

Abbreviated Meeting Notes 6-15
Water District 01
Upper Snake River Advisory Meeting, June 25th, 2015

Notes: This meeting was held jointly in the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) Eastern Regional Office and State Office, with participants free to join either location to participate in person. There was also an 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:**

Brian Patton (IDWR)	Jerry Gregg (USBR)
Wesley Hipke (IDWR)	Roland Springer (USBR)
Roger Chase (IWRB)	Lynn Tominaga (IGWA)
Walt Poole (IDFG)	John Simpson (Barker Rosholt)
Jon Bowling (IPCO)	Teresa Molitor (GFCC)
Sarah Higan (IPCO)	Marie Kellner (ICL)
Dale Swenson (FMID)	Bob Zimmer
Steve Howser (ASCC)	Liz Cresto (IDWR)
Lyle Swank (WD01)	Sean Vincent (IDWR)
Tony Olenchiak (WD01)	David Hoekema (IDWR)
Mike Beus (USBR)	

2. **Mike Beus, with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR):**

When the group last meet the reservoir system was at 89%, the system peaked at 91% and is currently at 84%. Overall, the system peaked early and receded rapidly. When looking at past years the pattern during dry years is for early demand and an earlier than normal peak, whereas, during wet years the peak is later and there is reduced demand. The precipitation events in the later part of May reduced demand therefore allowing more storage to occur. This year's trend matches 2012 relatively closely, suggesting that there will be sufficient water to meet demand if the trend continues. The weather forecast suggests hotter temperatures in the near term with precipitation being normal with the potential of increased precipitation 30 days out.

3. **Lyle Swank, Water District 01 Water Master:**

A general discussion on comparison of the current year with 2010 (a wet year) and 2007 (dry year). Overall, the demand and runoff has been 2 to 3 weeks earlier than normal. The current year is at least as good as the driest years, on track with 2012, however, at this time the reservoir levels are dropping quicker than in 2012. Fall River is at or below the dry years, whereas the flow at Spring Creek is above the mean and median. Dale Swenson mentioned that 75 cfs was being released from Grassy Reservoir and should be at the Silk by the next day. Concerning flow past Milner the USBR will be complete with mitigation flows by June 26th.

4. **Jon Bowling, Idaho Power:**

Jon Bowling related that they would not be continuing with 1,500 cfs from Brownlee Reservoir as the USBR come up with additional water out of the Payette and Boise systems to meet their requirements. Idaho Power will continue on their work at the Milner Pool and Shoshone Falls facilities. Idaho Power is looking for additional water at this time.

5. **David Hoekema, IDWR – Swan Falls Update:**

David provided an overview of the Swan Falls Agreement monitoring requirements. At the Murphy gage below Swan Falls Dam, the minimum flow during the irrigation season is 3,900 cfs and 5,600 cfs during the non-irrigation season. The adjusted average daily flow (AADF) is used to determine if the requirements are being met. The AADF is the flow past the Murphy gage with the fluctuations caused by Idaho Power operations removed.

Overall, the flow at the Murphy gage has been low since not meeting the minimum flows in March. Mitigation flows through the later portion of May and early June have kept the AADF well above the minimum flows. Since the end of mitigation flows, current conditions show the AADF between the minimum of record and the 10th percentile (1981-2014). The low trend is also depicted in the Snake River reach gain between Milner to Murphy and the reach gain from King Hill to Murphy. The stream gage at Box Canyon near Wendell Idaho can be used as a representative for the Eastern Snake River Plain aquifer. The current data from Box Canyon show the flows to be the lowest since 1991, however, this is in part due to a change in the rating curve so therefore it cannot be compared directly to previous flows. Other creeks in the vicinity generally show lower flows than most years since 1991. Mike Beus mentioned that the lows are normally the first of July to mid-July and there could be an earlier recovery since the system as a whole started earlier than most years.

6. **New Business:**

The group discussed the timing for the next meeting. It was decided to set the next meeting sometime between mid-September and mid-October.