

Swan Falls Implementation Group Meeting

Tuesday, July 7, 2026; 1:30 pm

IDWR State Office 6th Floor Conference Rooms

Meeting Notes

1. Welcome & Introductions

- a. In Attendance: Brian Patton, Jennifer Sukow, Nick Miller, Garrick Baxter, John Simpson, Jeff Raybold, Matt Weaver, Hannah Adams, Ethan Geisler, Megan Jenkins, Brent Carlson, Cynthia Bridge Clark, Kara Ferguson, Kelly Keene, Craig Tesh, Garrett Hensly, Steve Powers, Kellie Smith, Craig Saxton, Scott Pugrud, Kresta Davis.
- b. Online: Jaxon Higgs, Remington Buyer, David Claiborne, Joy Vega, Michael Orr, Scott Storms, Ann Yribar, Francis Roy, Sophia Sigstedt, Courtine Dawson, Scott King, Iralene Waterhouse, Arnold Appeney, Emma George, Nate Fisher

2. AADF Update – Hannah Adams, IDWR

- a. 6-day shortfall in late March/early April; 1,992 AF. Currently sitting at 4,312 cfs as of yesterday.
- b. Late June precipitation brought flow up, above the minimum.
- c. Overview of Winter and Spring Forecast. Winter Forecast 3,974 cfs July 3rd, Spring Forecast 3,778 cfs occurred on July 1. The rain event helped and kept us in the range. But still on the decline.
- d. Discussion of effects on storm that came through, specifically on Box Canyon.

3. Swan Falls Forecast Tool Background – Ethan Geisler, IDWR

- a. Updated and adapted from CH2M Hill's 2017 Swan Falls Forecast tool. Updated by Swan Falls TWG in 2020 and calibrated with ESPAM. Manual for the Milner to Murphy Reach Gain Forecast Tool Version 1.1 is available on-line. Review of timeline for the SFFT.
- b. Has been recalibrated to ESPAM 2.2.
- c. Reviewed input data and tool calibration and recalibration process. There is ongoing calibration (ESPAM 2.3). Any updates will go through the TWG for suggestions and review.
- d. Garrick asked about the recalibration and when it occurs. Ethan provided that the recalibration is triggered by a new ESPAM model. Non ESPA components are adjusted each year.
- e. Hope to ESPAM3 recalibration done in 2027.

4. Impacts of Trust Water Diversions on the Snake River Below Milner Dam

(Questions #2 – 4) - Jennifer Sukow, IDWR

- a. Lots of questions regarding impacts on flows from various types of water use. Presentation on the Evaluation of trust water use impact on Snake River below Milner Dam. Originally done November 15, 2022.
- b. Q #2: Analyze impacts of ESPA groundwater trust water rights to the Snake River below the Minder Dam. Went over assumptions that were made for the report. Discussion of the impact of the various trust water uses. Discussion of domestic water and stock water use and the inability to measure that use as there is nothing

to curtail. Will talk with the TWG regarding domestic and stock water use and how much they use.

- c. Q #3 – Analyze impacts of groundwater trust water rights not located on the ESPA to the Snake River below the Milner Dam. No questions or comments.
- d. Q #4- Analyze the impacts of surface water trust water right diversions to the Snake River below the Milner Dam. Impact will depend on how often and what time of year water is available to fill these water rights. Sophia Sigstedt suggested tying together questions #2 through #4 in terms of impacts and cfs that are calculated and targets presented and should be tied together with Question 5.
- e. Director: to re-cap, the 5 Questions have been answered by the TWG. Thank you to that group for their work.

5. Letter from Governor Little to the Idaho Water Resource Board – Brian Patton, IDWR

- a. Patton gives overview of the letter to the group. June 22, 2026, IPC sent a letter to Gov. Little proposing trust water rights not be curtailed.
 - i. IWRB acquire enough storage to replace any shortfalls – up to 5,900 acre feet;
 - ii. All remaining water rights were to be incorporated into watermaster administration; (Weaver)
 - iii. A mitigation plan be developed in which Trust Water Right holders can participate. (IWRB)
- b. Governor tasked the Board with leading the effort to develop a mitigation plan.

- i. The board plans to meet with interested parties and put together a coalition to put together a mitigation plan.
- ii. IPC asks about a timeline for a plan. The Gov. did not specify a timeline, but that he would like it done as soon as possible. Chair Raybould – we'll move as fast and efficiently as possible. Will depend on how quickly a group can be identified and formed, and how quickly the mitigation plan group can bring a plan to the Department. IPC would like a permanent plan in place by spring of 2027.
- iii. Would like to have a temporary plan in place for 2026 and something more definite by 2027. It will depend upon the makeup of the group and how fast they can come up with a plan.
- iv. The resources of the department will be at the disposal of the group. Need to get the Trust Water Rights in a water district (this will probably take several years). Also need to get all the tributary basins to the Eastern Snake Plain into water districts (this is a 10 year plan).

6. Next Meeting discussion.

- a. 1:30 August 11th.