



# IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

## MINUTES OF TELEPHONIC MEETING NO 09-06

### Idaho Department of Water Resources

**James E. Risch**  
Governor

October 26, 2006  
Idaho Water Center, Boise Idaho

**Jerry R. Rigby**  
Chairman  
Rexburg  
At Large

Chairman Rigby called meeting No. 09-06 of the Idaho Water Resource Board to order.

**Terry T. Uhling**  
Vice Chairman  
Boise  
District 2

#### Agenda Item No. 1, Roll Call

##### *Board Members Attending*

Jerry Rigby, Chairman  
Dick Wyatt – Secretary  
Vic Armacost

Terry Uhling, Vice-Chairman  
Bob Graham  
Gary Chamberlain

**Dick Wyatt**  
Secretary  
Lewiston  
District 1

##### *Board Members Absent*

Claude Storer

Leonard Beck

**Leonard Beck**  
Burley  
District 3

##### *Department of Water Resources Staff and Guests Present*

**Bob Graham**  
Bonners Ferry  
At Large

Hal Anderson, Administrator  
Brian Patton, Engineer  
Mike Keckler, Public Info.  
John Sandy, Governor's Office  
Lynn Tominaga, IGUA  
Bill Graham, Bureau Chief  
Patsy McGourty, Admin. Asst. II  
Clive Strong, Deputy AG  
Tom Arkoosh, Attorney

**L. Claude Storer**  
Idaho Falls  
District 4

##### *Guests by Telephone*

**Gary M. Chamberlain**  
Challis  
At Large

Jim Tucker, Idaho Power  
Rich Rigby and Matt Howard, BOR  
Jon Bowling, Idaho Power  
Richard Kaufman  
Jonathan Bartsch, CDR Assoc.  
John Simpson, Attorney  
Linda Lemmon  
Diane Tate CDR Associates  
Neeley Miller, IDWR

**Lawrence 'Vic' Armacost**  
New Meadows  
At Large

Chairman Rigby asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Mr. Anderson stated that Mr. Clive Strong, Attorney General's Office, and Mr. John Sandy from the Governor's Office were present and had requested that the Executive Session be held at the beginning of the meeting. Chairman Rigby requested that public callers call back within twenty minutes. There were no other changes to the agenda. Mr. Chamberlain moved that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss the possible purchase of property. Mr. Graham seconded. All were in favor.

### **Agenda Item No. 2, Executive Session**

During the executive session the Board took no actions. Chairman Rigby reconvened the meeting.

### **Agenda Item No. 3, Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Agenda Item No. 4, ESPA Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan Framework**

#### **a. Summary of Public Meetings**

Mr. Anderson introduced Diane Tate and Jonathan Bartsch from CDR Associates. He noted that a copy of the Draft Schedule for the ESPA Framework had been faxed to Board members just this morning. Ms. Tate gave an overview of the public meetings. She noted that the meetings were advertised in local papers, with additional news releases; e-mails were sent to stakeholders and chambers of commerce. As a general summary, she noted attendance at the meetings: Pocatello, 24; Twin Falls, 64; Idaho Falls, 136. At the meetings people requested more stakeholder involvement. Some people also requested a management level for the aquifer with more monitoring of groundwater and recharge. Ms. Tate stated that a lot of folks asked questions about curtailment of pumping and the difference between management by the board and administration by the department. People just needed to be heard and vent frustration. Objectives were also discussed.

Mr. Bartsch noted that folks in Pocatello asked if there really was a problem with the aquifer. At the Twin Falls meeting there was spirited discussion about additional storage outside the basin. Recharge was emphasized at the Twin Falls meeting discussion. The Idaho Falls meeting discussion related more to failed House Bill 800 and the obstacles to recharge. Mitigation needs and strategies were emphasized, and interim measures were discussed. Refining the model was suggested as something important to do.

#### **b. Discussion, Next Steps**

Mr. Bartsch stated that a summary letter would go out to meeting participants and other stakeholders. Chairman Rigby said he thought that was extremely important. Mr. Bartsch asked the Board if they had additional observations from the meetings. Lynn Tominaga commented that one of the concerns he had from the Idaho Falls meeting was that northern Snake River stakeholders were not as well represented as the southern folks. Mr. Bartsch noted that additional stakeholders will be contacted in the future especially those who complained at the meetings that they were not contacted. Mr. Bartsch asked if Board members had gotten any other feedback. Mr. Chamberlain stated that he heard at the Idaho Falls meeting a gentleman was concerned that CDR Associates and

Karl Dreher knew each other since they were both from Colorado. Mr. Chamberlain suggested that this should be clarified in the future with stakeholders.

Chairman Rigby asked guests on the telephone if they had comments about meeting feedback. Mr. John Simpson noted his concern of ensuring that solutions should not be put ahead of goals and objectives. Mr. Bartsch also noted that funding should not get ahead of goals and objectives. He stated a challenge is that management alternatives have been discussed for some time. Mr. Tominaga expressed the concern that the goals need to be realistic. He gave the example of the salmon recovery and the goals for the water flow on the Snake River that became the floor instead of the ceiling.

Mr. Bartsch noted that at the Pocatello meeting there was a lot of interest around curtailment so they included that into their discussion. Ms. Tate asked people to feel free to contact them with additional suggestions. In the next steps Mr. Bartsch stated they would be developing goals and objectives for distribution to stakeholders in early November. CDR will meet with stakeholders then and provide feedback to the Board at their November meeting.

Ms. Tate stated that the draft schedule presented today is different than the original one. Mr. Armacost said he had not seen the schedule since he was not at home. He asked if the Legislative Interim committee had been involved. Chairman Rigby stated that CDR has met with some of the members who had attended the public meetings. Chairman Rigby said they are supportive of the process.

Mr. Anderson told the group that he has asked staff to work on some concepts with specifics to discuss at the meeting in November. Ms. Tate noted that CDR would be in Idaho the second week of November to meet with additional stakeholders.

Ms. Tate reviewed the schedule for Board members. A presentation to the Legislature would be made the end of February with a presentation to the Board late in January. Public meetings would occur in mid-January. More discussions with stakeholders would take place in late November and a telephone report to the Board in mid December. Item 4c does not have a completion date on the schedule since it is dependent upon department staff to conduct initial hydrologic analysis and calculate initial costs of management alternatives. Mr. Anderson stated that six alternatives had been outlined previously with ballpark costs associated for implementation. Now, staff are engaging the Eastern Snake River Hydrologic Modeling Committee to develop a comparison scenario of current water use practices by which to compare any possible management changes to the water budget. This was begun on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September and will be an ongoing process. Mr. Armacost asked if surface water storage would be looked at as well as ground water. Mr. Anderson stated there was a planning model that would address stream flows, reach gains and losses all the way through Hell's Canyon.

Mr. Simpson asked if the management alternatives were on the website. Mr. Anderson replied that they were as a table entitled ESPA Management Plan Alternatives. Chairman Rigby asked if all stakeholders had a copy of the new draft schedule. Mr. Anderson answered no, but that it would be revised and added to the website.

Ms. Tate asked if the proposed schedule made sense to Board members. There was general discussion about the schedule and the timing with the legislative session. Mr. Bartsch emphasized that the framework is the outline for the management plan with interim measures that can be started now. Mr. Armacost asked if the costs of proceeding with the plan could be identified. Mr. Bartsch

agreed that the costs for the management plan would be an important part of the recommendations. Ms. Tate agreed.

Mr. Bartsch said the next step for the second week of November is contacting additional stakeholders. Mr. Anderson summarized that CDR would be developing a preliminary list of information from the stakeholders and discussing those items with them. CDR would then present results of those discussions to the Board at the next meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Bartsch added that there would be a clear transition from gathering information to honing in on the goals and objectives. After the Board meeting, there will be further conversations with stakeholders, more summarizing and planning for more public meetings in January.

Chairman Rigby asked for further comments and there were none.

**Agenda Item No. 5, Other Items Board Members May Wish to Present**

There were no further discussions.

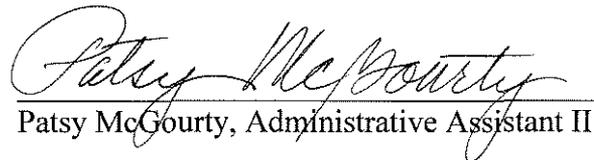
**Agenda Item No. 6, Adjourn**

Mr. Chamberlain moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Armacost seconded and all were in favor.

Dated this day 23<sup>rd</sup> of Jan. 2007.



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D. Richard Wyatt, Secretary



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Patsy McGourty, Administrative Assistant II