

PRB Interagency Working Group – Water Task Group
May 6, 2009

Members Present:

Don Fischer – WDEQ – Water Management
Melanie Clark – USGS – WY – Surface Water
Kyle Blasch – USGS – MT – IWG - Surface Water
Kathy Shreve – WDEQ – Surface Water
Harry LaBonde – WSEO – Surface and Ground Water (for John Barnes)
Dennis Lamb – WDEQ – Water Management
Bill DiRienzo – WDEQ – IWG
Jeremy Zumberge – WDEQ – Surface Water
Kathy Brus – BLM – Chair and Water Management
Dave Mott – USGS WY Water Resources Center– IWG

1. Identified participants. See Attached
2. Current Issues:
 - a. Surface Water Data collection: Current WDEQ contract with USGS runs through 2010 at which time it will be renegotiated. Group did not identify any need to supplement the work at the present time. If in the future the WDEQ finds that funding at the current level is questionable, the IWG will revisit support of program.
 - b. Surface Water Data evaluation: Group is supportive of the potential for coordination of data analysis effort with the project that the USGS is initiating for MT. USGS will investigate and contact the WDEQ regarding trend analysis. No action taken by group at this time.
 - c. Water/Soil interaction monitoring: The WDEQ is interested in initiating a project to monitor the soils where their Section 20 permits are being written. They have baseline analysis taken for 12 watersheds and would like to coordinate the development of a monitoring program along those watershed. This is probably outside the scope of the WTG, but WDEQ will work on the beginning of a proposal to coordinate with the BLM.
 - d. Salt Cedar Eradication Proposal (Aquatics Task Group): Group agreed that salt cedar is an issue that needs to be addressed, but felt that the eradication proposal was outside the scope of the IWG's charter.
 - e. Leaking Impoundment Water Analysis Proposal (USFWS): Recommend that the proposal be directed to IWG Level 2. If they deem the project worth our attention, we will consider it.
3. Reclamation Working Group: Proposal to form a task group to address reclamation. Group felt that there may be some merit for the formation of such a group, but did not feel that it fit within the scope of the WTG at this time. The IWG Level 2 should determine the need for and focus of such a working group.
4. Requests for guidance from the IWG – Level 2: Monitoring of Surface and Ground water is ongoing. Reporting and analysis mechanisms are in place.
 - a. Please define the role of the Group leads.
 - b. Identify additional tasks as necessary.
5. Next Action: Coordinate a Water Task Group meeting at the same time as the Research Reporting Seminar proposed for November, 2009. At that time we will revisit the surface water data analysis and reporting issue, as well as the potential for securing additional funding going forward.