

Hoback Drinking Water Stakeholder Group
Meeting 2: Technical Review
1/13/20 6-8pm Hoback Fire Station
Minutes

- Introductions, as needed
 - In attendance
 - Stakeholders: Marc Kelly, Ty Ross, Kevin Chatham, Bill Rode, Mike Trumbower, Janet Palermo, Todd Fitzgerald (alternate), Paul Cote
 - Steering Committee: Carlin Girard, Shane Yu, Kristin Waters, Heather Overholser, Jodie Pond, Sara Budge
 - Presenters: Keith Gingery, Bob Ablondi
- Agenda review
- Review of meeting #1
 - Major topics include:
 - Background of issue in Hoback area
 - Oversight role for EPA, WY DEQ
 - WWDC role in studies and implementation of project
 - Takeaways: location of problem, potential roles for engaging WWDC as a funding partner
- Other topics
 - Recent newspaper coverage of nitrates in water around the county
 - Indicates this is a county wide issue
 - Article was accurate in its portrayal of the situation
 - “Death by a thousand cuts” is central to the issue of nitrate contamination
- Health impacts of contaminated water overview
 - Shane Yu, Teton County Health Department
 - See PDF of presentation linked on website
 - Background on nitrates as a health concern
 - Primary concern is “blue baby syndrome”, though some (not all) studies link nitrate with cancer
 - What level/concentration is associated with cancer risks?
Inconclusive at what level of exposure is cause for concern, studies did not address this directly
 - What length of exposure leads to additional cancer concern?
 - Again, studies didn’t address this directly and it is inconclusive
- Engineering solutions for providing clean drinking water
 - Bob Ablondi, Rendezvous Engineering
 - Finding drinking water sources is a common occurrence in WY, lots of projects address this

- Working with WWDC is really an important component to make solutions affordable
 - It is a service that the state offers
 - Lots of potential solutions for removing nitrate
 - Ion exchange and reverse osmosis are the most common in this area
 - Treatment is expensive and introduces additional complications, can be easier and cheaper to find an uncontaminated source
 - Range of options for the Hoback community from “do nothing” to finding a new source to treating water out of the river
 - Costs and feasibility vary for each of these (see handout)
 - Funding sources can apply to certain solutions, and not others
 - WWDC will fund studies and 67% of infrastructure, but won't fund treatment
 - SLIB can fund treatment, also provides low cost financing on certain projects
 - Two solutions can be paired together to fund more of a project
 - Timeline for a major project is likely to be lengthy (~5 years if all goes well)

- Special district- functions and formation
 - Keith Gingery, Teton County
 - Special districts are a means of providing services that counties do/can not in WY
 - Allow for taxing authority
 - Can be useful in that collection of funds is done through property taxes
 - Take many different forms across WY and each type of special district does different things
 - Can be a common source of corruption, are now subject to the basic government transparency rules
 - Three main types would be feasible for Hoback
 - Improvement service district (ISD)
 - Typically in neighborhoods to provide a variety of services (roads, water and sewer, gutter and curbs, etc)
 - Formed through a petition accounting for 60% of the people owning land and holding 60% of assessed value of land in district
 - County must approve of district and provide oversight for the process
 - Water or Water and Sewer District

- Similar to ISD but can't do as broad an array of projects, focused just on water or sewer
- Formed through a petition of 25% of landowners, owning 25% of land area.
- May be non-contiguous
 - Need special permission from any landowner on a parcel 20 acres or more
- Ty Ross to provide lessons learned from Hog Island
 - Important to go above and beyond with communications
 - Will face up front costs for district formation from attorney fees, engineering costs, and more
 - No real sources of funding to account for this
 - High time commitment from the board is key
 - Be selective in drawing boundaries, don't include people who will be directly opposed to it
 - Need to gauge interest from the outset, really find out who would like to be included and who wouldn't and draw boundaries accordingly
 - Try to work through legal aspects of district formation from the outset, the laws governing this are somewhat ambiguous and open to interpretation
- Review potential recommendations and next steps
 - Bob Abolondi slide outlines likely outcomes
- Identify additional needs for information, other presenters
- Next meeting
 - February 10, 2020 6-8pm at Hoback Fire Station
 - Public meeting February 24th, 6-8pm, will attempt to reserve Munger Mountain School meeting room