



# IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

## MINUTES MEETING NO. 13-25

Water Center  
Conference Rooms 602 B - D  
322 E. Front Street  
BOISE

October 31, 2025

### Board Meeting No. 13-25

**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

At 1:00 PM (MT) Chairman Raybould called the meeting to order in Boise, Idaho and on Zoom. The meeting was livestreamed on the Board's YouTube Channel after the executive session.

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

##### *Board Members Present*

Jeff Raybould, Chairman  
Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, Vice Chairman  
Al Barker  
Marcus Gibbs, *Online*  
Patrick McMahon, *Online*  
Brian Olmstead, *Online*  
Dean Stevenson, Secretary *Online*  
Dale Van Stone, *Online*

##### *Staff Members Present*

Mat Weaver, *online*  
Brian Patton  
Cynthia Bridge Clark  
Matt Anders  
Mike Morrison  
Nick Banish  
Justin Ferguson  
Wesley Hipke  
Neeley Miller  
Meghan Carter  
Sara Ajeti  
Jennifer Strange

##### *Public Present*

Johnathan Jennings, <i>Online</i>	Steve Stuebrer
Ann Yribar	Scott Pugrud
Lt. Governor Scott Bedke, <i>Online</i>	TJ Budge, <i>Online</i>
Krista Davis	Michael Fuss, Stantec
	Aaron Dalling, <i>Online</i>

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

At 01:01 PM, 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 Mr. Van Barker 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.

Mr. Stevenson moved to resolve out of executive session at 01:14 PM. Mr. Van Stone seconded. **Voice vote:** All in favor. The motion carried. The executive session was closed to the public, and no action was taken during the executive session.

## **Item Added: Public Comment**

At this time, Chairman Raybould called for anyone wishing to make public comment, per the amended agenda.

Brian Murdock with Murdock Farms addressed the Board request that the board table the non-diversion agreement, as he feels that it is not that appropriate time to impose restrictions on said recharge issue.

With no other public comment, Chairman Raybould moved to Agenda Item No. 4.

## **Agenda Item No. 3: Dworshak Small Hydro Power Plant**

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton, introduced the agenda item and advised that Engineer Mike Morrison would be briefing the Board on said item and presenting a resolution for consideration.

Mr. Morrison addressed the Board and provided some background noting that since May 5, 2021, Thompson Construction Group, Inc. (Thompson) has operated the Dworshak Small Hydroelectric Project (Power Plant) for the Board under a five-year contract. On April 25, 2025, Thompson notified the Board that it was terminating its contract with the Board effective October 22. Thompson stated that its decision to terminate the contract was the result of corporate restructuring and a decision to terminate its Idaho operations.

As such, Mr. Morrison advised that staff negotiated a one-year, \$100,000 contract with OAC to continue operating the Power Plant for one year and KME will continue in its current role as OAC's subcontractor and continue operating the Power Plant and perform basic O&M under a purchase order issued by the Board.

Following review and discussion, Chairman Raybould entertained a motion to approve the resolution, as amended, per staff's presentation.

Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution, as amended to Execute an Operation and Maintenance Service Support Agreement with OAC, Inc., in the matter of the Dworshak Small Hydroelectric Project. 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. 4: Measuring and Monitoring Grant Approvals**

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton reported that the Financial Programs Committee (Committee) recommended the IWRB approve the grant awards, as identified in staff's Attachment A and B. Accordingly, the Board is asked to consider a resolution to award funding for the approved IWRB Telemetry & Monitoring grant applications using funds awarded to the IWRB by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), and to temporarily use funds from the Water Management Account to fund these projects, to be reimbursed by Reclamation once the funds become available.

Mr. Patton further advised that said resolution incorporates conditions that no funds will be awarded for the purchase of flowmeters and funding for the Raft River application will be contingent upon the issuance of an order to include the Raft River Basin into the Snake River Plain Aquifer Area of Common Groundwater.

Ms. Cole-Hansen noted that the Committee recommendation condition was to not allow the purchase of replacement flowmeters. Mr. Patton clarified that this is a typo and the final resolution will include that the condition is no replacement flowmeters.

Ms. Cole-Hansen moved to adopt the resolution, as revised by discussion, to Award Funding in the matter of Surface Water Coalition Monitoring Support Grant Program. 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. 5: Flood Management Grants – Supplemental Application Cycle**

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton introduced the item conveying that on October 28, 2025, Financial Programs Committee recommended a supplemental round of funding to utilize remaining funds from the 2025 appropriation. As such, for the Board's consideration is a resolution to approve supplemental round of funding.

Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution to Approve a Supplemental Round of Funding in the matter of Flood Management Grants. Mr. Gibbs seconded. **Voice vote:** All ayes. Motion carried.

#### **Agenda Item No. 6: Cloud Seeding Program**

##### **a. Bear River Project Authorization**

##### **b. High County RC & D Funding Request**

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised that the Cloud Seeding Committee (Committee) reviewed said item and recommended that the Board authorize the State of Utah's request for authorization to conduct cloud seeding operations in the Bear River Basin.

In response to a question from Chairman Raybould regarding overlapping flight patterns over the two basins, Mr. Patton explained that IDWR staff met with representatives from the State of Utah and the contractor, Rainmaker. Cloud Seeding Program Manager Nick Banish reported that the meeting resulted in an agreed-upon path forward reducing conflicts between aircraft and drone operations. Idaho Power Company will conduct its cloud seeding activities using manned aircraft, and Rainmaker will remain in communication with operators and yield to manned aircraft operations.

Following review, Chairman Raybould entertained a motion.

Mr. Stevenson moved to adopt the resolution for Authorization of State of Utah's Northern Utah/Bear River Basin Program in the matter of Cloud Seeding in the State of Idaho. Mr. Gibbs seconded. **Voice vote**: All ayes. Motion carried.

Next, speaking on *6.B., High Country RC & D Funding Request*, Mr. Patton reported that the Committee reviewed this item and recommended the Board approve and authorize the funding request for the High-Country Resource Conservation & Development (HCRCD) for its manual cloud seeding ground program operations for the winter 2025-2026 season.

Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution to Approve Funds for the HCRCD 2025-2026 Cloud Seeding Program in the matter of Cloud Seeding in the State of Idaho. Mr. Gibbs 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: IWRB Recharge Water Right Non-Diversion Agreement**

IWRB Executive Manager Brian Patton reported that this item was reviewed by the Board's Water Supply Management Committee, which considered a proposed managed recharge agreement. The agreement would specify conditions under which the Board would not divert all water available under water rights 017504 and 011609.

As such, Mr. Patton advised that a resolution has been presented to the Board for consideration to approve and execute the Managed Recharge Agreement Not to Divert, as presented in Attachment A in the Board's meeting packet.

At this time, TJ Budge provided comments in relation to the item and presented suggested provisions that could be added to said agreement, with the addition of protections to the Board while also pleasing water users. Continuing, Mr. Budge cited Policy 4a and 4b from the State Water Plan in support of his proposed provisions.

Following Mr. Budge's comments, a discussion ensued. Mr. Barker stated that the 77 cfs reported by Mr. Budge appears to be overstated. Mr. Olmstead added that he supports recharge and believes additional recharge above American Falls is needed; however, he does not see that occurring without the assistance of cloud seeding. The discussion then continued.

Chairman Raybould invited Scott Pugrud to provide comments; whereby, he conveyed that it is his understanding that Mr. Budge noted that the suggested provisions would not impact the agreement *Not to Divert* in relation to the Milner Zero Flow Policy and the Swan Falls Agreement. Interjecting, Legal Counsel Ann Yirbar advised that she has not seen or reviewed the language in question as it was not sent to her for review. The discussion then continued.

Legal Counsel, Ann Yirbar conveyed that an additional two weeks should be sufficient time for additional review of what has been proposed and presented for future Committee recommendation and future Board action.

At this time, Mr. Barker moved to table the item for further review and presentation for action at the November Board meeting. Mr. McMahan seconded. **Voice vote**: All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Agenda Item No. 8: Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Resiliency Project**

- a. **Beneficial Use Notice Letter**
- b. **BLM Easement Transfer**
- c. **Ownership Transfer Agreement**

Addressing the Board, Attorney Meghan Carter reported that presented for the Board's consideration are three action items along with two resolutions related to the Mountain Home Air Force Base Resiliency Project. Ms. Carter advised that a proposed letter has been drafted to J.R. Simplot Company (Simplot) regarding the termination of Simplot's option to repurchase water rights at Snake River. A resolution has been provided for the Board's consideration authorizing to provide Simplot with the identified attachments and notification of the accomplishment of beneficial use.

At this time, Mr. Gibbs shared his comments that he is pleased with this outcome, and it has been a great project to be part of.

Mr. Gibbs moved to adopt the resolution to Issue Written Notice of Accomplishment of Beneficial Use Under the Water Rights Purchase and Sale Agreement Between the Idaho Water Resource Board and the J.R. Simplot Company in the matter of the Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Resilience Project. Mr. Stevenson seconded. **Voice vote**: 7 ayes and 1 abstention from Mr. Barker. Motion carried.

Speaking on *8.B, the BLM Easement Transfer and 8.C. Ownership Transfer*, Ms. Carter reported that a resolution is being presented for the Board's consideration to provide authority to assign property under a right-of-way through the Department of Lands, as the execution of the Water Resiliency Project Operating Agreement with the United States Air Force (USAF).

Ms. Carter noted that although certain details remain pending due to the government shutdown, the final resolution raises no concerns. She reported that it requests that the Chairman execute the assignment of all remaining easements and rights-of-way to the USAF for the Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Sustainability Project.

Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution to Provide Authority to Assign Property and Execute Ownership Conveyance Agreement in the matter of the Mountain Home Air Force Base Sustainable Water Supply Project. 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. 9: Non-Action Items for Discussion**

There were no items to come before the Board.

#### **Agenda Item No. 10: Adjourn**

Mr. Van Stone moved to adjourn. Mr. Mc Mahon seconded. **Voice vote**: All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 02:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.



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Dean Stevenson, *Secretary*



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Milin J. Ream, *Administrative Assistant II*