

## Final Abbreviated Meeting Notes

### Water District 01

#### Upper Snake River Advisory Committee Meeting, January 3, 2013 (Teleconference Meeting)

3:05 PM – Introductions were made and an attendance list was circulated. The following 15 people were in attendance:

Mike Beus (USBR)	Brian Patton (IWRB)
Jon Bowling (IPC)	Helen Harrington (IWRB)
Alan Hansten (NSCC)	Mat Weaver (IWRB)
Dale Swenson (FMID)	Lyle Swank (WD01)
Dan Temple (ABID)	Tony Olenichak (WD01)
Kent Fletcher (MID)	Peter Cooper (WD01)
Lynn Tominaga (IGWA)	Rob Keller (WD01)
Roger Chase (IWRB)	

3:05 PM – Mat Weaver outlined the agenda, which included:

- Water Supply Briefing – Mike Beus
- WD01 Briefing – Lyle Swank
- Idaho Power Company Operations Update – John Bowling
- Update on IWRB Recharge Applications Status

3:10 PM – Mike Beus with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR or Bureau) gave a presentation on the state of the reservoirs and the water supply. Mike reported the overall system fill at 51%. For American Falls Reservoir (AFR) Mike reported the current reservoir fill at 53% and projected that it should fill on or around April 1, he also indicated that the fill of AFR was disproportionate to the rest of the system. Mike stated that the flow out of AFR would begin to creep up over the following days. Mike identified 1988, 2001, 2006, and 2009 as analog years for AFR and Palisades Reservoir. Mike closed by reviewing the Snotel data at Lewis Lake Divide and indicated that we needed more snow to achieve average conditions.

1. Lynn Tominaga questioned whether the analog years identified by Mike pertained to the snowpack as well. Mike indicated that snow levels were at or near average now, but he anticipated we would start to fall behind in the coming days.

3:18 PM – Lyle Swank, Watermaster of Water District 01 (WD01), gave a recap of upper Snake River water supply conditions from his perspective. He started by detailing that the Henry's Fork/Teton R. basins, the Snake R. basin above Palisades, and the Willow Creek/Black Foot R./Portneuf R. basins had snow water equivalencies of 109%, 107%, and 82% of normal respectively. Lyle reported that low elevation snow was not keeping pace with higher elevation snow accumulation. Lyle identified analog years of 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005 for Palisades Reservoir, making the case that 2005 was the closest fit, although it benefitted from a very wet spring. Lyle was concerned about Palisades Reservoir filling

and indicated that it was anybody's guess at this point what the final storage contents would be, but at the current rate of fill, he projected less than 50% reservoir content by April 1.

1. Dale Swenson questioned why there was a large drawdown in Palisade's storage content in the analog year of 2004. Lyle replied that in 2004 AFR did not fill and a large volume of water was moved from Palisades Reservoir down system to fill AFR. The volume of water moved to fill AFR along with a large demand for water in the spring, were both responsible for the large drawdown in storage content visible in the hydrograph.
2. Lynn Tominaga asked what year [in the 2000's] did AFR fail to fill. Lyle replied that it was 2004, which was also the year that Palisades Reservoir got a near zero storage allocation.
3. Roger Chase questioned how full the upper Snake River storage system needed to be to meet "everyone's demand". Lyle responded that if we could get 90 to 100% of normal snow pack across all basins, then most people, although not everyone, should be "ok".
4. Somebody asked about the status of reservoir releases and Lyle indicated that he did not anticipate any changes in releases for the next two months.

3:37 PM – John Bowling with Idaho Power Company (IPC) started his summary of IPC operations by noting that there was a large persistent high pressure system impeding precipitation in southern Idaho and it needed to move out before any precipitation in the Boise River or upper Snake River basins could occur. John gave an update on cloud seeding efforts in the upper Snake River basin reporting that cloud seeding generators were in operation in November and December, and so far there had been a combined run time of approximately 380 hours amongst all the generators. He also indicated that four new remote operated generators were in use for the 2013 water year.

1. Dale Swenson inquired as to when we could expect some good snow fall events. John responded that near term climate forecasts were predicting that the current high pressure system would be in effect for another 7 to 14 days and after that "who knows".

3:40 PM – Mat Weaver gave a brief recap as to the status of the Board's applications for ground water recharge in the upper Snake River basin indicating modifications of the applications would be completed and they would be resubmitted to the Department by January 15, 2013.

3:45 PM – Mat Weaver called for any new or additional business, none was presented. The group discussed the scheduling of the next committee meeting tentatively targeting the afternoon of Thursday March 7, 2013. However, the group requested that an email go out at the end of February confirming that March 7 was still appropriate. The meeting was adjourned following the coordination of the next meeting.