Water District 130
Report of Watermaster
2005 Annual Meeting

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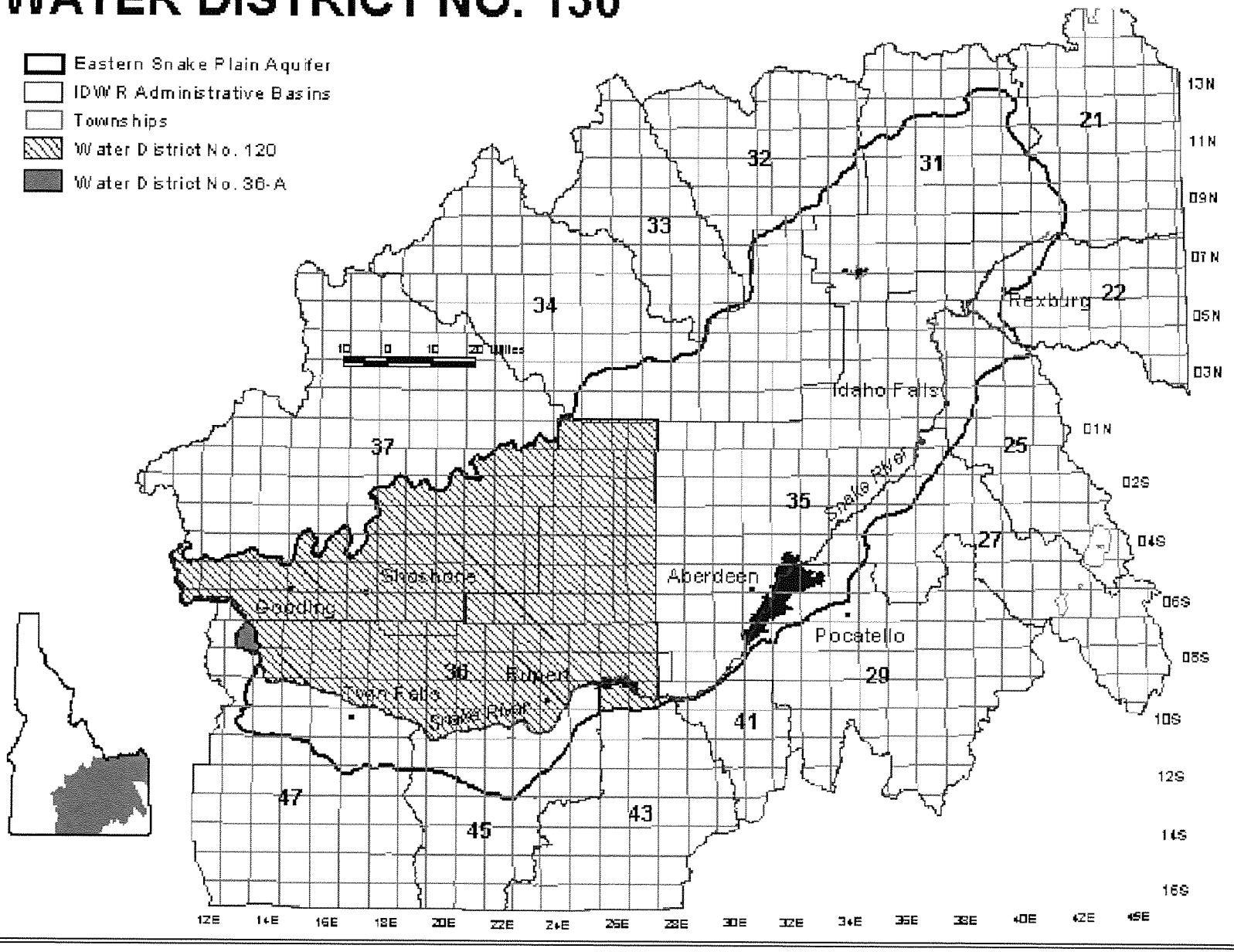
Topics

- 2004 Field Activities and Accomplishments
  - Ground Water Distribution
  - Surface Water Distribution
  - Enforcement
- Goals for 2005 Season
- 2005 Budget Analysis

WATER DISTRICT NO. 130



Water District 130 Stats

- 1781 reporting diversions
- Three active reporting subdistricts
  - *North Snake Ground Water District*
  - *Magic Valley Ground Water District*
  - *A&B Irrigation District*
- 2,634,652 acre-feet average annual diversions (1999-2003)
  - *677,000 AF for consumptive uses*
  - *1.96 million AF for nonconsumptive uses*

Ground Water Distribution

- Illegal Diversions of ground water
  - *Identified using satellite imagery, plus overlays of NSCC, BWCC and AFRD2 rights to help identify supplemental uses*
  - *All violations found were related to early shutoff of canal water*
  - *This year, all resolved with temporary transfers*
- Commercial Flow Meter Audits
  - *300 meter readings taken to compare with annual reports*

Ground Water Distribution

- Mitigation Plans
  - *HB 848 required mitigation of all ground water users*
  - *Existing ground water districts collected supplemental assessments*
  - *Approximately 112 reporting diversions joined the NSG as full members*
  - *At least 20 water users are new mitigation members of MVG*

Ground Water Distribution

- New Water Right Transfers
  - *40 transfers of ground water rights approved in WD130 during 2004*
  - *Half require a flow meter installation; these are keeping pace with approvals*
  - *Data logger installations are not on track*
- Measurement Activity
  - *WD130 conducted 40 meter tests and 15 pcc exams – 30% low due to staff re-assignment*

Surface Water Distribution

- Alpheus Creek/Blue Lakes
  - *Early start, late restoration of diversions*
- Niagara Springs
  - *Below base flows most of the summer*
- Clear Lakes
  - *No regulation since April 2004*
- Other Areas
  - *Sweep of measurements in July-August*
  - *All diversions were visited and accuracy checks conducted at about 12 sites*

Enforcement Activity

- Notice of Curtailment for Non Payment of Water District Assessment
  - *Individual assessments only*
  - *8 Notices sent, 3 still not resolved*
- Notice of Curtailment for Non Participation in a Mitigation Plan
  - *11 Notices of curtailment sent wthin NSG; all but 4 have now joined; those will be curtailed during 2005 unless mitigation payment is made*
- Expectations for Curtailment
  - *Lock-out of irrigation diversions*
  - *Commercial uses – methods will vary*

Goals for 2005

- Continue to increase accuracy of measurement and reporting
  - *Required data logger installation will begin this year*
  - *Some flow meter replacement/relocation required*
  - *Re-evaluate measurement options for irrigation wells - pcc method may no longer be valid for some systems*
- Create a comprehensive evaluation of water use analysis for all diversions

Budget Analysis

Watermaster –

- 2080 hours allocated (FTE)
- 1890 hours projected
- 90% of time worked

Assistant –

- 624 hours allocated (30% FTE)
- 313 hours projected
- 50% of time worked

Budget Analysis

Reasons for salary savings:

- *Support position at IDWR funded in 2004 and not filled until Jan 1, 2005*
- *Assistant watermaster was partly re-assigned to accomplish certain tasks dedicated to that position*
- *Watermaster was asked to assist in other IDWR projects*

Budget Analysis

Recommendations for 2005:

- *Watermaster should continue to be funded at 100%*
- *Assistant watermaster hours have been reduced to 20% of FTE due to migration of reporting diversions into ground water districts*
- *Addition of small amount for clerical assistant, funded with measurement and reporting salary savings*

Water District 130 Proposed 2005 Budget

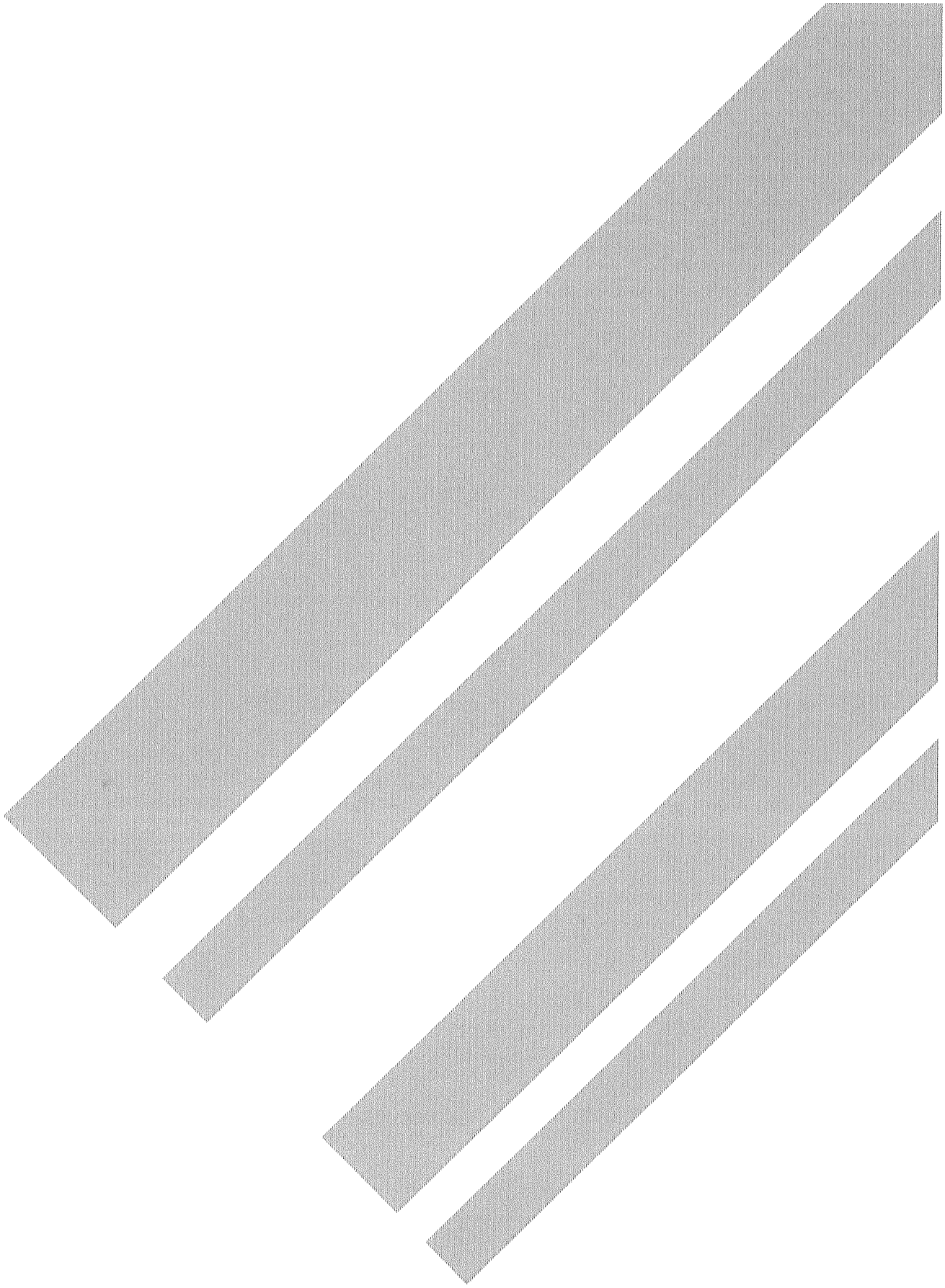
- Budget categories:
  - *Administrative Costs – applicable to all users*
  - *Measurement/Reporting Costs – applicable to only those water users not reporting to a subdistrict*
- 2005 Highlights
  - *Increase in salary and insurance costs*
  - *Carryover in both budget categories will offset this year's collections*

Water District 130
2005 Assessments

- Administrative costs will be split in the following manner:
  - *50% to consumptive uses*
  - *50% to non-consumptive uses*
- For each reported diversion, an average of actual diversions during 1999-2003 will be used to calculate a pro-rata charge of administrative costs

2005 Assessments

- By resolution, individual water users with diversion charges totaling less than $25, will be charged at the minimum rate of $25.
- Water users reporting directly to WD130 will also be billed for measurement. The 2005 charge is anticipated to be approximately $55 per device.
- Subdistricts will receive an aggregate billing containing all pro-rata charges for their members or diversions

Assessments and Collection Timeline

- Once the budget is approved, WD130 will finalize individual charges, prepare and send assessments
- Assessment payments due **April 1, 2005** (unless changed by resolution)
- Any water user reporting to a subdistrict *will not* receive a separate assessment.
- Water users not reporting to subdistricts will be assessed directly by WD130.