IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

MINUTES
MEETING NO. 6-26

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

May 21, 2026
Board Meeting No. 6-26

At 08:00 AM (MT) Chairman Raybould called the meeting to order in Boise, Idaho and on Zoom. The meeting was live streamed on the Board's YouTube Channel after the executive session

<u>Agenda Item No. 1: Roll Call</u>

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

IDWR Staff Members Present
Mathew Weaver, Director
Brian Patton, IWRB Executive Manager/IDWR Deputy Director
Shelley Keen, Deputy Director
Garrett Hensley, Legal
Kensie Garn, Legal
Cynthia Bridge Clark
Scott King
Wesley Hipke
Ethan Gisler
Matt Anders
Craig Tesh
Kara Ferguson
Heidi Smith
Mike Morrison
Justin Ferguson
Mary Condon
Neeley Miller
Milin Ream

Others Present:
Ann Yribar, AG's Office
Erik Olsen, Chairman, Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Loretta Strickland, Ag Program Manager, Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Amber Worthington, Deputy Director – Programs and Policy, Idaho Fish and Game, *Online*
Shawna Adams, Project Manager, Minidoka Irrigation District, *Online*
Don Terry, Manager, Burley Irrigation District, *Online*
Steve Stuebner
Brian Murdock, Murdock Farms

Agenda Item No. 2: Executive Session

At 8:03 AM, Mr. Stevenson moved to resolve into executive session pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1) subsection (d) to consider records that are exempt from disclosure as provided in Chapter 1, Title 74, Idaho Code. Topic: Stream Channel Alteration Permit No. S37-20565 AND 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. Topic: Water Right Application No. 63-34753. 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.

Mr. Stevenson moved to resolve out of executive session at 9:00 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: Stream Channel Alternation Permit No. S37-20565

Following executive session, IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised the item presented for the Board is a draft order in relation to S37-20565 for the Board's consideration.

Chairman Raybould entertained a motion in relation to the Agenda item.

Mr. McMahon moved to approve Board affirming the Hearing Officer's order in the matter of Stream Channel Alternation Permit No. S37-20565. 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. 4: Agenda and Approval of Minutes No. 5-26

The agenda and minutes for Meeting No. 5-26 were presented for approval. One change was made to the agenda: Item 7A, an informational presentation by George Hitz Deputy District Director with the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission, will not be presented at today's meeting. In addition, one edit was made to the draft minutes for Meeting No. 5-26, as discussed.

Mr. Olmstead moved to approve the agenda for Meeting No. 6-26 and the minutes for Meeting No. 5-26, as discussed. Mr. Van Stone seconded. **Voice Vote**. all ayes. The motion passed.

Agenda Item No. 5: Public Comment

At this time, Chairman Raybould called for anyone wishing to address the Board during public comment.

Brian Murdock of Murdock Farms provided comments to the Board. Mr. Murdock extended his thanks to the Board in relation to flow augmentation negotiations with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and inquired on the status of the Upper Snake River Basin Study.

Next, Erik Olson, Chairman for the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission extended his thanks to the Board for the opportunity to attend today's meeting. He further shared how he looks forward to finalizing the merger with the Department of Water Resources to more effectively serve Idaho constituents.

Agenda Item No. 6: Financial Report

IDWR Senior Planner Neeley Miller provided the Board's financial report. The accounts as of March 31, 2026, were: Secondary Aquifer Fund: cash balance $41,694,675, committed $23,022,745, and uncommitted balance $18,671,930; Revolving Development Account: cash balance $35,615,061, committed balance $25,246,995, loan principal outstanding and other obligations $25,981,743, and uncommitted balance $10,368,066; and Water Management Account: cash balance $331,187,923, total obligated funds $335,685,581, and unobligated funds $(4,497,657). Total obligated $250,153,066; total expended $161,181,516; and total remaining committed balance $88,958,309.

Agenda Item No.7B: Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission Water Quality Programs

Loretta Strickland, Ag Program Manager with the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) provided a PowerPoint presentation overview of SWCC's Water Quality Program for Agriculture

Upon conclusion of discussion, Chairman Raybould thanked Ms. Strickland for her presentation and moved to the next agenda item.

Agenda Item No. 8: Big Wood River Water Right Accounting Program Update

Heidi Smith, Hydrologist with IDWR, delivered an informational PowerPoint presentation on the Big Wood Water Right Accounting Project.

Following a review and discussion period, Chairman Raybould thanked Ms. Smith for the information and moved to Agenda Item No. 9.

Agenda Item No. 9: South Fork Snake River Basin Plan

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised that the item and resolution were presented, reviewed, and discussed on May 8, 2026, by the IWRB Planning Committee with a due-pass recommendation for the Board's consideration.

Following Mr. Barkers recap as the Planning Committee Chair, Chairman Raybould entertained a motion from the Board.

Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution acknowledging the updated environmental assessment. 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. 10: Loan Application – Dalton Water Association
IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised the item and resolution were presented, reviewed, and discussed on May 8, 2026, by the IWRB Finance Committee with a due-pass recommendation for the Board's consideration.

Ms. Cole-Hansen moved to adopt the resolution to Authorize Loan Funding for Costs Related to Transmission Line Repairs in the Matter of the Dalton Water Association Loan Request. Mr. Mc Mahon 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: ESPA Surface Water Coalition Operational Efficiency Program – Minidoka Irrigation District
IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised the item and resolution were presented, reviewed, and discussed by the IWRB Finance Committee on May 8, 2026, with a due-pass recommendation for the Board's consideration.

Mr. Stevenson moved to adopt the resolution to Authorize Funding for Costs Related to the F-Waste Rehabilitation Project in the Matter of the Minidoka Irrigation District Surface Water Coalition Operational Efficiency Program Funding Request. Mr. Olmstead 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: Regional Water Sustainability Priority (RWSP) List
A. Criteria
IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised the item and resolution were presented, reviewed, and discussed in detail on May 8, 2026, by the IWRB Finance Committee with a due-pass recommendation for the Board's consideration.

Addressing the Board, IDWR Water Projects Section Manager Wesley Hipke summarized staff's recommended changes to the RWSP Criteria.

Following Board discussion, Chairman Raybould called for action on the item.

Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution updating criteria in the Matter of the Regional Water Sustainability Priority List. Mr. Mc Mahon seconded. **Voice Vote**. all ayes. The motion passed.

B. Winchester Dam Repair RWSP
IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised the item and resolution were presented, reviewed, and discussed by the IWRB Finance Committee on May 8, 2026, with a due-pass recommendation for the Board's consideration.

Chairman Raybould entertained a motion from the Board.

Mr. Stevenson moved to adopt the resolution to Update the List, Award Funding, and Adopt Terms & Conditions for the Winchester Dam Repair 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.

C. Mountain Home Plateau Aquifer RWSP Funding Request

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised that this item and resolution were presented, reviewed, and discussed in detail on May 8, 2026, by the IWRB Finance Committee with a due-pass recommendation for the Board's consideration.

IDWR Project Manager Supervisor Mary Condon responded to a question from Mr. Barker and advised that the requested funding would support the three projects identified in the resolution: the South Fork River Diversion Project Final Design and NEPA process in the amount of $507,750; the Mountain Home Irrigation District Canal System Alternatives Study in the amount of $158,400; and the Snake River Pipeline and Pump Station Alternatives Study in the amount of $435,000, for a total funding request of $1,101,150.

Ms. Cole-Hansen, (*Finance Committee Chair*), stated that the Finance Committee recommended approval with the understanding that Elmore County (County) remain committed to aquifer stabilization and retain responsibility for the proposed projects until an appropriate entity capable of managing the projects is established. She further noted her appreciation that this commitment had been formalized through the adoption of the County's Resolution No. 948-26.

Ms. Cole Hansen moved to adopt the resolution to award funding and execute associated project contracts in the Matter of the Mountain Home Plateau Aquifer Regional Water Sustainability Program. 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: Grant Program Criteria and Timing

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised the item, and resolutions were presented, reviewed, and discussed in detail by the IWRB Finance Committee on May 8, 2026, with a due-pass recommendation for the Board's consideration.

IDWR Project Manager Supervisor Mary Condon addressed the Board to answer questions and walk through the suggested recommended edits for each of the grant criteria. Following review, the following motions were made:

Mr. McMahon moved to approve the administrative change to grant applications deadlines and timing, as presented. Ms. Cole-Hansen seconded. **Voice Vote**. all ayes. The motion passed.

Mr. Olmstead moved to adopt the resolution approving the revisions to the Aging Infrastructure Grant Criteria, as presented. Mr. Van Stone seconded. **Voice Vote**. all ayes. The motion passed.

Mr. Gibbs moved to adopt the resolution approving the revisions to the Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Grant Criteria, as presented. Mr. Olmstead seconded. **Voice Vote**. all ayes. The motion passed.

Mr. Olmstead moved to adopt the resolution approving the revisions to the Measuring & Monitoring Support Grant Criteria, as presented. Mr. Van Stone seconded. **Voice Vote**. all ayes. The motion passed.

Agenda Item No. 14: Fiscal Year 27 Secondary Aquifer Planning and Management Fund Budget

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised this item, and its corresponding resolution was reviewed, and discussed in detail on May 8, 2026, by the IWRB Finance Committee with a due-pass recommendation for the Board's consideration.

Chairman Raybould inquired any questions from the Board and entertained a motion.

It was moved by Ms. Cole-Hansen to adopt a resolution passing the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget in the Matter of Statewide Water Sustainability and Aquifer Stabilization, and the Secondary Aquifer Planning Management, and Implementation Fund, Fiscal Year 2027 Budget. 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. 15: Fiscal Year 27 Water Management Accounting Spending Plan

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised this item, and its corresponding resolution was reviewed, and discussed in detail on May 8, 2026, by the IWRB Finance Committee with a due-pass recommendation for the Board's consideration.

IDWR Planning and Projects Bureau Chief Cynthia Bridge Clark addressed the Board to review the Water Management Account Spending Plan in greater detail and to present the proposed resolution for the Board's consideration.

After consideration of the matter, Mr. Van Stone made the following motion:

Mr. Van Stone moved to adopt the resolution to approve a fiscal year 2027 Water Management Account Spending Plan in the Matter of the Idaho Water Resource Board's Water Management Account. 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. 16: House Concurrent Resolution No. 34 – Bear River Legislative Report

IDWR Engineering Supervisor Mike Morrison provided a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the Bear River Legislative Report, which is due to the Idaho Legislature by June 1, 2026. The report describes the current development of Compact allocation waters for Idaho and Utah, as well as the frequency and timing of water supplies in the Lower Division. Mr. Morrison noted that this is the first of two reports required under House Concurrent Resolution No. 34 (HCR-34). The second report, expected in September, will outline recommended and prioritized projects for further development.

Following review and discussion, Chairman Raybould entertained a motion from the Board.
Mr. Stevenson moved to approve staff submitting the first report on Bear River, under HCR 34, to the Idaho Legislature by June 1, 2026. Mr. Barker seconded. **Voice Vote**. all ayes. The motion passed.

Agenda Item No. 17: IWRB Palisades Storage Release and Swan Falls Agreement Flows

IWRB Executive Manager Brian Patton advised that IDWR Planning & Projects Section Supervisor Matt Anders will review a series of PowerPoint slides regarding the item, as well as a resolution presented for the Board's consideration.

Following a brief discussion period, Mr. Olmstead made the following motion:

It was moved by Mr. Olmstead to adopt a resolution to offset the March 2026 Shortfall to the Swan Falls Minimum Streamflow Water Right in the Matter of the Swan Falls Agreement Minimum Flows. 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. 18: ESPA Recharge Program Projects

IDWR Planning & Projects Section Supervisor Matt Anders provided a brief report with a few PowerPoint slides outlining the project and staff's request that the Board consider funding the New Sweden Irrigation District Hells Half Acre ITD Pit Recharge Basin Proposal.

Upon conclusion of discussion, Chairman Raybould opened the floor for a motion.

Mr. Stevenson moved to adopt a resolution to approve funds from the Water Management Account and Provide Signatory Authority in the matter of the New Sweden Irrigation District Hells Half Acres ITD Pit Recharge Project. Mr. Van Stone seconded. **Voice Vote**. all ayes. The motion passed.

Agenda Item No. 19: Flow Augmentation Exchange Agreement

Brian Patton, IDWR Deputy Director, reported on a proposed potential flow augmentation exchange agreement between the IWRB and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to address immediate and exceptional drought emergency conditions.

Mr. Patton reviewed the resolution, which outlined the Board granting authority to the Chairman or designee to enter into a flow augmentation exchange agreement with the BOR as well as IWRB obligating up to $200,000 from the Secondary Aquifer Planning & Management Fund to be used in the event some of the Palisades powerhead water is needed by the Board for its purposes.

After reviewing the matter, Chairman Raybould requested Board action.

Mr. Stevenson moved to adopt the resolution to provide signatory authority and allocate funds in the Matter of Flow Augmentation Exchange During 2026. Mr. Olmstead seconded. **Voice Vote**. all ayes. The motion passed.

Agenda Item No. 20: Regional Manager Update

IDWR Western Regional Manager Scott King provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Board highlighting his region's organizational structure and programs. Continuing, Mr. King shared information related to water allocations for Southern Canyon County and South Ada County, ground water protection, and dam safety.

Following review, Chairman Raybould thanked Mr. King for his presentation update.

Agenda Item No. 21: Director's Report

At this time, IDWR Director Mathew Weaver provided the Board with an informative update on the IDWR business including curtailments, department operations, related legislative matters, status of the IDWR refreshed website, and water administration priorities.

Agenda Item No. 22: Non-Action Items for Discussion

There were no items for discussion.

Agenda Item No. 23: Next Meeting and Adjourn

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised that the next Board meeting is scheduled for August 6-7 in Rexburg, Idaho. Mr. Van Stone moved to adjourn. Mr. Stevenson seconded. **Voice vote**: 8 ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted this 7th day of August 2026.

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Dean Stevenson, *Secretary*

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Milin J. Ream, *Administrative Assistant II*