



# IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

## MINUTES MEETING NO. 12-25

Hilton Garden Inn  
Snake River Room  
1741 Harrison St. North  
TWIN FALLS

September 11, 2025

### WORK SESSION

**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 8:31 AM (MT) Chairman Raybould called the work session meeting to order in Twin Falls, Idaho and on Zoom. The meeting was livestreamed on the Board's YouTube Channel following the Finance Committee meeting.

### Agenda Item No. 1: Roll Call

#### *Board Members Present*

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

#### *Staff Members Present*

Mat Weaver  
Brian Patton  
Cynthia Bridge Clark  
Wesley Hipke  
Corey Skinner  
Jennifer Strange  
Matt Anders, Online  
Justin Ferguson, Online  
Josh Morell, Online  
Neely Miller, Online

#### *Public Present*

Ann Yribar  
Brian Murdock, *Murdock Farms*  
Douglas Jones, *Idaho Water Engineering*  
Ryan Alcorn, *Bureau of Reclamation*  
Scott Pugrd, *Idaho Water Company*  
Krista Davis, *Idaho Water Company*  
John Williams, BPA

Adam Young, *Bingham Ground Water District*  
Linda Lemmon, *Blind Canyon Aquaranch*  
Abbey Bitzenburg, *Parsons, Behie & Latimer*  
Kenneth Skinner, *USGS, Online*  
Paul Thomas, *USGS, Online*  
Alan Jackson  
John Simpson  
Steve Stuebner  
Jay Barlogi

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

At 8:32 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. 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.

Mr. Stevenson moved to resolve out of executive session at 9:39 AM. Mr. McMahon 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.

### **Agenda Item No. 3: Grant Program Update**

Senior Planner Neeley Miller, participating via Zoom, provided the Board with a brief PowerPoint update on the IWRB Grant Program's summer activities. His presentation highlighted the following:

- Flood Management Grants
- Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Grant
- Aging Infrastructure Grants
- Measurement and Monitoring Grants

Following review, Chairman Raybould thanked Mr. Miller for the update.

### **Agenda Item No. 4: Amendment to Resolution 28-2025**

IWRB Executive Manager Brian Patton reported that the resolution in question, under the Surface Water Efficiencies Program, provides funding to the Twin Falls Canal Company which staff has a proposed amendment. He noted that the amendment does not change the funding amount or the project schedule. Rather, it simply reallocates the funds to a different line item within the water management account.

At this time, Project Manager Justin Ferguson provided additional details, by line item, related to staff's proposed amendments to said resolution.

Following review and discussion, Chairman Raybould moved to Agenda Item No. 5.

### **Agenda Item No. 5: USGS Eastern Snake Plan Aquifer Water Quality Study**

Via Zoom, Josh Morell with the IDWR Recharge Team was pleased to showcase the new Recharge Water Quality website to assist in making related data available and transparent for the public.

Following a short question and answer session, Mr. Morell moved to a short background on the IDWR Recharge Program with the goal to stop groundwater level declines. Moreover, he reported that there hasn't been a large-scale regional analysis done on the effects of recharge on water quality on the Eastern Snake Plan Aquifer (ESPA). As such, Recharge Program staff asked USGS to develop a proposal for a water quality analysis, to be published by September 2028, at a total cost to the IWRB for \$311,900.

Next, Mr. Morrell invited Kenneth Skinner and Paul Thomas with USGS who provided deeper detail on the USGS Proposed study – ESPA Recharge Water-Quality Assessment.

Following review and discussion, Chairman Raybould thanked staff for the presentation.

**Agenda Item No. 6: 2026 Regular Meeting Options**

IWRB Executive Manager Brian Patton reported that the Board has been provided with a proposed calendar of 2026 regular meetings for review and discussion, in preparation for a decision at the November 2025 regular meeting

**Agenda Item No. 7: Regional Manager's Report**

Corey Skinner, IDWR Southern Regional Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation update on the Southern Region operations for the Board's information and review.

Following Board questions, Chairman Raybould thanked Mr. Skinner for the presentation update.

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

There was no other business to come before the Board during the work session.

**Agenda Item No. 9: Adjourn**

Chairman Raybould adjourned the meeting at 11:15 AM.

Following lunch, the group departed for a field trip to tour Twin Falls Canal Company Facilities.

September 12, 2025  
**Board Meeting No. 12-25**

At 8:30 AM (MT) Chairman Raybould called the meeting to order in Twin Falls, Idaho. The meeting was livestreamed on the Board's YouTube Channel online.

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

*Board Members Present*

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

*Staff Members Present*

Mat Weaver  
Brian Patton  
Cynthia Bridge Clark  
Wesley Hipke  
Jennifer Strange  
Amy Cassel, Online  
Justin Ferguson, Online  
Josh Morell, Online  
Neeley Miller, Online

*Guests Present*

Clay Nannini  
John Jeser  
Gerald Tews  
Brian Murdock, *Murdock Farms*  
John Williams, *Bonneville Power Administration*  
Vince Alberdi  
Dan Davidson, *Minidoka Irrigation District*  
Shawna Adams, *Minidoka Irrigation District*  
Will Patterson, *Nampa Meridian Irrigation District*  
Greg Curtis, *Nampa Meridian Irrigation District*  
Mark Murphy, *Pleasant Valley*  
Jenny Murphy, *Pleasant Valley*  
Carol Pacheco, *Pleasant Valley*  
Mona Nell, *Pleasant Valley*

## **Agenda Item No. 2: Agenda and Approval of Minutes 9-25, 10-25, 3-25, and 11-25**

The agenda and minutes for meetings 9-25, 10-25, 3-25, and 11-25 were available for approval. There were no changes to the agenda or minutes, as presented. Mr. McMahon moved to approve the minutes for meetings 9-25, 10-25, 3-25, and 11-25. Mr. Stevenson seconded. **Voice Vote**. all ayes. The motion passed.

## **Agenda Item No. 3: Public Comment**

At this time, Chairman Raybould called for anyone wishing to speak during public comment.

Clay Nannini shared comments related to concerns he and his community have with respect to the Twin Falls Canal Company's (TFCC) canal lining project and the impacts of water seepage loss on domestic wells.

Next, John Jeser addressed the Board to also comment on the TFCC lining project and potential loss of seep water downstream impacting cattle ranchers, streamflow's, and the 100-acre wildlife refuge below the canal.

Gerald Tews provided comments to the Board, addressing his concerns about seep water loss due to the TFCC lining project and for the Board to hold their project funding.

Next speaker for public comment was Brian Murdock with Murdock Farms. Mr. Murdock commented that he agrees with the need for extra water storage and spoke about a petition he gathered signatures for Senator Cook to support the Upper Snake Basin study proposal.

Next, John Williams provided comment updates related to the Bonneville Power Administration.

Concluding, Mark Murphy and Vince Alberdi also addressed the Board with comments on the TFCC lining project with water loss concerns due to seepage loss.

## **Agenda Item No. 4: Financial Report**

Senior Planner Neeley Miller, by way of Zoom, provided the Board's financial report. The accounts as of June 30, 2025, were: Secondary Aquifer Fund: cash balance \$38,775,764, committed \$29,249,559, and uncommitted balance \$9,526,204; Revolving Development Account: cash balance \$37,669,386, committed balance \$26,341,564, loan principal outstanding and other obligations \$21,049,378, and uncommitted balance \$11,327,822; and Water Management Account: cash balance \$318,581,663, total obligated funds \$302,101,113, and unobligated funds \$16,480,550. Total obligated \$250,000,000; total expended \$128,455,484; and total remaining committed balance \$131,321,602.

## **Agenda Item No. 5: Water Management Account Spending Plan**

Planning and Projects Bureau Chief Cynthia Bridge Clark provided the Board for consideration amendments to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Water Management Account Spending Plan, by way of a resolution.

Ms. Clark reported that the Finance Committee reviewed proposed amendments to the FY 2026 plan to incorporate funding for new proposed projects and Governor Little's Executive Order No. 2025-05 requiring all agencies to reduce their General Fund Spending authority on file in the Office of the State Controller by 3 percent for their FY 2026 General Fund Appropriations.

Following review of the Water Management account's programs and grants, Ms. Clark pointed out that the Amended FY 2026 Spending Plan exhibit outlines the Interest Earned State Treasury (as of August 31, 2025) totaled \$32,041,741. She also noted that the Spending Plan further acknowledges the Board has committed funds from the ongoing \$30 million appropriation (HB 445) with application to the Twin Falls Canal Company Operations and Efficiency Project for approximately \$15 million FY 2027- FY 2033.

Continuing, Ms. Clark reviewed the resolution language for the amended Spending Plan capturing the Board's actions.

Ms. Cole-Hansen moved to adopt the resolution to Amend Water Management Account Spending Plan for Fiscal Year 2026 in the matter of the Idaho Water Resource Board's Water Management Account. Mr. 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.

#### **Agenda Item No. 6: Secondary Fund Budget**

Very similar to the Water Management Account, IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised that the Governor's 3 percent holdback has a similar effect to the Secondary Fund Budget. Mr. Patton introduced Water Projects Section Manager Wesley Hipke to provide a briefing.

Mr. Hipke provided a presentation update on the proposed amendment to the Secondary Aquifer Fund for Fiscal year 2026 Budget as reviewed by the Finance Committee. He noted the changes, in Attachment A, highlighting that the \$5 million from the general fund was reduced by 3 percent holdback, along with other line-item changes for Treasure Valley, additions to the ESPA Recharge Program, an added line for \$115,00 under Hydrology for a statewide stream peak flow study, and lastly a reduction in the Cloud Seeding Program budget.

With no further review or discussion, Chairman Raybould entertained a motion from the Board.

Mr. Stevenson moved to adopt the resolution to Amend the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget in the matter of Amending the Statewide Water Sustainability and Aquifer Stabilization, and the Secondary Aquifer Stabilization, and Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management, and Implementation Fund Fiscal Year 2026 Budget. 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. 7: Amendment to Resolution 28-2025**

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton explained that the subject resolution was discussed during the work session meeting and proposed an amendment related to funding for the Twin Falls Canal Company (TFCC) project. He clarified that the amendment does not change the total amount of funding approved or the schedule under which TFCC receives the funds. Instead, it changes where the funding is taken within the line-item categories in the Board's Water Management Account.

Mr. Stevenson moved to adopt the resolution to Authorize Funding for Costs Related to Canal Lining, Monitoring Equipment Installation, and System Improvements, in the Matter of the Twin Falls Canal Company Surface Water Efficiency Program Funding Request. 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. 8: Regional Sustainability Water Project Proposals**

**a. Milner Dam Rehabilitation Project**

**b. Nampa Meridian Irrigation District – Ridenbaugh Canal Diversion Modernization Project**

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton introduced the agenda item that two proposals are presented on the docket for the Board’s consideration.

Providing a recap, via Zoom, Project Manager Justin Ferguson conveyed that Milner Dam Inc. (MDI) submitted a Milner Dam Rehabilitation Project (Project) proposal for inclusion in the Board’s Regional Water Sustainability Priority (RSP) List to rehabilitate the existing emergency spillway. He further explained that the project would include restoring damaged concrete at the emergency spillway, installing improved decking, and redesigning and rebuilding the plunge pool downstream.

Reporting on the current cost at \$9,065,000; however, Mr. Ferguson conveyed that further design work is necessary before construction can begin. As such, MDI is requesting \$1,500,000 in Regional Water Sustainability funding to support the ongoing design work for the Project. The resolution presented for the Board’s consideration will add MDI to the RSP List and secondly approve the additional 1.5 million to assist them through the initial design phase of the Project.

Following review of the subject resolution, and the changes identified per staff, Chairman Raybould entertained a motion from the Board.

Mr. Olmstead moved to adopt the resolution, as amended, for Agenda Item 8.a., Updating the List & Award Funding to Milner Dam Inc., in the matter of Regional Water Sustainability List. 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.

**b. Nampa Meridian Irrigation District – Ridenbaugh Canal Diversion Modernization Project**

Moving on to Agenda Item 8.b., Senior Planner Neeley Miller, via Zoom, provided a brief recap on the Nampa Meridian Irrigation District (NMID)– Ridenbaugh Canal Diversion Modernization Project (Project) and corresponding resolution. Mr. Miller reported that the MID is requesting funding to replace, modernize, and automate the NMID’s Boise River diversion and headworks. Total costs for this Project are \$20,903,292 and NMID is requesting Regional Water Sustainability funding in the amount of \$9,169,047.

Following review and discussion, a representative with the NMID addressed the Board to extend their gratitude and thanks for the Board’s consideration of its Project.

Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution, as amended, for Agenda Item 8.b., Update the List & Award Regional Water Sustainability funding to Nampa & Meridan Irrigation District for Ridenbaugh Diversion Modernization Project. In the matter of Regional Water sustainability List. 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.

At this time, Jason Brown provided a very brief informational update on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's annual inspection at Milner Dam.

**Agenda Item No. 9: Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Grant Awards**

With a recommendation from the Finance Committee, Senior Planner Neeley Miller, via Zoom, presented for the Board's consideration to approve round two grant awards and as identified in the subject proposed resolution and corresponding attachment listing the 15 projects.

Mr. Van Stone moved to adopt the resolution to Award Funds in the matter of Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Grants. Mr. McMahon seconded. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, abstain; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 7 ayes. The motion passed.

At this time, Chairman Raybould called for a seven-minute comfort break.

Reconvening, Chairman Raybould moved to the next order of business, Agenda Item No. 10.

**Agenda Item No. 10: Upper Snake River Basin Study Proposal**

Planning and Projects Bureau Chief Cynthia Bridge Clark introduced the agenda item with some background and invited Michael Hilliard, Assistant Area Manager with the Bureau of Reclamation and Shawna Adams, Project Manager with the Minidoka Irrigation District to continue the presentation.

Addressing the Board, Mr. Hilliard provided a PowerPoint (PP) presentation on what a basin study is, which provided a highlight review on:

- What Basin Studies Do Not Do
- Basic Components of a Basin Study
- High-Level Requirements (Defined Study Area, Period of Performance, and Cost-Share)
- High-Level Considerations
- Basin Study Focus Areas

Continuing, Ms. Adams provided a review of the Anticipated Outcomes and Impacts of the Basin Study for the Board's review and consideration.

Following review and discussion, Chairman Raybould entertained a motion from the Board.

Mr. Barker moved to Approve and Authorize the Chairman to draft and submit a Letter of Support of Participation in the Case of the Upper Snake River Basin Study under the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Program. Mr. Olmstead seconded. **Voice Vote.** all ayes. The motion passed.

**Agenda Item No. 11: Marsh Center Irrigating Company Loan Request**

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton provided a brief report on the agenda item. Mr. Patton advised that said item was discussed in detail at the Finance Committee meeting earlier in the week. Presented for the Board's consideration is a resolution with a two-year bridge loan as the Marsh Center Irrigating Company await their Natural Resources Conservation Service funding.

Mr. Gibbs moved to adopt the resolution to Authorize Loan Funding for Costs Related to Delivery System Infrastructure Repairs and Improvements. In the matter of the Marsh Center Irrigating Company Loan Request. 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. 12: USGS Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Water Quality Study**

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton, reported that said item was provided in detail at the work session, with a proposed Water Quality Study for the Board's consideration by way of a resolution.

Following review, Chairman Raybould entertained a motion.

Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution to Approve Funds from the Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management, and Implementation Fund and Provide Signatory Authority. In the matter of the United States Geological Survey Recharge Water Quality Study. 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. 13: Bear River**

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised that a resolution is being presented for the Board's consideration for approval of funding for the Bear River Basin studies/facilities in partnership with the state of Utah. Moreover, Mr. Patton explained that the state of Utah would be the lead in contracting consultants and the IWRB would enter into agreement with the state of Utah.

Mr. Patton noted that the expenditure amount in the resolution states \$850,000 from the Water Management Account. However, this may be updated depending on Utah's proposal for up to \$1.1 million for further evaluation studies of the Bear River Basin.

Mr. Gibbs moved to adopt the resolution to Approve Funding for the Bear River Basin. In the matter of the Bear River Basin, with the amendment for the amount up to \$1.1 Million. 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. 14: Directors Report**

Director Mat Weaver provided the Board with an update on the Governors Executive Order with respect to a 3 percent holdback to improving government efficiency and reducing government spending. Next, Mr. Weaver reviewed open positions and recruitment status followed by travel reporting and a fiscal update.

To conclude, he provided a briefing on curtailment and enforcement activities.

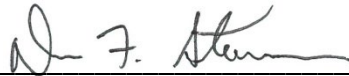
**Agenda Item No. 15: Non-Action Items for Discussion**

Following a brief update from Mr. Barker, Chairman Raybould continued to Agenda Item No. 16.

**Agenda Item No. 16: Next Meeting & Adjourn**

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton, reported that the next regular meeting is calendared for November 20-21, 2025. Mr. Van Stone moved to adjourn. Mr. Mc Mahon seconded. **Voice vote**: All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:05 AM.

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*