



IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

MINUTES OF TELEPHONIC MEETING NO 12-06

Idaho Department of Water Resources

322 E. Front St. 6th Floor
Idaho Water Center, Boise Idaho
December 21, 2006

James E. Risch
Governor

Jerry R. Rigby
Chairman
Rexburg
At Large

Terry T. Uhling
Vice Chairman
Boise
District 2

Dick Wyatt
Secretary
Lewiston
District 1

Leonard Beck
Burley
District 3

Bob Graham
Bonners Ferry
At Large

L. Claude Storer
Idaho Falls
District 4

Gary M. Chamberlain
Challis
At Large

Lawrence 'Vic' Armacost
New Meadows
At Large

Chairman Rigby called meeting No. 12-06 of the Idaho Water Resource Board to order at 2:05 p.m.

Agenda Item No. 1, Roll Call

Board Members Attending

Jerry Rigby, Chairman
Dick Wyatt – Secretary
Vic Armacost
Claude Storer

Terry Uhling, Vice-Chairman
Bob Graham
Gary Chamberlain
Leonard Beck

Department of Water Resources Staff

Hal Anderson, Administrator
Brian Patton, Engineer
Helen Harrington, Hydrologist
David Blew, Special Projects
Tim Luke, Water Distribution

Bill Graham, Bureau Chief
Patsy McGourty, Admin. Asst. II
Neely Miller, Planner
Michael Keckler, Public Information

Guests in Person

J. D. May, Attorney for Rangen Inc.

Guests by Telephone

Clive Strong and Harriet Hensley, Deputy Attorneys General
John Simpson, Attorney
Randy McMillan, Clear Springs
Rich Rigby, BOR
Norman Semanko and Jonathan Parker, Idaho Water Users
Linda Lemmon

Tom Arkoosh, Attorney
Diane Tate, CDR
Wayne Courtney, Rangen Inc.
Travis Thompson, Attorney

Chairman Rigby asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Mr. Anderson noted that at a meeting recently held in Pocatello with the water districts there was discussion about funding mechanisms for implementation and update of the model. He stated Tim Luke from the department was present today and would give a report from that meeting during the discussion on ESPA management alternatives.

Agenda Item No. 2, Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item No. 3, ESPA Framework Plan by CDR Associates

Mr. Anderson introduced Diane Tate from CDR Associates who was present by telephone to update the Board on the framework development.

Ms. Tate began by reporting on Management Alternatives Work Group meetings that were held December 4th in Twin Falls and December 13th and 14th in Burley. Meetings originally scheduled for December 18 and 19 were cancelled after discussion with work group participants. Recharge was the main topic at the meeting in Twin Falls and a summary was presented at the meeting in Burley. Other topics were mitigation and conservation measures. A third meeting that will include discussion of the model is set for January 10th in Idaho Falls at the Shiloh Inn. This meeting will also discuss how management alternatives are presented in the framework plan and funding measures for that plan. She felt attendance was good with productive dialogue at both meetings. The Chairman asked for feedback from attendees about how the process was going. There was none.

Ms. Tate explained that the draft framework document would be ready for the Board by the 1st of January and this document would be presented at the January 10th meeting for feedback from stakeholders. Results from feedback will be added and presented to three public meetings held the next week. Mr. Anderson asked if this document would be distributed prior to the meeting. Ms. Tate explained it would be a PowerPoint presentation rather than a hard copy. This presentation would be posted on the web site a few days in advance of the meeting. An agenda will be posted by Jan 6th on the web site.

Linda Lemmon responded that this would be a good idea especially for Board members who have not attended the meetings.

Ms. Tate outlined the meeting schedule. The meeting on January 10th will be a small working group meeting for up to 50 people. Larger public meetings will be held on January 16th in Idaho Falls, January 17th in Pocatello, and January 18th in Twin Falls. Mr. Simpson asked if there would be enough time on January 10th to get feedback on draft management concepts and funding mechanisms. Ms. Tate stated that management alternatives have been discussed at length already and should not take more than a one-half day. Funding options will be an important topic for the framework plan at that meeting.

Mr. Anderson suggested this would be a good time for Tim Luke to report on the water district meetings because they had discussed funding mechanisms. House Bill 374 provided for the establishment of an advisory committee from the water districts to be assessed for measurement and monitoring. IDWR staff has been working on a monitoring and measurement plan that has been presented to the water districts. He introduced Mr. Luke to provide a report.

Mr. Luke stated that various water districts in the ESPA had met and expressed their unhappiness with the legislation that uses water deliveries in cfs for billing. Some districts have questioned cfs deliveries and think that is not fair. They would like to see this changed depending on the use type similar to the Strawman Proposal. Legislation will be proposed for this session to make that change. Mr. Luke noted that water districts will start meeting in February and the legislation will come along in March. He stated that the water districts did create an advisory committee

Mr. Anderson stated that David Blew and Brian Patton, IDWR staff, were here today to talk about CREP and recharge. Mr. Blew stated that issues related to recharge including funding, water availability, and monitoring were discussed at the small working group meetings. He discussed ideas about funding for recharge sites. He answered Board members' questions including the limitations for recharge. In the spring Mr. Blew said the department was considering a bidding process for delivery of recharge water for the canal companies. There was discussion regarding what happened last year and what the hopes are for this year.

Mr. Brian Patton updated the Board on the CREP program. At the small working group meetings the CREP Program was discussed for one-half a day. The consensus was that not enough acres have been entered and shareholders thought there should be additional state incentive payments added to encourage more participation. Mr. Uhling asked what the total expected participation was going to be and Mr. Patton answered 40-50,000 acres which is about half of what was proposed.

Mr. Anderson asked if Ms. Tate would discuss the framework outline. Ms. Tate explained the outline. CDR will provide an Executive Summary to the Board containing areas of agreement and disagreement from stakeholders. The outline will contain an introduction and purpose for the framework plan. Goals and objectives will be included. Management alternatives will be reviewed including the pros and cons of making them part of the framework plan. Funding mechanisms will be discussed including feedback from the January 10th meeting. Interim measures will be included as requested in the senate bill. Discussion of mitigation mechanisms will be an additional section that may or may not be included in the final presentation to the legislature. A section on implementation with a timeline, strategy, tasks and budgets will include CDR's recommendations for completion of the comprehensive management plan. This will be posted on the web site for public comment.

Mr. Armacost asked if there were going to be appendices. Ms. Tate assured him that there would be and he asked that they be attached to the draft that would be posted. Mr. Armacost suggested that water quality issues should be included in the document. Chairman Rigby noted that this is not an EIS or an EA and water quality was not part of the legislative request. Mr. Armacost reiterated that water quality should just be identified as an element in the comprehensive plan. Ms. Tate suggested that water quality might be added to other factors that might affect the success of the plan. Mr. Uhling agreed that was a good idea. Mr. Chamberlain concurred.

Mr. Armacost also noted that Federal reservoirs have reserve space for flood control and he thought that water use for recharge should be substituted for flood control in Palisades and other reservoirs. He thought that should not be overlooked. Ms. Tate stated this subject had been discussed and it will be mentioned in the document. There was no further discussion and Ms. Tate said the outline would be completed and posted on the web.

Ms. Tate discussed the schedule. She noted that public meetings were moved to the third week of January: Idaho Falls on the 16th at the Civic Auditorium; Pocatello on 17th at the ISU campus; the 18th at Twin falls City Council meeting room. These meetings are to get feedback on the draft framework. The draft framework will be presented on January 22nd at the Board work session. Mr. Anderson asked if the draft working group outline would be provided to Board members before the Jan 22nd meeting. She said it would be given to Board members after the Jan 10th meeting and changes after the public meetings would be added and given to the Board on the 22nd.

Mr. Armacost asked how much IDWR staff has reviewed the document. He wondered if staff would be given the opportunity to comment. Mr. Anderson noted that staff has commented all along the process. Mr. Anderson noted that staff would get the final draft the same time as the Board. Mr. Armacost asked for staff to comment before the document goes to the Board. Ms. Tate noted that the department is a stakeholder as are other groups and comments have been accepted from them. She stated that staff has been consulted with CDR's questions all along. Ms. Tate said that reviewing concepts was more important than word-smithing the document. All comments will be included for the Board's review. Mr. Armacost was concerned about having enough time. Ms. Tate also reminded Mr. Armacost that as outside consultants they were trying to assure that all groups make the same amount of input.

Mr. Armacost asked if the end date was the same. Ms. Tate stated that after the Board meeting on the 23rd, the final draft would be submitted to the Board as soon as possible. Mr. Anderson noted that the sooner it was submitted to the Legislature, the better. The first of February would not be too late. Mr. Armacost noted that the tasks and budgeting for the comprehensive plan would be difficult to compile. Ms. Tate said that a suggested proposal would be written by CDR for that to be accomplished.

Mr. Anderson stated that the Executive Session was next on the agenda. Mr. Armacost moved to adjourn to Executive Session and Mr. Uhling seconded. All were in favor.

Agenda Item No. 4, Executive Session

The Board took no actions during Executive Session. Mr. Chamberlain moved the Board go out of Executive Session and Mr. Armacost seconded. All were in favor.

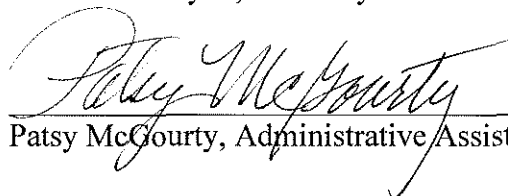
Agenda Item No. 5 Adjourn

Mr. Chamberlain moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Uhling seconded. All were in favor.

Dated this day 21st of Jan 2007.



D. Richard Wyatt, Secretary



Patsy McCourty, Administrative Assistant II

Board Actions: None