



# Water District 67

2165 Seid Creek Road  
Cambridge, ID 83610

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FEB 11 2004

WATER RESOURCES  
WESTERN REGION

Watermaster: Bosco Bosler  
355-2281

Chairman: Vernon Lolley  
549-0248

Secretary: Mary Ellen Pugh  
257-3790

## ANNUAL MEETING OF WATER DISTRICT 67

**FEBRUARY 2, 2004**

The annual meeting of Water District 67 was called to order at 1:18 p.m. by Vernon Lolley at the US Bank Community Room on February 2, 2004.

Vernon Lolley called for nominations for Chairman. Harmon Horton nominated Vernon Lolley, seconded by Paul Striker. As there were no more nominations, Vernon was elected unanimously. John Sachtjen nominated Paul Striker as Vice Chairman, seconded by Harmon Horton; and the motion carried unanimously. Paul Striker nominated Mary Ellen Pugh as secretary, seconded by Harmon Horton, and again the motion carried unanimously.

Next the Credential Committee and Advisory Committee were reviewed. Paul Striker made a motion to accept both committees without changes for the coming year, seconded by Harmon Horton. The motion carried.

### Credential Committee

Butch Snorgrass  
John Sachtjen  
Laurie Chandler  
Vernon Lolley  
Harmon Horton  
Paul Striker

Council  
Cambridge  
Monroe Creek  
Weiser  
Midvale  
Mann's Creek

### Advisory Committee

Ladell Merk  
Randy Noah  
John Sachtjen  
Wendell Walker  
Harmon Horton

Council  
Cambridge  
Cambridge  
Sunnyside  
Midvale

Paul Striker  
Laurie Chandler  
Vernon Lolley  
John Lewallen

Mann's Creek  
Monroe Creek  
Weiser  
Institute Ditch

Next Paul Striker made a motion to elect deputies for the 2003 season. They are as follows:

Nello Jenkins  
Bruce Gochnour  
Art Correira  
Jim Brown  
Gordon Galus  
Gerald Myers

Council  
Galloway  
Sunnyside  
Mann's Creek/Monroe Creek  
Rush Creek  
Watermaster Substitute, \$70/day

This motion was seconded by Harmon Horton and carried unanimously. Bosco would like to have the Water District pay all the deputies directly to make the system uniform. Dale Barton made a motion to pay Jim Brown directly for his services instead of to the Mann's Creek Irrigation Company, seconded by John Sachtjen. This motion also carried. Mary Ellen will call Debbie Stephens to let her know.

Next Lavelle Braun made a presentation for the Weiser River Watershed Advisory Group regarding the Idaho DEQ's development of TMDLs for the Weiser River. He gave a brief history of the organization, their work to date, and their concerns with the TMDLs and the Weiser River Watershed Subbasin Assessment. He felt that there has been insufficient time and input into the drafted legislation and that farmers and ranchers should work together to protect their water interests. (A detailed article from the Weiser Signal, dated February 4, 2004, is attached for further information.) The WAG group hired an attorney and is now hoping the water users will support the cost.

At this time Dave Tuthill from the Idaho Department of Water Resources stated that the purpose of the Water District is to deliver water. He felt it was appropriate to pay dues to the Idaho Water Users Association; however, he didn't feel that the water district should be involved directly with lobbying and legislative issues. In other areas a separate group has been organized to represent water users' concerns. He suggested we contact Bob Hengler of the Payette Water Users Association.

After much discussion, we returned to the business of the meeting. Harmon Horton nominated Bosco Bosler as Watermaster, seconded by John Sachtjen, and Bosco was elected without opposition. Bosco then presented the proposed budget for the coming season. John Sachtjen made a motion to pay the Idaho Water Users Association \$4,500 for the year, increase the minimum assessment to \$10, and increase taxes to \$.80/inch. Dale Barton seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The budget is attached to these minutes.

Dave Tuthill introduced Scott King and Becky Harvey who will be working with our water users in the coming year on readjudication. Over the years much has changed regarding water usage, and they are trying to reflect the water actually being used. Water Resources will be hiring local contractors to investigate water rights and provide local information. Each individual will be advised of the department's recommendations three months before the recommendations are

filed with the court. This system has worked well in other areas; and they are hoping for the same here. Recommendations will be finished by the end of 2005.

Harmon Horton made a motion to notify Washington and Adams Counties to collect the money for Water District 67 through the tax system and send it to the district. Dale Barton seconded this motion, and it carried unanimously.

John Sachjten made a motion to hold the next annual meeting for Water District 67 on Monday, February 7, 2005, at 1 p.m. Harmon seconded the motion and the motion carried. John Sachtjen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Harmon. The meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

Those in attendance were:

Jeri Bemis  
Dale Barton  
Bosco Bosler  
Lavelle Braun  
Rob Harrington  
Becky Harvey

Harmon Horton  
Scott King  
Vern Lolley  
Carl McElhinney  
Mary Ellen Pugh  
John Sactjen

Royce Schwenkfelder  
Paul Striker  
Dave Tuthill  
Gail Van Tassell

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Ellen Pugh  
Secretary/Treasurer

Attachment

cc: Adams County  
Washington County  
Bosco Bosler  
Department of Water Resources  
Vern Lolley

# River cleanup plan worries

Weiser Signal 2/4/04

## advisory group

by Rob Ruth

A local group that was formed five years ago to help a state agency develop a cleanup plan for the Weiser River is unhappy with key elements of the blueprint that has emerged.

The Weiser River Watershed Advisory Group (WAG), a collection of local volunteers the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality assembled in 1998 to provide informed input on matters relating to DEQ's development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the

Weiser River, has notified the agency that it wants more time to study DEQ's proposal for the river.

DEQ's plan is detailed in two draft documents: one setting forth the TMDLs, and a companion document, the "Weiser River Watershed Subbasin Assessment" or "SBA."

Both documents were originally slated for submission to the public for comment in December 2003, but the WAG, alarmed at the documents' contents and chagrined over what

the group viewed as an unrealistically short period allotted for its response, notified DEQ on Dec. 5 that it needed an extension.

In a letter to DEQ, WAG Chairman Art Correia stressed "the importance of ensuring that the WAG has an adequate opportunity to review, understand, evaluate and participate in the development of the SBA and TMDL."

In making the request for more time, Correia's letter lays out some of the issues WAG members find most troubling in DEQ's plan as currently proposed. In a nutshell, the local advisors' primary concerns revolve around the draft documents' assumptions that animal feeding operations are the only significant source of bacterial pollution in the Weiser River, that the temperature of the river should be reduced to support cold-water fish species, perhaps even bull trout, and that conditions in the Weiser River and Crane Creek Reservoir are largely analogous to those found in the lower Boise River and at Cascade Reservoir, respectively.

To help cool the river's water, DEQ proposes to keep most of it shaded by planting trees along the riverbanks. Correia and other WAG members complain, however, that the idea completely overlooks the river's periodic flooding which washes tons of bank material away. Further, long stretches of the river feature rocky, steep-sided banks which appear unpromising for the growth of trees.

Given their view of underlying premises as either erroneous or inappropriate, WAG members worry that major targets included in the existing plan will prove impossible to meet and will inflict a savage blow to the local ag economy.

A cold water designation for the Weiser River is a particularly worrisome prospect for irrigated agriculture, which could go thirsty if water normally turned into local canals in summer is instead deemed necessary for supporting desired fish species in the river channel.

In an interview with the Signal American, Correia said he suspected that DEQ had mistakenly inferred favorable tree-growing conditions along the Weiser River from the department's familiarity with conditions along the Boise River. He said the Weiser River was more prone to course changes and heavy erosion. The Boise River "is controlled by lakes," Correia said. "The Weiser River is controlled by nothing."

Correia said the WAG would embrace the shade trees concept if the idea were only practical. "If we could comply with it, we wouldn't hesitate a minute to do it," he said.

Correia believes the Weiser's erosive behavior probably accounts for the lion's share of suspended sediments in the river that are targeted by environmental regulators, but he says the draft DEQ documents don't make this allowance. His Dec. 5 letter to the department highlighted this belief.

"...I know from my own long personal experience with the Weiser River in this watershed that stream bank erosion during high flow periods and floods is a significant

source of suspended sediment in the river. The effects of high flows can be seen in the changes to river channel morphology over the years. This factor in sediment loading does not appear to have been adequately considered or analyzed in the SBA, or accounted for in the TMDL," Correia wrote.

Likewise, the WAG believes DEQ errs in assuming that nutrient contaminants are nearly all linked to animal feeding operations.

"The SBA identifies animal feeding operations as a source of bacteria without identifying humans, waterfowl, and other wild and domestic animals as potential sources," the Dec. 5 letter states. "The WAG is aware that DNA fingerprinting work has shown that these other sources collectively contribute the majority of bacteria to the Lower Boise River... Care must be taken to avoid any implication that animal

feeding operations are singularly responsible for bacteria concentrations in the watershed."

The WAG asked DEQ for a six-month delay in submitting the documents for public comment, but DEQ granted a reprieve of only 30 days. Although that additional period has already passed, the department recently made minor changes to the documents. That had the effect of resetting the clock for the WAG, which now has until Feb. 20 to formulate its response. A five-member committee the WAG appointed to head the project is scheduled to meet Thursday, Feb. 5, and sometime before the Feb. 20 deadline hits the group intends to meet with Tom Hardesty, administrator of DEQ's Water Quality Division, to once again make the case for pushing the WAG's deadline back.

Meanwhile, WAG members are keeping their fingers crossed that their cause will gain an assist from the Idaho Legislature, where a newly introduced bill requires 50-percent approval from a WAG's membership before DEQ can submit the TMDLs for any water body in Idaho to the federal Environmental Protection Agency, the ultimate regulatory authority in the TMDLs pro-