

Abbreviated Meeting Notes
Water District 01
Upper Snake River Advisory Meeting, January 15, 2015

Notes: This meeting was held in the Boise, Idaho, Idaho Department of Water Resources conference room. There was also the option to connect into the meeting remotely via conference call and GoToMeeting.

1. **Introductions were made and an attendance list was circulated. The following people were in attendance:**

Mat Weaver (IDWR)	Brian Olmstead (TFCC)
Neal Farmer (IDWR)	Dale Swenson (FMID)
Brian Patton (IDWR)	Lyle Swank (WD01)
Cyntia Clark (IDWR)	Tony Olenchiak (WD01)
Wesley Hipke (IDWR)	Craig Chandler (WD01)
Roger Chase (IWRB)	Dan Davidson (MID)
Walt Poole (IDFG)	Mike Beus (USBR)
Jon Bowling (IPCO)	John Hildreth (USBR)
Kestra (IPCO)	Gail McGarry (USBR)
Sarah (IPCO)	Shawn Ellis (Capital Press)
Peter Anderson (T.U.)	Angela Gilman (ACDS)
John Simpson (Barker Rosholt)	Darrel Ker (Co9, Enterprise)
Teresa Molitor (GFCC)	Manuel ? (HDR)

2. **1:36 pm: Neal Farmer, IDWR, gave an update on late season and winter time recharge** operations. He recapped current and cumulative recharge diversions into the Milner-Gooding Canal and TFCC main south side canal. Recharge in the AFRD2 system was occurring in the Milner-Gooding Canal through milepost 31 and in the off-canal basin at MP31. Neal reported AFRD2 plans to stop diversions for recharge on 1/18 and turn on again near 3/1. Neal also reported that NSCC intended to start recharge in their system down to and in Wilson Lake, the rate of recharge will be determined by infiltration capacity. NSCC would turn on around 3/1. Neal closed by discussing the Board's hope to recharge above American Falls Reservoir (AFR) as soon as they are able.

Dale Swenson asked if/when contracts would be ready for folks upstream of AFR for recharge in 2015. Roger Chase responded by stating the Board want to support Upper Basin recharge.

3. **1:44 pm: Mike Beus, with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR or Bureau), opened in** presentation by indicating the USBR is here to listen as well as present and that he hoped there would be a dialogue. Mike reported that the Upper Snake Reservoir system was at 69% capacity and was filling at approximately 2% a week. At a rate of 2% per week the system will be full by 4/1. Mike indicated that flows passing Milner Pool were around 1,400 cfs, which was similar to flows out of Lake Walcott. These flows were in part due to coordination with Idaho Fish and Game who needed lower pool elevations to accommodate O&M of boat ramps. Mike discussed storage contents of AFR, Jackson Reservoir, and Palisades. He compared them to 2014 and to average conditions, and noted that current content was above average for all three reservoirs. Mike also discussed NRCS Snotel Basin Maps for January 15, noting that snow water equivalent was at

approximately 116% of normal in the Upper Snake. Mike next shared weather forecast slides (90 days) and indicated that the ENSO index was leaning towards stronger El Nino conditions than forecasted. He reminded everyone that El Nino conditions typically results in more precipitation later in the year. Mike closed by discussing upcoming Palisades operations. The Bureau plans to continue passing 900 cfs for the remainder of January and into February. After the February joint forecast, depending on its prediction, the Bureau would up releases out of Palisades and possibly start passing all inflow. The passage of inflow through and out of Palisades would be routed downstream to and through AFR.

Darrel Ker asked about increasing release out of Palisades Reservoir. He noted that there was no snow on the "valley floor" and he was concerned about premature releases out of Palisades.

Refer to attached slides presented by Mike during the meeting.

4. **2:03 pm: Lyle Swank, Water District 01 Water Master, discussed the current state of the reservoir** system and compared it to a year ago. Lyle discussed reservoir content and Snotel data and discussed possible analog years, but closed by stating we were still 4-6 weeks away from knowing what analog years might make good fits for this year. Lyle indicated that recharge in the non-irrigation season was a real "wildcard" this year. Because of a number of factors including increased wheeling rates by the Board, a lack of low elevation snow, and earlier than usual completion of O&M operations, irrigation districts and canal companies might be willing and ready to recharge earlier and longer than in years past.

Dale Swenson inquired into what impediments stood in the way of upper valley recharge if the Bureau does in fact pass 3,000 cfs to and through AFR.

Refer to attached slides presented by Mike during the meeting.

5. **2:10 pm: Jon Bowling, Idaho Power, gave an update on Idaho Power operations. Jon started off** by discussing the start of the water year noting we are above normal. Jon focused his discussion on IPCO's construction operation at Shoshone Falls. To accommodate construction IPCO would ideally like to keep flows in the Snake River at or below 15,000 cfs, noting that this goal is of course weather dependent. Jon agreed with the consensus that it would be a good year to recharge as much as possible. Because of their construction operations IPCO would like to see increased communication and coordination, and Jon proposed meeting again in a month in the first part of February.

Darrel Ker discussed Snotel data and again indicated his concern that there is a disconnect between the Snotel data and the snowpack in general. Noting anecdotally, this winter does not feel like an above normal snow year.

Lyle asked about cloud seeding operations in the Upper Snake. Jon indicated that IPCO was working on a report for High Country RCD and the IWRB and he might be prepared to give a comprehensive update at the next committee meeting.

6. **Under new business the group discussed the timing for the next meeting. It was decided to** target the second Tuesday in February (2/10) at 1:30 pm unless changing weather and storage conditions warranted a delay.