from 7 Different Agencies during the Task Force Comment Period.

Major changes Include:

- Clarification on when it is required to develop Sampling Analysis Plans.
- Additional section stating what parameters will be used in monitoring to include biological and physical indicators.
- Additional section addressing watersheds that are located in multiple states.
- It was noted that the program will use the best delivery system available on the local level to implement the program and administer cost share funds.
- UACD was added to the list of partners associated with the NPS program.
- A short description of the Task Force was included in the executive summary.
- Additional programs were mentioned in various places in the document including: ARDL, Environmental Stewardship, and the State AFO Program.

- Additional verbiage was added to state that watershed groups should be more integrated in watershed monitoring.
- The plan should identify economics as a factor to consider. This is stated in the DWQ Mission Statement. It was agreed that a section identifying this in the plan would be added.
- The list of BMPs has been updated to include practices for road construction and maintenance, and additional storm water BMPs. It was then sent out to the Local watershed coordinators and partner conservation planners, and a few changes and additional BMPS were added.
- A draft of the I&E plan was submitted to DEQ for review by USU Extension, and will be reviewed and sent out to the Task Force for review prior to presenting the plan to the Water Quality Board.
- A draft of the Hydromodification plan will also be submitted to the Task Force for review by the first of March.
- The Silviculture plan was done away with, and replaced by Utah's Forest Water Quality Guidelines document. Additional tasks were also added to the task and objectives section, and increased detail was added to the silviculture section of the document.
- A motion was made by Rhonda Miller to approve the Statewide NPS Management Plan and proceed in the approval process. This motion was seconded by Geoff Mcnaughton, and all were in favor.

Carl Adams-Utah's Proposed Approach to Nutrients

- The presentation is not final and it is encouraged that the Task Force give feedback and ask questions on the subject.
- Nutrients are a national issue and we are not immune to it.
- Public treatment, stormwater, and NPS sources will be addressed in the development of the standards. Work groups have been formed to address each of these sectors.
- Nutrients have a negative impact on beneficial uses
- There is no specific place in Utah that has nutrient issues. It impacts watersheds scattered all around the state, and these waterbodies are all very diverse.

- Goals for setting Nutrient standards include:
 - o They must be effective
 - o They must be reasonable
 - o It must be a shared responsibility
 - o They must be scientifically based

- The goal of the adaptive management approach is to base it on locally led decisions and base accountability on hard science. All sources and stressors should be addressed.

- If a TMDL is being developed there has been a “train wreck already” The goal is to address the issue before the “train wreck” occurs.

- Some solutions will be easy and relatively inexpensive.

- We are currently failing at controlling nutrients in the U.S.

- Composting is good for farmers, but nitrogen is lost in the process, possibly to the air. Ideally a flush system would be used to keep the manure wet, but is not possible in all situations. While this is a problem it is not one that has been addressed currently. Hopefully future technology will help us deal with this. As for now it is still considered an acceptable practice.

- The development of nutrient standards has been put on the fast track. The Nutrient Core Team was developed 18 months ago, and will wrap up in about a month. As legislative task force is already being formed to address nutrient issues. This is associated with S.B. 57 that is currently being reviewed by the legislature.

- They need to come up with a funding source for this program to help clean up nonpoint sources of nutrients. One possibility is to exercise a \$1 “toilet tax” to all individuals that are hooked to a WWTP. This would generate \$10 million a year. Stakeholders need to know we are all part of the problem and ultimately the solution.

- We have a lot of tools that will be used to address the “nontraditional” problems that are not agricultural sources. These are all part of the problem as well.

- The adaptive management approach will allow us to prioritize and target our resources.

- The Great Salt Lake can be a tricky waterbody to understand, but several studies have been conducted, and will continue to be conducted to better understand the lake.

- The definition of headwaters is category waters located within the boundaries of the forest service. Nutrients are not typically a problem in headwaters.

Jim Bowcutt- 2012 Annual NPS Program Report

- Budget cuts are a reoccurring theme to the 319 program over the past four years.
- Even with the budget cuts Utah has been able to keep the amount of funding dedicated to project implementation constant, and even allow it to increase while reducing the amount of funding used for staffing and support.
- In FY-2012 \$830,800 in 319 funds were awarded to the State of Utah for project implementation. These funds were used to fund five different projects.
- Utah has been doing a good job spending the funding that it does receive. When a new grant is received, an older grant is usually closed out.
- The State was also awarded \$1 million in Statewide NPS funds. These funds were used mostly for project implementation, but also were used to fund studies, information and education, and watershed group support.
- The State of Utah applied for \$936,621 in FY-13 319 funds. This included five projects including the local watershed coordinators, the volunteer monitoring program, and projects that will take place on the Duchesne River, Strawberry River, and Cart Creek.
- The application period for FY-2014 319 and Statewide NPS funding will run from April 1, 2013 through May 15th. The Jordan River will be the targeted basin in 2014.

Other topics-

- It would be beneficial to have a presentation on water rights at the next meeting. Look at someone from the DNR to give this presentation.
- H.B. 236 is one we may want to keep our eye on. It will determine when re-vegetation on hillsides should occur.