

Henry's Fork Watershed Council Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2023

Introductions and Community Building

Jamie Powell, co-facilitator from the Henry's Fork Foundation (HFF) welcomed everyone to the hybrid meeting. The group went around with introductions and then called for a moment of silence before opening for announcements and community building.

Rob Van Kirk, HFF – Del Raybould passed away recently. Del was a state legislator for 18 years, was on the Consolidated Farmer's Canal Board for 60 years, and the North Fork Reservoir Company board for many years. Quite a leader in the state and in the water management and farming community. Ruth Shea also passed recently. Ruth was a trumpeter swan biologist, probably the most important person in restoring the migratory population in the Rocky Mountains. She was at the initial Watershed Council meetings back in the early '90s. Tireless champion for trumpeter swans.

Christina Morrisett, HFF/USU – after 5 years, Christina will be defending her PhD on April 24th at 1 pm. Her defense seminar will be titled "Multi-objective water management in Idaho's Henry's Fork watershed: leveraging reservoir operation and groundwater pathways to benefit aquatic habitat."

Calendar event link: <https://gcnr.usu.edu/wats/calendar>

Zoom link: tinyurl.com/ChristinaDefense

WaterSMART Data Website Demonstration and Feedback

Rob Van Kirk and Melissa Muradian, Henry's Fork Foundation

WaterSMART Applied Science grant aims to provide funding "to non-federal entities for the development of tools and information to support water management for multiple uses." Project began in October 2020 and scheduled to be completed September 30, 2023. The goal was to improve water-management precision to meet irrigation demand, maintain fisheries, and recover aquifer levels. To do this, they developed hydrologic models, applied models to specific scenarios and develop a website for data and models.

Major deliverables include 3 streamflow gages (Buffalo River, Henry's Fork at Parker, and Teton River at Harrop's Bridge); 4 models including a future scenario predictive model, and water-management optimization model (USU PhD candidate/HFF Doctoral Research Associate, Christina Morrisett); and 1 hydrology data website for public use.

Melissa Muradian, HFF walked participants through a live demonstration of this new water supply data website and how it ties into HFF's existing water quality data site

(<https://www.henrysfork.org/river-conditions>) and hatch timing website (in construction). Feedback from the participants helped HFF learn that a log of past daily reports would be beneficial.

2023 ISDA Invasive Species Update

Cole Morrison, Idaho State Department of Agriculture

Quagga and zebra mussels would have an estimated \$114 million impact if Idaho were to become infected. Programs focus on prevention and early detection, including the invasive species sticker program, and public outreach. ISDA plans to survey Big Springs on the Henry's Fork for invasive species in 2023. There is also a watercraft inspection station on Hwy20/87. In 2022, over 100,000 watercraft were inspected in the state of Idaho, including almost 5,000 at the Hwy 20/87 junction in the Henry's Fork Watershed. Also in 2022, over 17,000 aquatic surveys were conducted for aquatic noxious weeds in Idaho. Over 4,000 surveys had positive detections.

2022 Watercraft Inspections Dashboard -

<https://idaho.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/c312df191f8d4692a407c06dccd4044f>

2022 Aquatic Weed Dashboard -

<https://idaho.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/80591722d96543058695d030f4c67a2c>

2022 Aquatic Noxious weed Surveys Map -

<https://idaho.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=696242f262da4cfe9682f3e4139d893b>

Idaho Noxious Weeds Distribution Map -

<https://idaho.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=2f4fb680aab24a32b2166db271a0be33>

2022 Veliger Map -

<https://idaho.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=389c51a8948b4bd5a51f135dc2d045a6>

Community Building and Wrap Up

Next meeting will be in May. Save-the-date coming soon.