



IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

MINUTES MEETING NO. 8-26

Springhill Suites
Teton Room
1177 S. Yellowstone Hwy.
REXBURG, ID 83440

August 6, 2026
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 8:30 AM (MT) Chairman Raybould called the meeting to order in Rexburg Idaho and on Zoom.

Agenda Item No. 1: Roll Call

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, Deputy Director and IWRB Executive Manager
Cynthia Bridge Clark
Wesley Hipke
James Cefalo
Mary Condon
Cooper Fritz
Milin Ream
Nick Miller, Online
Justin Ferguson, Online
Amy Cassel, Online
Benjamin Camp, Online
Mike Morrison, Online
Jake Vermas, Online

Others Present:

George Hitz, Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Brian Murdoc, Murdock Farms
John Williams, Bonneville Power Authority
Steve Stuebner

Michael Fuss, Stantec
Tammy Scardino, Idaho PBS
Sean Jordan, Hummingbird Engineering
Will Stubblefield, Friends of the Teton Range
Mike Hilliard, United States Bureau of Reclamation
Ryan Alcorn, United States Bureau of Reclamation
Jace Pulson, Bonneville-Jefferson Groundwater District
Rebekah Triolo, United States Bureau of Reclamation, Online
Kennan Arnold, United States Bureau of Reclamation, Online
Chris Regilsker, United States Bureau of Reclamation, Online

Agenda Item No. 2: Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission Agency Overview

George Hitz Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) Operations Manager/Deputy District Director provided a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the history and operations of the SWCC.

Agenda Item No. 3: Upper Snake River Basin Study Update

Joining the Work Session via Zoom, IDWR Project Manager Amy Cassel provided a brief introduction to the item and reviewed the project timeline and key events. Ms. Cassel then introduced Rebekah Triolo, Project Manager with the United States Bureau of Reclamation, who joined via Zoom and reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the status of the Snake River Basin Study process and anticipated next steps.

With no further review or questions, Chairman Raybould moved to the next order of business.

Agenda Item No. 4: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Teton Dam Presentation

Joining the meeting via Zoom, Kennan Arnold and Chris Regilsker with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) provided the Board with an in-depth review of the history and events surrounding the Teton Dam. Their presentation included an overview of the dam's planning, design, construction, and operation, as well as the events leading up to the June 5, 1976, failure of the dam. They discussed the circumstances surrounding the failure, the resulting impacts to downstream communities and infrastructure, and the lessons learned from the disaster that have influenced dam safety practices and the design, construction, and operation of dams and water infrastructure.

Following the presentation and discussion, Chairman Raybould moved to the next Agenda item.

Agenda Item No. 5: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Planning Program

Ryan Alcorn with the U.S Bureau of Reclamation provided an overview of its Planning Program, including the process and considerations associated with rebuilding Teton Dam, Basin Study elements and the overall study process, and the Planning Roadmap. The presentation also included a discussion of the differences between a Basin Study and an Appraisal Study.

Following review, Chairman Raybould continued to the next order of business.

Agenda Item No. 6: Anderson Ranch Dam Raise Project Update

Mike Hilliard, with the Bureau of Reclamation, provided the Board with an informational update on the status of the Anderson Ranch Dam Raise Project. He provided a brief overview of the project's status, progress to date, key project milestones, and anticipated dates and activities moving forward.

Following a brief question and answer period, Chairman Raybould moved to Agenda Item No. 7.

Agenda Item No. 7: House Concurrent Resolution No. 34 – Bear River Legislative Draft Report

By way of Zoom, IDWR Engineering Supervisor Mike Morrison provided a series of slides outlining staff's efforts in preparing the second legislative report due by September 30, 2026. Mr. Morrison reported that this second report builds upon the findings of the initial one, and provides additional analysis and refined recommendations, for prioritized projects for further development of Idaho's compact allocation. Mr. Morrison reported that the final draft report would be presented to the Board for their review and comments prior to submission.

After discussion of the item, Chairman Raybould proceeded to the next Agenda item.

Agenda Item No. 8: Schedule for Water District Creation in Priority Areas

IDWR Western Regional Manager Nick Miller provided the Board with an in-depth review of water district creation, including current priorities, the process and considerations involved in establishing water districts, and the challenges associated with the process. Mr. Miller also discussed potential options and opportunities for IDWR to improve and streamline the water district creation process.

Mr. Miller's PowerPoint presentation further addressed how IDWR prioritizes areas based on identified needs and available resources, as well as the Department's current priorities. He also discussed the need for creating water districts, the process and considerations involved in establishing a district, and the associated timelines and challenges.

Upon completion of the discussion, Chairman Raybould thanked staff for the review.

Agenda Item No. 9: IDWR Eastern Regional Manager Update

James Cefalo, Eastern Regional Manager with IDWR, provided a regional update highlighting activities and issues within the Eastern Region. His PowerPoint presentation included an overview of the Eastern Regional Office, summer water curtailment activities from 2023 through 2026, changes in drought conditions and related drought declarations, the creation and development of water districts in the Eastern Region, and an update on the Bear River Basin adjudication.

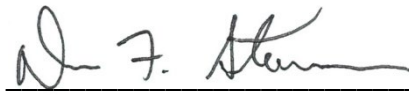
Following a brief question and answer period, Chairman Raybould moved to Adjournment.

Agenda Item No. 10: Adjourn

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Raybould adjourned the meeting at 12:25 PM.

The Board broke for lunch at noon. Following lunch, the group departed for a field trip to Teton Dam at 1:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted this 18th Day of September 2026.



Dean Stevenson, *Secretary*



Milin J. Ream, *Administrative Assistant II*



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MINUTES MEETING NO. 8-26

Springhill Suites
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1177 S. Yellowstone Hwy.
Rexburg, ID 83440

August 7, 2026
Board Meeting No. 8-26

At 08:00 AM (MT) Chairman Raybould called the meeting to order in Rexburg Idaho and on Zoom. The meeting was live streamed 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
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
Cynthia Bridge Clark
Wesley Hipke
Mary Condon
Cooper Fritz
Milin Ream
Matt Anders, Online
Justin Ferguson, Online
Mike Morrison, Online
Neeley Miller, Online

Others Present:

Ann Yribar, AG's Office, Online
George Hitz, Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Brian Murdock, Murdock Farms
John Williams, Bonneville Power Authority
Michael Fuss, Stantec
Steve Stuebner

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 (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. 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.

Mr. Stevenson moved to resolve out of executive session at 9:35 AM. Ms. Cole-Hansen 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: Agenda and Approval of Minutes No. 6-26 and 7-26

The agenda and minutes for Meeting Nos. 6-26 and 7-26 were presented for approval.

Mr. McMahon moved to approve the agenda for Meeting No. 8-26 and the minutes for Meeting Nos. 6-26 and 7-26. Mr. Gibbs seconded. **Voice Vote**. all ayes. The motion passed.

Agenda Item No. 4: 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 as well as Mr. John Williams with Bonneville Power Authority (BPA), who provided an informational update related to BPA news and operations.

Agenda Item No. 5: Financial Report

IDWR Senior Planner Neeley Miller, via Zoom, provided the Board's financial report. The accounts as of June 30, 2026, were: Secondary Aquifer Fund: cash balance \$42,759,386, committed \$37,237,360, and uncommitted balance \$5,522,026; Revolving Development Account: cash balance \$35,795,203, committed balance \$30,244,945, loan principal outstanding and other obligations \$27,097,386, and uncommitted balance \$5,550,258; and Water Management Account: cash balance \$324,916,058, total obligated funds \$326,765,036, and unobligated funds \$(1,848,978). Total obligated \$250,000,000; total expended \$201,595,928; and total remaining committed balance \$48,404,072.

Agenda Item No.6: Idaho Water Resource Board Facility Maintenance Fund

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised that the item and resolution were presented, reviewed, and discussed by the IWRB Finance Committee on July 23, 2026, with a due-pass recommendation for the Board's consideration.

IDWR Engineering Supervisor Mike Morrison reviewed the resolution with the Board and upon conclusion of discussion, Chairman Raybould entertained a motion.

Mr. Gibbs moved to approve the resolution Adopting a Consolidated Facilities Maintenance Fund and Budgeting Process for Board-Owned Facilities in the Matter of Funding for Operations and Maintenance. 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. 7: Fiscal Year 27 ARPA Spending Plan

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised that the item and resolution were presented, reviewed, and discussed on July 23, 2026, by the IWRB Finance Committee with a due-pass recommendation for the Board's consideration.

At this time, IDWR Project Manager Supervisor Mary Condon reviewed the resolution with the Board and addressed any questions.

Mr. Cole-Hansen moved to adopt the resolution to Modify the Idaho Water Resource Board's ARPA Funding Spending Plan and Provide Spending Authorization in the Matter of the IWRB American Rescue Plan Act Funding Spending Plan. 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: Cloud Seeding

A. Bear River Basin Year 2 Pilot Project Proposal (2026/2027)

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised that the item and resolution were presented, reviewed, and discussed on August 5, 2026, by the IWRB Cloud Seeding Committee with a due-pass recommendation for the Board's consideration.

At this time, IDWR staff and Cloud Seeding Program personnel Caitlyn Swanson provided an overview of the Year 2 Pilot Project Proposal and presented the revised resolution incorporating the caveat language recommended by the Cloud Seeding Committee.

Mr. McMahon moved to adopt the resolution Authorizing the Expenditure of Funds for the Year 2 Collaborative Inter-State Bear River Basin Cloud Seeding Pilot Project in the Matter of Cloud Seeding in the State of Idaho, as presented. Mr. Barker seconded. **Roll Call Vote**. Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, nay; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 7 ayes and 1 nay. The motion passed.

B. 2026-2027 Season Upper Snake Cloud Seeding Budget

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised that the item and resolution were presented, reviewed, and discussed on August 5, 2026, by the IWRB Cloud Seeding Committee with a due-pass recommendation for the Board's consideration.

Mr. Gibbs moved to adopt the resolution to Approve Funds to Support Cloud Seeding in the USRB in the Matter of Cloud Seeding in the State of Idaho. 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. 9: Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Recharge Program Infrastructure

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised that the item and resolutions were presented, reviewed, and discussed on July 23, 2026, by the IWRB Aquifer Stabilization Committee with a due-pass recommendation for the Board's consideration.

At this time, IDWR Water Right Agent Cooper Fritz briefly reviewed the resolution(s) presented for the Board's consideration.

Mr. Stevenson moved to adopt the resolution to Approve Funds from the Water Management Account and Provide Signatory Authority in the Matter of the Snake River Valley Irrigation District Sugar Factory Basin Recharge Project and a Resolution to Approve Funds from the Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management, and Implementation Fund and Provide Signatory Authority in the Matter of the Bingham Groundwater District Weggland Ditch Recharge Basin Project. 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. 10: Flood Management Grant Awards

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised that the item and resolution were presented, reviewed, and discussed by the IWRB Finance Committee on July 23, 2026, with a due-pass recommendation for the Board's consideration.

At this time, IDWR Senior Planner Neeley Miller reviewed a revised Attachment A to the Resolution presented for the Board's consideration.

Mr. Gibbs moved to adopt the resolution to Award Funds in the Matter of Flood Management Grants, as presented. 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: Regional Water Sustainability Projects Priority List Requests

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised that this item was presented, reviewed, and discussed in detail on July 23, 2026, by the IWRB Finance Committee with a due-pass recommendation for the Board's consideration.

Addressing the Board, IDWR Project Manager Supervisor Mary Condon summarized staff's recommendations.

Following Board discussion clarifying staff's requested action and recommendation, Chairman Raybould entertained a motion.

Mr. Gibbs moved to support the Finance Committee's recommendation for the following:

- A. Recommendation to **NOT** add Niagara Springs to the RWSP List.
- B. Recommendation to **NOT** add the Little Wood River ID to the RWSP List
- C. Recommendation to Table the review of the Big Wood Canal Company Project, pending additional information and research from the applicant. Mr. Mc Mahon seconded. **Voice Vote.** all ayes. The motion passed.

Agenda Item No. 12: Director's Report

IDWR Director Mathew Weaver provided the Board with an informative update on IDWR business including curtailments, department operations, related legislative matters, budgets, water supply bank updates, and administration priorities.

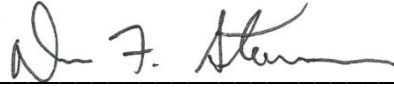
Agenda Item No. 13: Non-Action Items for Discussion

There were no items for discussion.

Agenda Item No. 14: Next Meeting and Adjourn

IWRB Executive Manager Brian Patton advised that the next meeting is an Aquifer Stabilization Committee scheduled for August 26 and the next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be September 17-18 in Boise. Mr. Stevenson moved to adjourn. Mr. Van Stone seconded. **Voice vote**: 8 ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted this 18th day of September 2026.



Dean Stevenson, *Secretary*



Milin J. Ream, *Administrative Assistant II*