

Draft Meeting Summary
Utah Water Quality Standards Workgroup
May 16, 2011

See Supporting Materials at:
<http://www.waterquality.utah.gov/WQS/workgroup/index.htm#wqsmtgs>

Present

Name:

Affiliation:

Jeff Ostermiller

Dave Wham

Chris Bittner

Kimber Hall

Jeff Salt

Mike Rau

Reed Oberndorfer

Leland Myers

Leah Ann Lamb

Brad Rasmussen

Lisa Kirschner

Lareina Guenzel (phone)

Utah Division of Water Quality

Great Salt Lake Keeper

Central Utah Water

Central Utah Water Conservancy

Central Davis Sewer

Utah Division of Water Quality

Utah Food Industries Association

Kennecott Utah Copper

US EPA

1. **Welcome, and Introductions, and Path Forward:** Chris Bittner of the Division of Water Quality welcomed those in attendance and introduced the path forward. Currently there are rules ready to go to the board for rule making. There will be two rule making phases. The first phase consists of priority rules while the second phase will involved more time demanding issues. See the agenda at:
http://www.waterquality.utah.gov/WQS/workgroup/2011/meeting05-16/WQS_Workgroup_draft_Agenda_05162011.pdf

2. **Review of Proposed Rule Changes:** (Refer to recording at time 6:10)
The Workgroup, lead by Chris Bittner, reviewed each of the proposed R317-2 rule changes. The workgroup review resulted in the following action items for DWQ:
 - Strike 2B (infrequent recreational contact) for recreation anywhere there is 2A (frequent recreational contact)
 - Provide a brief justification for the proposed new beneficial use proposals
 - Verify permitting implications of the leading acute mercury criteria, Research chloride data and how Great Salt Lake wetlands and other waters with high TDS are effected.
 - Move the proposed footnote 8 for site-specific standards to R317-2-7.1.

Ms. Kirschner will investigate the potential impacts of deleting the acute mercury criteria.

The revised rule mark up will be distributed to the workgroup along with the justification for the beneficial use changes.

Refer to supporting materials at:

http://www.waterquality.utah.gov/WQS/workgroup/2011/meeting05-16/r317-002_MASTER_05102011.pdf

http://www.waterquality.utah.gov/WQS/workgroup/2011/meeting05-16/UT_WQS_workplan_04202011.pdf

3. **Narrative Standard:** (Refer to recording at time 1:20:35) Leland Myers proposed definition changes for the Narrative Standard's "reference sites" and in the 7.3 proposed rule language (see attached). Lareina Guenzel of the US EPA proposed adding definitions for "existing uses" and "designated uses". DWQ will review the proposals and return to the

workgroup at the next meeting with alternative language. Refer to supporting materials at:

<http://www.waterquality.utah.gov/WQS/workgroup/2011/meeting05-16/5-NarrativeBiologicalStandard.pdf>

4. **Next Steps:** (Refer to recording at time 2:11:25) Chris Bittner briefly updated the Workgroup concerning:
 - Biotic Ligand Model and Water Effects Ratio. This issue was addressed by allowing site-specific standards.
 - Reference Table 13.2. None of the tables are explicitly referenced. Future efforts will combine and reformat tables for ease of use.
 - Dissolved Iron. DWQ is researching this issue.
 - Antelope Creek site-specific TDS standard. DWQ and EPA to meet and discuss the TMDL recommendation for a site-specific standard.
 - Blue Creek site-specific TDS std. DWQ requested ATK compile and present data to support a site-specific TDS std.
 - Provo River reclassification. Dave Wham has discussed the proposal informally with some of the Provo River watershed stakeholders. Project proponents not in attendance at the meeting (e.g., Trout Unlimited, Blue Ribbon Coalition) need to assemble the rationale for the reclassification.
 - MeHg Implementation Guidance. DWQ intends to start working on the methyl mercury standard implementation plan. DWQ will convene a subworkgroup to assist with determining how to implement the MeHg criteria.

5. **Adjourn:** The next meeting will be held at the Division of Water Quality on June 20, 2011 at 9:00 am. The meeting summary will be available online prior to that time.

Changes proposed by Mr. Meyers

1.* "Reference sites" are sites that are determined to be representative of sites or waterbodies of similar type (e.g., hydrology, existing uses, and ecoregion) and are least impaired with respect to habitat, water quality, watershed land use, and riparian and biological condition.

1.* "Richness" means the absolute number of taxa in an assemblage at a site or within a water body.

1.* "Taxonomic composition" means the identity and abundance of species or taxonomic groupings within an assemblage at a site or within a water body.

Proposed Rule

7.3 Narrative Biological Standards

The taxonomic composition, richness or functional organization of an assemblage of aquatic organisms necessary to support the existing uses shall not differ from comparable measures observed at reference sites. Violations of this criterion will be determined using scientifically defensible and statistically rigorous methods including assessment of local aquatic and riparian habitat characteristics and other information.

This biological criterion alone shall not be used for regulatory and enforcement actions, such as the development or enforcement of Utah pollution discharge elimination system permits. However, biological assessment methods that have been approved by the Executive Secretary, and the Board, may be used to assess support of biological uses as assigned in R-317-2-6. Such assessment shall be consistent with the existing uses and shall take into consideration the use attainability of the water body. Biological assessment methods may also be used, in combination with other information, to support the development of site-specific standards, new or refined aquatic life use categories, or to support the need for new permit limits.

Deleted: following consultation and review by

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