



# IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

**Brad Little**  
*Governor*

**Jeff Raybould**  
*Chairman*  
St. Anthony  
At Large

**Jo Ann Cole-Hansen**  
*Vice Chair*  
Lewiston  
At Large

**Dean Stevenson**  
*Secretary*  
Paul  
District 3

**Dale Van Stone**  
Hope  
District 1

**Albert Barker**  
Boise  
District 2

**Brian Olmstead**  
Twin Falls  
At Large

**Marcus Gibbs**  
Grace  
District 4

**Patrick McMahon**  
Sun Valley  
At Large

## MINUTES MEETING NO. 7-25

Best Western University Inn  
Silver Conference Room  
1516 Pullman Road  
Moscow

May 22, 2025

**Work Session**

### **Agenda Item No. 1: Roll Call**

Chairman Raybould called the work session meeting to order at 9:32 AM (PT) in Moscow, Idaho. The meeting was livestreamed on the Board's YouTube Channel online. Board members present were Al Barker, Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, Marcus Gibbs, Patrick McMahon, Brian Olmstead, Dean Stevenson, Dale Van Stone, and Chairman Jeff Raybould.

IDWR staff members present were: Brian Patton, Cynthia Bridge Clark, Wesley Hipke, John Loffredo, Neeley Miller, Michelle Richman, Evan Roda, and Jennifer Strange. Erik Boe was online.

Guests present were: Ann Yribar, David Hall, Barney Metz, Bill Maughan, David Watkins, Adam Rushold, John Williams, Tyler Palmer, and Bobby Hills.

### **Agenda Item No. 2: Idaho Water Transactions Program**

John Loffredo discussed the water transactions program that supports the lower Lemhi River minimum stream flow. He highlighted emerging issues with the diversion infrastructure. A collaborative effort to identify options for repair, replacement, and consolidation of the diversion infrastructure was mentioned.

### **Agenda Item No. 3: Adjudication Update**

Evan Roda provided a program update and status on active adjudications throughout the state.

### **Agenda Item No. 4: Northern Regional Manager Update**

Michelle Richman highlighted priorities for the Northern Region. There was discussion on the operations and management of Priest Lake, including the determination of wet and dry years and the impact on lake levels.

**Agenda Item No. 5: Administrative Rules Update**

Erik Boe provided a brief recap of meetings held and the upcoming schedule for rulemaking efforts.

**Agenda Item No. 6: Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee Project Update**

Tyler Palmer with the City of Moscow and PBAC provided an update on the project. They selected HDR Engineering as the consultant and the scope of the project was detailed. He highlighted the importance of cooperation with regional partners and the potential impact on the Palouse Basin Aquifer.

**Agenda Item No. 7: Lewiston Orchard Exchange Project Update**

Barney Metz introduced his team for the Clearwater River Pump Station Project. He provided history and project objectives. Bobby Hills discussed the Nez Perce tribe’s interest in the project. David Watkins with JUB discussed concept design. The site for the Board tour was highlighted. The project cost estimates have increased to around \$55M.

**Agenda Item No. 8: Non-Action Items for Discussion**

There were no other items for discussion.

**Agenda Item No. 11: Adjourn**

Ms. Cole-Hansen moved to adjourn. Mr. Stevenson seconded. Voice vote. All in favor. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:20 PM.

The board broke for lunch at 12:30 PM. Then the group departed for a field trip to the Lewiston Orchard Exchange Project near Lewiston.

May 23, 2025  
**Board Meeting No. 7-25**

At 8:01 AM (PT) Chairman Raybould called the meeting to order in Moscow, Idaho. The meeting was livestreamed on the Board’s YouTube Channel online upon adjournment of the executive session.

**Agenda Item No. 1: Roll Call**

*Board Members Present*

- Albert Barker
- Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, Vice Chairman
- Marcus Gibbs
- Patrick McMahan
- Brian Olmstead
- Dean Stevenson, Secretary
- Dale Van Stone
- Jeff Raybould, Chairman

*Staff Members Present*

- Mathew Weaver
- Cynthia Bridge Clark
- John Loffredo

- Brian Patton
- Neeley Miller

- Wesley Hipke
- Jennifer Strange

*Staff Members Present Online*  
Mike Morrison

Justin Ferguson

Meghan Carter

*Guests Present*

Ann Yribar

John Williams

Brian Murdock

Alan Jackson

Mitch Silver

Roopal Jani

*Guests Online*

Connie Christensen

Tony Dixey

Doug Jones

Dylan Anderson

Kassidy Telford

Adam Young

**Agenda Item No. 2: Executive Session**

At 8:02 AM, Mr. Stevenson moved to resolve into executive session pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206(1) subsection (f) to communicate with legal counsel regarding legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated and pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206(1) subsection (d) to consider records that are exempt from disclosure. Mr. Van Stone seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

Meghan Carter spoke on Priest Lake litigation. Ann Yribar spoke on Anderson Ranch water right 63-34753.

Mr. Stevenson moved to resolve out of executive session at 8:55 AM. Ms. Cole-Hansen seconded. Voice vote. All in favor. The motion carried. The executive session was closed to the public, and no actions were taken during the executive session.

**Agenda Item No. 3: Agenda and Approval of Minutes 5-25 and 6-25**

The agenda and minutes for meetings 5-25 and 6-25 were available for approval. There were no changes to the agenda. Mr. Barker moved to make an edit to the 6-25 minutes. Mr. Stevenson seconded. Voice vote. All in favor. The motion carried.

Mr. McMahon moved to approve the minutes for meetings 5-25 and for meeting 6-25 with the edits recommended by Mr. Barker. Mr. Stevenson seconded. Voice vote. All in favor. The motion carried.

**Agenda Item No. 4: Public Comment**

John Williams provided updates on Bonneville Power Administration.

Brian Murdock, a farmer in Blackfoot, had concerns about how the \$30M allocation was being distributed. He further had comments about the State Water Plan and water storage options.

**Agenda Item No. 5: Financial Report**

Neeley Miller provided the Board's financial report. The accounts as of March 31, 2025, were: Secondary Aquifer Fund: cash balance \$39,539,343, committed \$31,529,753, and uncommitted balance \$8,009,590; Revolving Development Account: cash balance \$37,487,302, committed balance \$26,692,116, loan principal outstanding and other obligations \$20,695,419, and uncommitted balance \$10,795,186; and Water Management Account: cash balance \$319,849,883, total obligated funds \$305,999,536, and unobligated funds \$13,850,347. Total committed/earmarked/obligated but not

disbursed \$364,221,405; total loan principal outstanding \$20,695,419; and total uncommitted/unobligated balance \$32,655,123.

ARPA appropriations: received per HB 769 is \$100,000,000; received per SB 1181 is \$24,497,544; received per SB1411 (2024) \$75,502,456; total received: \$200,00,000. Total obligated \$250,000,000; expended \$125,591,052; committed balance \$134,186,035.

**Agenda Item No. 6: Idaho Water Transactions Program**

John Loffredo discussed a draft resolution to make a funding commitment in the matter of the Lower Lemhi River permanent subordination agreements for water rights nos. 74-324K, 74-326C, 74-328C, 74-804, and 74-15444.

Mr. Mc Mahon moved to adopt the resolution. Mr. Van Stone seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahan, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

**Agenda Item No. 7: Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Resilience Project**

Mike Morrison provided a project status update. He said the Air Force was unable to receive the hand-off for the facility by the project deadline of July 1. He said the delay was related to some paperwork not yet filed by the Air Force. He shared images of the pump rooms and information on the completed work.

**Agenda Item No. 8: ESPA Telemetry and Monitoring Grant Awards**

Justin Ferguson reviewed a draft resolution to provide funding for ESPA telemetry and monitoring grant awards. The same had been recommended by the Finance Committee meeting on May 16, 2025.

Mr. Stevenson moved to adopt the resolution to award grants in attachment A in an amount not to exceed \$566,504.43. Mr. Olmstead seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Barker, abstain to avoid conflict; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahan, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, abstain to avoid conflict; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, abstain to avoid conflict. 5 ayes. The motion passed.

**Agenda Item No. 9a: Regional Water Sustainability List: ESPA Regional Water Sustainability Project**

Cynthia Bridge Clark discussed a recommendation from the Finance Committee to add an ESPA Regional Water Sustainability Project to the Regional Water Sustainability List. It also recommended the creation of specific ESPA RWSP activities to receive funding from the IWRB's Water Management Account to expedite development of water infrastructure, including but not limited to, programs and specific projects that support Surface Water Coalition measuring and monitoring capabilities, ESPA recharge infrastructure, ESPA groundwater to surface water conversion projects, and surface water operational efficiencies

Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution. Mr. McMahan seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahan, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

**Agenda Item No. 9b: Regional Water Sustainability List Criteria**

Neeley Miller discussed proposed criteria updates for the Regional Water Sustainability List. The same was recommended by the Finance Committee. He highlighted the proposed changes.

Mr. Gibbs moved to adopt the resolution with the attached updated criteria. Mr. Van Stone seconded. Voice vote. All in favor. The motion carried.

Mr. Doug Jones provided an update on a Regional Water Sustainability List project. He spoke on the Lost Valley Reservoir dam project. He stated that the Forest Service provided approval. Mr. Barker suggested that a copy of the squirrel report be submitted to staff.

**Agenda Item No. 10: FY26 Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management, and Implementation Fund Budget**

Neeley Miller briefed the board that the Finance Committee had recommended the attached FY 2026 Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management, and Implementation Fund budget. He discussed the line items and walked through the resolution.

Mr. McMahon moved to adopt the resolution with the attached budget. Ms. Cole-Hansen seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

**Agenda Item No. 11: Water Management Account Spending Plan FY 2026**

Cynthia Bridge Clark discussed a draft resolution to approve Water Management Account Spending Plan for Fiscal Year 2026. The Finance Committee had recommended the attached spending plan which incorporates the \$30 million ongoing appropriation authorized under House Bill 445, enacted during the 2025 legislative session. The legislation includes specific direction for FY 2026, requiring that the funds support implementation of the 2024 Stipulated Mitigation Plan entered into by surface and ground water users on the Eastern Snake Plain. Additionally, it mandates that fifty percent (50%) of the appropriation for water projects be allocated to Board District 3 and fifty percent (50%) to Board District 4 in FY 2026.

Mr. Olmstead moved to adopt the resolution with the attached FY 2026 spending plan. Ms. Cole-Hansen seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

**Agenda Item No. 12: ESPA Recharge Program**

Wesley Hipke provided an update on the board's recharge program, including current activities and future recharge plans. The current recharge was 131,016 acre-feet.

He discussed a project proposal from Bingham Ground Water District in an amount up to \$2,500,000. There was some discussion on the terms of the proposal. Alan Jackson answered questions about the terms. Connie Christensen was available on Zoom and suggested the project would provide stability. Mr. Barker asked if there was a contract. Mr. Patton explained the resolution would provide conditions for a contract.

Chairman Raybould proposed a motion to authorize the funding of \$2.5 million under the terms and conditions the board has set forth subject to the approval of the Bingham Ground Water District.

Mr. Barker moved to authorize the funding of \$2.5 million under the terms and conditions the board has set forth subject to the approval of the Bingham Ground Water District, with no further action needed upon approval of the District. Mr. Gibbs seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

**Agenda Item No. 13: Cloud Seeding Program**

Brian Patton provided a recap of the Cloud Seeding committee meeting. Public comments were accepted at the meeting. Written comments were also submitted and listed on the website. Mr. Gibbs complimented the presenters at the meeting.

**Agenda Item No. 14a: Criteria Recommendation: Aging Infrastructure Grant**

Neeley Miller highlighted changes in the Aging Infrastructure Grant criteria. He walked through the draft resolution. The updates had been recommended by the Finance Committee.

Ms. Cole-Hansen moved to adopt the resolution with the attached updated criteria. Mr. McMahon seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

**Agenda Item No. 14b: Criteria Recommendation ESPA Ground Water to Surface Water Conversion Grant**

Neeley Miller walked through the criteria for the ESPA Ground Water to Surface Water Conversion Grant program. The Finance Committee had recommended the same.

Ms. Cole-Hansen moved to adopt the resolution to accept the attached criteria and set an application deadline of August 1, 2025. Mr. Stevenson seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

**Agenda Item No. 14c: Criteria Recommendation Surface Water Operational Efficiencies Program**

Justin Ferguson detailed the criteria for a Surface Water Operational Efficiencies Program. The Finance Committee recommended the criteria. The resolution was discussed.

Mr. Stevenson moved to adopt the resolution with the attached criteria for the Surface Water Operational Efficiencies Program. Mr. Van Stone seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

**Agenda Item No. 14d: Criteria Recommendation SWC Measuring and Monitoring Support Grant**

Justin Ferguson highlighted the criteria for a SWC Measuring and Monitoring Support Grant program. He discussed the resolution. The same was recommended by the Finance Committee. The resolution would also open the first round of funding. Applications would be received until the last Friday of September 2025.

Mr. Stevenson moved to adopt the resolution with the attached criteria. Mr. McMahon seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

**Agenda Item No. 15: State Water Plan and ESPA CAMP**

Brian Patton provided a Planning Committee report. The committee met on May 16 to start the process of amending the state water plan and the ESPA CAMP as requested by the legislature in order to increase the state’s ESPA managed recharge target from 250,000 to 350,000 acre-feet annually.

**Agenda Item No. 16: Director’s Report**

Director Weaver spoke about delivery call proceedings and discussed his new title as Acting Administrator for the Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

**Agenda Item No. 17: Non-Action Items for Discussion**

There were no other items for discussion.

**Agenda Item No. 18: Next Meeting and Adjourn**

Mr. Patton stated the next regular meetings would be July 24-25, 2025, in Idaho Falls. Mr. Barker moved to adjourn. Mr. Van Stone seconded. Voice vote. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM (PT).

Respectfully submitted this 25<sup>th</sup> day of July 2025.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dean Stevenson, *Secretary*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Strange, *Administrative Assistant II*