



AGENDA

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Finance Committee Meeting No. 7-26

Monday, October 26, 2026

9:00 a.m. (MT) / 8:00 a.m. (PT)

Water Center

Conference Room 602 C-D

322 E. Front Street

Boise

Livestream available at <https://www.youtube.com/@iwrbb>

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

1. Introductions and Attendance
2. Dworshak/Clearwater Pipeline *
3. Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA) Funding *
4. Loan Applications:
 - A. Last Chance Canal Company *
 - B. Drainage District No. 6 *
 - C. North Side Canal Company *
5. Regional Water Sustainability Project List Criteria *
6. Idaho Water Resource Board Grant Criteria *
7. Idaho Water Resource Board Grant Cycle Schedule
8. Other Items
9. Adjourn

Committee Members:

Chair Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, Jeff Raybould, Marc Gibbs, Dale Van Stone, and Dean Stevenson.

*Action Item: A vote regarding this item may be made at this meeting. Identifying an item as an action item on the agenda does not require a vote to be taken on the item.

Americans with Disabilities Act: If you require special accommodation to attend, participate in, or understand the meeting, please contact the Department no later than five days before the meeting. To request an accommodation, please send an email to milin.ream@idwr.idaho.gov or call (208) 287-4800.

MEMO



To: Idaho Water Resource Board Finance Committee (Committee)
From: Planning & Projects Bureau Staff
Date: October 23, 2026
Subject: Dworshak/Clearwater Pipeline

REQUESTED ACTION: Recommendation to Board to Consider Resolution Authorizing Expenditures

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game will present a proposal to the Committee outlining opportunities to increase and improve water supplies for the Clearwater and Dworshak Fish Hatcheries.

Attachments:

- *Letter of Request*
- *PowerPoint Presentation*
- *Draft Resolution*

Letter of Request for Dworshak Clearwater Pipeline Project

Project Proponents: Idaho Governor's Office of Species, Minerals & Energy, Coordination and Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Summary: Improving the water supply to Clearwater and Dworshak Fish hatcheries was recommended by Governor Brad Little's Salmon Workgroup and is included on the Water Resources Board Regional Water Sustainability Priority list in District 1. Increased water supply provides redundancy for aging infrastructure, increases Chinook Salmon production capacity to return approximately 15,740 additional adults annually, reduces disease exposure for Steelhead and optimizes operational efficiency at Clearwater Fish Hatchery and Dworshak National Fish Hatchery (hatcheries).

Request: Proponents request \$650,000 in funding to the US Army Corps of Engineers (COE) to scope options for a new water supply pipeline.

Scope of Work: Contract with the COE to identify options to increase water supply from Dworshak Reservoir to the hatcheries. Scoping will develop alternatives and cost estimates for construction of infrastructure.

Key Considerations for Alternatives

Development of alternatives will include at least:

- Water quality/quantity to meet full fish production of each hatchery
- A water supply to support specified temperature profile for growth
- Energy dissipation and power generation through small hydro power generation in new water supply line(s)
- power savings estimates from reduced pump use
- Impact to existing reservoir/river flow management
- Identify pipe or other bottlenecks for needed water supplies
- Identify any water pressure related issues
- Review of previous evaluations and reports
- Identify redundancy to allow maintenance on existing and future pipelines
- Identify and incorporate design methods for inspecting the pipeline.
 - Identify permit needs such as: NPDES; COE 408 permit; COE 404 permit; ESA consultation requirements and NEPA; Water rights; etc.
- Pipeline size(s) for water quantity alternatives
- Routing and distribution piping necessary to connect to each hatchery
- Integration of existing pipeline – i.e. use as supplemental/back-up supply.
- Any Additional Infrastructure that may arise from the proposed alternatives

Cost Scoping

- Identify costs associated with each option, detailed each alternative

DWORSHAK
CLEARWATER
PIPELINE
PROJECT

A Proposal to Increase and Improve the
Water Supply to the Clearwater and
Dworshak Fish Hatcheries

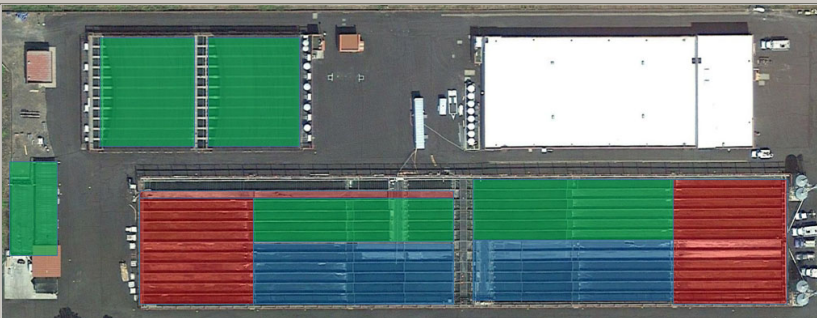
1



IMPORTANT TO
ANADROMOUS
FISHERIES

- The Clearwater Fish Hatchery and Dworshak National Fish Hatchery are the two largest public fish hatcheries in the State of Idaho.
- Dworshak has been in operation since 1969, Clearwater since 1991.
- Combined production targets of 5.8M juvenile Chinook Salmon and 2.9M juvenile Steelhead. Dworshak also produces 1.05M juvenile Coho Salmon.
- On average, one-third of the Spring Chinook Salmon and Steelhead returning to Idaho annually as adults are attributable to these two facilities.

2

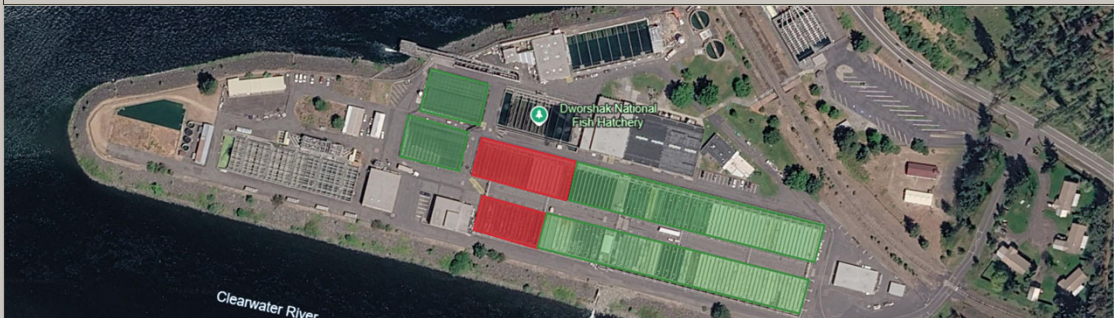


EMPTY REARING UNITS - CLEARWATER

- Current water supply to Clearwater is from Dworshak Reservoir, conveyed through two pipelines from the Dworshak Dam.
- Fish rearing units shaded red in illustration above are not in use.
- The existing pipelines are not adequately sized to provide the amount of water needed to utilize all rearing units.

3

3

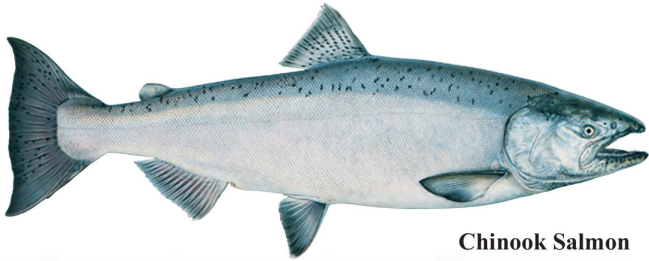


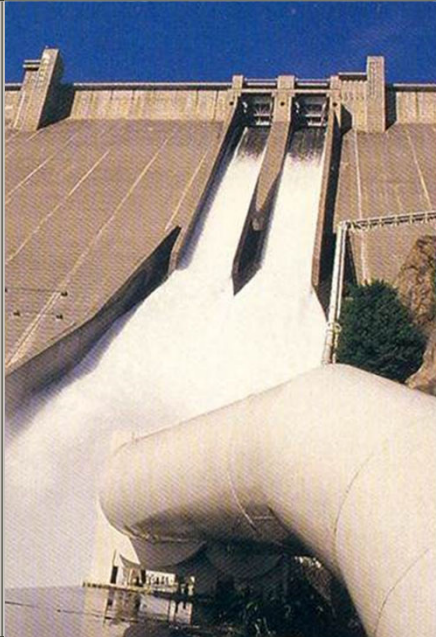
EMPTY REARING UNITS - DWORSHAK

- Current primary water supply to Dworshak is North Fork Clearwater River water delivered by six 200 hp pumps, seasonally augmented with some water from the Clearwater pipelines.
- Fish rearing units shaded red are not in use.
- The pumps are not adequately sized to provide the amount of water needed to utilize all rearing units.

4

4

		
	Chinook Salmon • With adequate clean reservoir water to operate all hatchery rearing units... • Dworshak could produce an additional 1.3M juvenile Chinook Salmon • Clearwater could produce an additional 1.6M juvenile Chinook Salmon • These increases could produce 15,740 more adult Chinook Salmon returning in an average year, allowing higher bag limits and longer fishing seasons. • Delivery of reservoir water to the Dworshak NFH would reduce fish health issues associated with use of NF Clearwater River water. • With juvenile rearing supported by reservoir water, the Dworshak NFH 200 hp pumps would be run only for adult trapping, offering significant energy savings. • A new pipeline would provide opportunity for a new hydroelectric power plant.	
		5

PARTNERS & LOGISTICS • December 2020 Idaho Governor's Salmon Workgroup report recommends advocating for projects such as improving the Dworshak and Clearwater fish hatcheries' water supply. • In September 2024, the USFWS Lower Snake River Compensation Plan (LSRCP) and its State and Tribal partners, agreed that scoping options for a new water supply for the Clearwater and Dworshak hatcheries should move forward. • In early 2025, the US Army Corps of Engineers prepares to scope the project, estimates timeline of six months. • In June 2025, funding for the Corps effort fails to materialize and the scoping project stalls. • If funding is approved now, the Corps would likely not begin work until April 2027 at the earliest, perhaps by September, estimating the project to take six months to complete from date of commencement.		
		6

QUESTIONS?



7

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING
EXPENDITURES FROM THE WATER
MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT FUNDING

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURES
FOR THE DWORSHAK/CLEARWATER PIPELINE
PROJECT

1 WHEREAS, the Water Management Account (WMA) was established pursuant to Idaho Code §
2 42-1760 and is administered by the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB, Board); and
3

4 WHEREAS, the IWRB's WMA spending plan includes \$60 million for the Dworshak/Clearwater
5 Pipeline Project, identified as a Governor's Initiative and included on the IWRB's Regional Water
6 Sustainability Projects Priority List; and
7

8 WHEREAS, improving the water supply to the Clearwater Fish Hatchery and Dworshak National
9 Fish Hatchery was recommended by Governor Brad Little's Salmon Workgroup as part of the State's
10 Salmon Recovery initiative; and
11

12 WHEREAS, the Dworshak/Clearwater Pipeline Project proposes to develop infrastructure to
13 provide additional water from Dworshak Reservoir to both hatcheries to support increased fish
14 production capacity, improve water supply reliability, reduce disease exposure for steelhead, and improve
15 operational efficiency; and
16

17 WHEREAS, the project proponents, the Idaho Governor's Office of Species, Minerals & Energy
18 Coordination and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, have requested \$650,000 for the U.S. Army
19 Corps of Engineers (COE) to evaluate alternatives for improving the water supply to the hatcheries and
20 develop preliminary construction cost estimates; and
21

22 WHEREAS, the proposed scoping effort will evaluate water supply requirements, pipeline sizing
23 and routing, energy efficiency and hydropower opportunities, operational considerations, infrastructure
24 needs, and permitting requirements; and
25

26 WHEREAS, the IWRB Finance Committee considered the request on October 26, 2026, and
27 recommended that the Board consider committing funding from the Water Management Account for this
28 purpose; and
29

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes expenditures of up to \$650,000 from
31 the WMA funds budgeted for the Dworshak/Clearwater Pipeline Project to support the COE's scoping
32 effort, including evaluation of alternatives and development of preliminary construction cost estimates.
33

34 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that expenditures under this authorization shall be
35 limited to activities necessary to scope the proposed project.
36
37
38

39 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes its Chairman or Executive
40 Manager, Brian Patton, to execute the agreements or contracts necessary to implement this resolution.

DATED this 13th day of November 2026.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

MEMO



To: Idaho Water Resource Board Finance Committee (Committee)
From: Planning & Projects Bureau Staff
Date: October 23, 2026
Subject: Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA) Funding

REQUESTED ACTION: Recommendation to Board to Consider Funding Resolution for WQPA

The Committee will consider a request from the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC) for one-time funding to support the Water Quality Program for Agriculture.

Attachments:

- *Soil & Water Conservation Commission Memo*
- *Draft Resolution*



**SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION**

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Chair

Wendy Pratt
Vice Chair

Blake Hollingsworth
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Commissioner

Joan Cloonan, PhD, JD
Commissioner

Richard Savage
Commissioner

Mitch Silvers
Commissioner

Mathew Weaver
Acting Administrator

TO: Members of the IWRB Finance Committee
FROM: Loretta Strickland, Ag Program Manager, ISWCC
DATE: October 26, 2026
RE: WQPA Bridge Funding Request

WQPA Bridge Funding Request

I appreciate the opportunity to provide additional information regarding the Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA) as the Committee considers bridge funding options. Since its revitalization, WQPA has quickly become a reliable and highly successful program that Conservation Districts rely on to get projects on the ground efficiently.

Voluntary conservation work in Idaho is uniquely collaborative. Our staff and the Conservation Districts are co-located with our federal partner, NRCS. This co-location model allows all three partners to work directly with landowners to identify and develop projects year-round and to align each project with the funding source that best fits its needs.

This program structure—where work is continuous and projects are identified throughout the year—is the main driver behind the strong statewide demand for WQPA. Over the four funding years of the WQPA program, we have received 274 project proposals, an indicator of both strong statewide demand and the program's effectiveness in engaging landowners and districts.

Each year, submitted proposals are evaluated, ranked, and placed on a statewide project priority list. Funding is awarded until available dollars are fully obligated. The priority list is not maintained for future year WQPA appropriations. However, I believe the unfunded projects summarized in Table 1 offer a meaningful snapshot of some of the work that could proceed if additional resources were available. Table 1 reflects nearly \$1.7 million in FY26 WQPA funding requests we were unable to fund.

Because the priority list is not maintained and many projects pursue other funding sources, the Commission would establish a new application period for the bridge funds if they were awarded. For the purposes of this memo, I reached out to our field staff across the state to gather other current examples of unfunded projects. Several staff were able to respond within the short timeframe, and their projects are listed in Table 2, reflecting \$1.1 million in potential WQPA funding requests. This table reflects only a partial list of developed projects that are awaiting funding from 9 of our 50 Districts.

To further illustrate the significant demand from districts and stakeholders, the FY27 DEQ 319 program, which is similar to WQPA, received \$4.2 million in funding requests, despite having only a little over \$1 million available.

Table 1. FY 2026 Unfunded Projects

WP25028	POWER SWCD	SOUTH FORK ROCK CREEK IRRIGATION PROJECT	\$82,500
WP25011	ELMORE SWCD	DOUBLE ANCHOR RANCH PIVOT PROJECT	\$82,500
WP25027	WEISER RIVER SCD	D-LATERAL DIRT TO CEMENT CONV	\$52,058
WP25015	TWIN FALLS SWCD	CLOVER PUMP PROJECT PHASE 4	\$82,500
WP25032	ADAMS SWCD	FOUR MILE CREEK - CATTLE CROSSING	\$44,509
WP25018	VALLEY SWCD	LAKE IRRIGATION DISTRICT PIPELINE CONVERSION	\$82,500
WP25033	PORTNEUF SWCD	ASPEN CREEK AND CHERRY SPRINGS LIVESTOCK WATERING	\$30,962
WP25003	OWYHEE SCD	IRRIGATION CONVERSION PROJECT	\$11,000
WP25004	GEM SWCD	LAST CHANCE PIVOT PROJECT	\$70,178
WP25021	SOUTH BINGHAM SWCD	PLEASANT VALLEY IRRIGATION PROJECT	
WP25029	MINIDOKA SWCD	NITRATE PRIORITY ARE FLOOD TO SPRINKLER	\$64,689
WP25038	LATAH SWCD	CEDAR CREEK WATERSHED PHASE L1	\$18,590
WP25030	SQUAW CREEK SCD	SECOND FORK SQUAW CREEK RIPARIAN IMPROVEMENT	\$71,064
WP25039	FRANKLIN SWCD	BUTTARS WESTON CREEK IRRIGATION AND LIVESTOCK	\$30,245
WP25050	ELMORE SWCD	GLENNS FERRY AND 1E LATERAL PIPELINE	\$82,500
WP25016	JEFFERSON SWCD	PARKS AND LEWISVILLE CANAL AUTOMATION PROJECT	\$82,500
WP25047	CARIBOU SWCD	LAKEY FARMS PIPELINE	\$82,500
WP25026	WOOD RIVER SWCD	SHOSHONE CEMETARY DITCH TO PIPE	\$66,000
WP25036	BENEWAH SWCD	SHEEP CREEK CULVERT REPLACEMENT	\$75,444
WP25043	WOOD RIVER SWCD	LITTLE WOOD RIVER SPRINKLER CONVERSION	\$82,500
WP25014	NON CD - WEISER RIVER AREA	WEISER RIVER PIVOT CONVERSION	\$75,000
WP25049	ONIEDA SWCD	WESTMORELAND FLOOD TO SPRINKLER PROJECT	\$82,500
WP25037	FRANKLIN SWCD	MUSSLER PIVOT PROJECTS	\$55,798
WP25017	BALANCED ROCK SWCD	CEDAR DRAW CIDER	\$14,001
WP25031	ELMORE SWCD	NETTLETON IRRIGATION PONDS	\$82,500
WP25019	GOODING SWCD	HAGERMAN WATER USERS PIPELINE	\$82,500
WP25042	CLARK SCD	WAGONER DITCH TO PIPE PROJECT	\$82,500
WP25009	CLEARWATER SWCD	JIM FORD BRIDGE PROJECT	\$28,313

Table 2. FY27 Identified Potential WQPA Projects

Project Name	Total Cost	Cost-share	Description
Kootenai River Off-Site Watering Project	\$38,725.00	\$23,196.65	Fencing, off-site water
River View Culvert Replacement	\$56,722.08	\$34,005.32	Replace a 2-foot wide failing relief culvert
Sheep Creek Culvert Replacement	\$155,336.28	\$93,201.18	Replace a 5-foot wide failing culvert
Orofino Creek Fence Project	\$13,250.00	\$7,950.00	Install 2650' of fence along Orofino Creek
Lewis Fencing Project	\$36,960.00	\$24,024.00	Install 7392' of riparian fencing
Lewis Livestock BMPs	\$132,600.00	\$79,440.00	Offsite watering system, heavy use area protection
Idaho Livestock BMPs	\$39,400.00	\$25,610.00	Offsite watering system, heavy use area protection
Idaho Livestock BMPs	\$160,660.00	\$104,429.00	Offsite watering system, heavy use area protection
Payette River-Last Chance Canal	\$109,974.00	\$71,483.00	Pivot irrigation system
Payette River-Silver Leaf Drain#3	\$73,607.00	\$47,845.00	Flood to sprinkler
Payette River-Mesa Drain #2	\$143,307.00	\$75,000.00	Pivot irrigation system
Payette River Ranch	\$151,500.00	\$75,000.00	Payette River streambank restoration
Reed Canal Pivot	\$104,450.00	\$67,892.00	Pivot irrigation system
Big 4 Drain Pivot	\$254,142.00	\$75,000.00	Pivot irrigation system
Hanna Ave Pivot	\$112,862.00	\$73,360.00	Pivot irrigation system
Squaw Creek Streambank	\$67,325.00	\$43,761.00	325' Streambank restoration
Squaw Creek pipeline project	\$132,828.00	\$75,000.00	Converting old dirt irrigation ditches to buried pipe
Farmers Coop Pivot	\$186,467.00	\$75,000.00	Pivot irrigation system
Payette River- B Lateral Irrigation	\$49,227.00	\$31,900.00	Flood to sprinkler
Snake River -Scotch Pines	\$138,477.00	\$75,000.00	Pivot irrigation system
Barton Reservoir Improvements	\$565,000.00	\$75,000.00	Replacing the outlet pipe and headgate for the reservoir
Weiser River – Lateral D Culvert	\$435,005.00	\$28,278.00	Piping of dirt ditch
Totals	\$2,907,041.00	\$1,130,972.00	

In summary, the consistent demand for WQPA, combined with the significant volume of unfunded developed projects, demonstrates a clear and immediate need for bridge funding. Providing this support would allow districts and landowners to continue implementing high-priority water quality improvements without interruption. I appreciate the Committee's consideration and am happy to provide any additional information needed.

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING
EXPENDITURES FROM THE WATER
MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT FUNDING

RESOLUTION TO AWARD ONE-TIME FUNDING
FOR WATER QUALITY PROGRAM FOR
AGRICULTURE

1 WHEREAS, the Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA) was established in Fiscal Year 2000
2 to support the conservation and enhancement of Idaho's water resources, with implementation carried
3 out primarily through Idaho's fifty soil and water conservation districts; and
4

5 WHEREAS, WQPA supports voluntary, locally led conservation projects that protect and improve
6 water quality and water resources, including irrigation infrastructure and on-farm irrigation
7 improvements, streambank and riparian improvements, erosion control, livestock best management
8 practices, and soil health practices; and
9

10 WHEREAS, WQPA projects are developed through collaboration among landowners and
11 operators, soil and water conservation districts, the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
12 (ISWCC), the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other
13 project partners; and
14

15 WHEREAS, WQPA was not funded from Fiscal Year 2012 through Fiscal Year 2022, and was
16 revitalized beginning in Fiscal Year 2023 following legislative appropriations of \$5 million in FY2023, \$5
17 million in FY2024, \$1 million in FY2025, and \$1 million in FY2026, for a total of \$12 million over those four
18 fiscal years; and
19

20 WHEREAS, during the four funding years from FY2023 through FY2026, ISWCC received 274
21 project proposals requesting approximately \$26.5 million in WQPA funding, funded 134 projects, and
22 reported that 140 projects could not be funded due to limited available funding; and
23

24 WHEREAS, WQPA requires a minimum 35 percent match, limits WQPA cost-share to \$75,000 per
25 proposal, and provides up to 10 percent of WQPA cost-share funding for administration by sponsoring soil
26 and water conservation districts, allowing state funding to be leveraged with other public and private
27 resources; and
28

29 WHEREAS, the program's year-round project development and collaboration among ISWCC,
30 conservation districts, NRCS, and landowners allow projects to be identified and developed continuously,
31 and the availability of WQPA funding helps move eligible conservation projects into implementation; and
32

33 WHEREAS, ISWCC reports that approximately \$1.7 million in FY2026 WQPA project requests could
34 not be funded and has identified additional developed projects in conservation districts around the state
35 that are awaiting funding; and
36

37 WHEREAS, the WQPA project priority list is established for each funding cycle and is not carried
38 forward for future appropriations, and some projects may pursue other funding sources; therefore, ISWCC

39 would establish a new application period and evaluate and rank applications for any bridge funding
40 awarded; and

41
42 WHEREAS, ISWCC has requested one-time funding from the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB,
43 Board) to support WQPA projects statewide while ISWCC continues to seek legislative appropriations for
44 the program; and

45
46 WHEREAS, the IWRB Finance Committee considered the request on October 26, 2026, and
47 recommended that the Board consider committing funding from the Water Management Account for this
48 purpose; and

49
50 WHEREAS, the IWRB finds that one-time support for WQPA would help advance locally led
51 conservation projects and leverage matching resources to conserve and enhance Idaho's water resources;
52 and

53
54 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes \$[AMOUNT] from the Water
55 Management Account to the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission as one-time bridge funding
56 for the Water Quality Program for Agriculture.

57
58 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the funding shall be administered by ISWCC
59 through a new WQPA application period, using the program's established eligibility, matching, project
60 evaluation, ranking, and cost-share requirements.

61
62 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ISWCC shall provide the IWRB with a summary
63 of projects funded, funding awarded, matching contributions, and project outcomes following allocation
64 of the one-time funding.

65
66 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes its chairman or
67 Executive Manager, Brian Patton, to execute the necessary agreements or contracts for the purpose
68 of this resolution.

69
DATED this 13th day of November 2026.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

MEMO



To: Idaho Water Resource Board Finance Committee
From: Justin Ferguson, IDWR Project Manager
Date: October 23, 2026
Subject: Last Chance Canal Company, LTD – New Water Project Loan Application

REQUESTED ACTION: Consider a Loan Request of \$420,000

INTRODUCTION

The Last Chance Canal Company, LTD (LCCC) is requesting a new loan in the amount of \$420,000 from the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB/Board) to repair and replace portions of its existing canal infrastructure. The system is outdated and in need of repair, often unable to meet current flow capacity and control needs for its users.

BACKGROUND

LCCC was founded in February 1899 and serves water users in the Gem Valley between the Portneuf and Bear River mountain ranges. Water is delivered from the Last Chance Diversion Dam, through both the Bench A and Bench B diversions, serving approximately 29,000 acres of farmland for 137 shareholders.

PRIOR LOANS

LCCC has held loans with the IWRB in the past, including a loan currently in repayment with an estimated 11 payments remaining. To date, Staff has no concerns about the existing loan and repayment history.

PROPOSED PROJECT

The Project will repair and replace sections of the existing Bench B canal system located near Grace, Idaho. A dual-gate structure will be put into place allowing for more precise flow controls and maintenance access. The Project will also repair and replace sections of the First West diversion works. A new headgate and pipeline will be installed, along with automation equipment to restore full diversion capacity and provide the LCCC with more control over flows throughout the year.

BENEFITS

The improvements to both the Bench B and First West portions of the system will help the LCCC better manage flows for their patrons, and their irrigation demands while also providing long-term operational flexibility to manage the system as needs change.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The total Project costs were estimated at \$1,047,000 for the repair of both the Bench B and First West diversions. Currently, the LCCC assesses its water users at \$15 per share, with one share approximately equal to 2 acre-feet per acre. LCCC has also established a reserve fund of \$266,179 and was awarded Aging Infrastructure funds towards the project.

In conjunction with the Aging Infrastructure grant funding provided by the Board, the LCCC has also secured funding through the Bureau of Reclamation via a WaterSMART grant for \$487,000 and the Idaho Department of Transportation for \$70,000.

To repay the loan, LCCC has proposed raising the current \$15 assessment to \$16.12 per share (approx. \$19.21 per acre) to match the estimated annual payment. The application requests a 10-year term and will be assigned a 5.5% interest rate, resulting in an annual payment of approximately \$56,000. Based on the information provided in the application package, Staff has no concerns about LCCC's ability to repay the loan.

WATER RIGHTS

Water Right	Source	Priority Date	Rate/Amount	Beneficial Use
11-00262	Bear River	07/29/1910	54 cfs	Irrigation
13-00955	Bear River	08/19/1909	138.16 cfs	Irrigation
13-00956	Bear River	12/31/01909	25.6 cfs	Irrigation
13-00991C	Bear River	03/01/1897	200 cfs	Irrigation
13-00992C	Bear River	05/14/1901	240 cfs	Irrigation
13-04076	Bear River	04/01/1919	19,043 cfs	Irrigation
13-07288	Bear River	05/30/1980	440 cfs	Power
13-07297	Bear River	02/11/1981	220 cfs	Power

SECURITY

As security for the loan, the LCCC has offered both its shareholder assessments and existing water rights to the IWRB as collateral.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The funds requested will be used to repair and replace existing portions of the Last Chance Canal Company, LTD's delivery system, providing its users with a more reliable system. The LCCC has held loans with the IWRB in the past and is currently in repayment; however, Staff has no concerns about its ability to repay both the existing and proposed loan payments. A reserve account has been established, and shareholder assessments, along with water rights, have been offered as collateral to secure the loan.

The applicant meets the qualification criteria, and the proposed project is consistent with the Board's goals established in the Idaho State Water Plan. Staff recommends the approval of the loan request for the total amount of \$420,000.00 from the Revolving Development Account.

Attachment(s):

- *Draft Resolution*

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE LAST CHANCE CANAL
COMPANY LTD LOAN REQUEST

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE LOAN FUNDING
FOR COSTS RELATED TO DIVERSION WORKS
AND INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS

1 WHEREAS, the Last Chance Canal Company, LTD (Company) submitted a loan application to the
2 Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB), requesting \$420,000 for costs associated with the repair and
3 replacement of the Bench B and First West canal diversion works; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the Company was established in 1899 to serve the Gem Valley, providing irrigation for
6 approximately 29,000 acres from the Last Chance Diversion Dam; and
7

8 WHEREAS, the existing Bench B and First West diversion works have become outdated and
9 insufficient for meeting current flow capacity and control needs, requiring the Company to rely solely on
10 the Bench A canal for its deliveries; and
11

12 WHEREAS, the proposal is requesting funds to remove and install a new headworks at both the
13 Bench B and First West diversions, located east of the Grace Dam near Grace, Idaho; and
14

15 WHEREAS, alternative options were explored but did not provide the Company a long-term
16 solution to deliver water and address its water users current demands; and
17

18 WHEREAS, the Company has held loans with the IWRB, and is currently repaying an existing loan
19 with an estimated 11 annual payments remaining; and
20

21 WHEREAS, the Company has already established a reserve account with funding well over the
22 estimated annual payment and will raise the current assessments to its users for the costs of the project;
23 and
24

25 WHEREAS, the Company is a qualified applicant, and the proposed Project is eligible for a loan
26 from the Board's Revolving Development Account; and
27

28 WHEREAS, the proposed Project is in the public interest and is in compliance with the State Water
29 Plan.
30

31 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB provides authority to the Chairman of the Idaho
32 Water Resource Board, or Executive Manager, Brian Patton, to enter into contracts, to effectuate the loan,
33 with the Association on behalf of the IWRB.
34

35 NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB approves a loan not to exceed
36 \$420,000 from the Revolving Development Account at 5.5 % interest with a 10-year repayment term.
37

38 NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution and the approval of the loan are
39 subject to the following conditions:
40

- 41 1) The Company shall comply with all applicable rules and regulations that apply to the proposed
42 Project.
43 2) Prior to the disbursement of any funds, the Company shall comply with all statutory
44 requirements for incurring debt.
45 3) Prior to the disbursement of any funds, the Company will provide acceptable security for the
46 loan to the IWRB.
47

DATED this 13th day of November, 2026.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

MEMO



To: Idaho Water Resource Board Finance Committee
From: Justin Ferguson, IDWR Project Manager
Mike Morrison, IDWR Engineer
Date: October 21, 2026
Subject: Drainage District No. 6 – New Water Project Loan Application

REQUESTED ACTION: Consider a Loan Request of \$385,074.00

INTRODUCTION

Drainage District No. 6 (District) is requesting a new loan in the amount of \$385,074 from the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB/Board) to rebuild and modernize an existing pump station used by the District to drain approximately 5,500 acres. The existing pump infrastructure was built in 1925 and has required additional maintenance from the District each year to continue operating. Without the drainage infrastructure provided by the District, the area would experience prolonged flooding, crop loss, and long-term soil degradation, making it impossible to farm all the Kootenai Valley acreage under cultivation today.

BACKGROUND

Drainage District No. 6 was established in 1925 in line with the construction of the Kootenai Valley Dike, allowing 5,500 acres to be drained and put into agricultural production. The district provides drainage and flood protection for agricultural lands located in the Kootenai River Valley in Boundary County, Idaho.

PRIOR LOANS

The District has not held loans with the IWRB in the past; this will be their first application for financial assistance through the loan program.

PROPOSED PROJECT

The Project is a complete rebuild and modernization of the existing Drainage District No. 6 pump station. The existing infrastructure will be disassembled to the building foundation, removing the existing pumps, power service, and piping, including the current gravity drain works. New piping and pumps will be purchased and installed once the construction of the building is completed. Updated safety features will also be installed above the intake and extended out to the headgate adjustment platform.

BENEFITS

As the pump station was built in 1925, a significant portion of the piping has rusted through and leaks. The District has made its best efforts to maintain the current pumps; however, they have reached the end of their serviceable life and now require more District staff time to keep running. These pumps drain the Kootenai Valley into the Kootenai River and into the Corra Linn Dam.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The total Project costs were estimated at \$789,034, with an added 15% contingency, bringing the total Project costs to approximately \$908,000. The District was approved for an Aging Infrastructure grant at the September 2026 meeting for the Project for \$385,717. With those additional funds and the in-kind work to be provided by the District, the total loan request is \$385,070.

Currently, the District assesses its users on beneficial acres per owner, levied at 0.0649 per dollar of the agricultural assessment. This is a tax assessment as Drainage District No. 6 is a legally constituted drainage district organized under the Idaho Drainage District Law (Idaho Code § 42-2901 et seq.).

The estimated annual payment, based on a 10-year term and an estimated 3 equal disbursements, was approximately \$53,000 at a 5.5% interest rate.

SECURITY

As security for the loan, this District has offered their infrastructure and shareholder assessments. The estimated value of that infrastructure was sufficient to cover the obligation. Additionally, as the water rights in that basin have not yet been adjudicated, the District has offered its ability to assess shareholders as additional security for the loan.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The requested funds will be used to repair and modernize the existing Drainage District No. 6 pump station, providing the District with a long-term solution for the Kootenai Valley. This is the District's first loan with the IWRB; however, given the assessment authority and the infrastructure provided, there are no concerns regarding the collateral used or the District's ability to repay the obligation.

The applicant meets the qualification criteria, and the proposed project is consistent with the Board's goals established in the Idaho State Water Plan. Staff recommends the approval of the loan request for the total amount of \$385,074.00 from the Revolving Development Account.

Attachment(s):

- *Draft Resolution*

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE DRAINAGE DISTRICT
NUMBER 6 LOAN REQUEST

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE LOAN FUNDING
FOR COSTS RELATED TO PUMP STATION
REPAIRS

1 WHEREAS, Drainage District Number 6 (District) submitted a loan application to the Idaho Water
2 Resource Board (IWRB) in the amount of \$385,074 to cover costs associated with the repair and
3 modernization of its existing pump station; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the District was established to provide drainage and flood protection for agricultural
6 lands located in the Kootenai River Valley in Boundary County, Idaho; and
7

8 WHEREAS, the existing pump station infrastructure was constructed in 1925 and has reached the
9 end of the scheduled useful service life; and
10

11 WHEREAS, the main discharge pipe has rusted through, causing the water to erode the bank
12 between the back foundation wall and the dike; and
13

14 WHEREAS, the proposal is requesting funds to rebuild and modernize the District's pump station
15 with a new building, new pumps, new piping, and electrical service; and
16

17 WHEREAS, alternative options were explored but did not provide the District with a long-term
18 solution; and
19

20 WHEREAS, the District was awarded funding through the IWRB Aging Infrastructure program in
21 September of 2026 for this Project and will be used in conjunction with this loan application; and
22

23 WHEREAS, the District is a qualified applicant, and the proposed Project is eligible for a loan from
24 the Board's Revolving Development Account; and
25

26 WHEREAS, the proposed Project is in the public interest and is in compliance with the State Water
27 Plan.
28

29 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB provides authority to the Chairman of the Idaho
30 Water Resource Board, or Executive Manager, Brian Patton, to enter into contracts, to effectuate the loan,
31 with the Association on behalf of the IWRB.
32

33 NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB approves a loan not to exceed
34 \$385,074 from the Revolving Development Account at 5.5 % interest with a 10-year repayment term.
35

36 NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution and the approval of the loan are
37 subject to the following conditions:
38
39

- 40 1) The District shall comply with all applicable rules and regulations that apply to the proposed
41 Project.
42 2) Prior to the disbursement of any funds, the District shall comply with all statutory
43 requirements for incurring debt.
44 3) Prior to the disbursement of any funds, the District will provide acceptable security for the
45 loan to the IWRB.
46

DATED this 13th day of November 2026.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

MEMO



To: Idaho Water Resource Board Finance Committee
From: Justin Ferguson, IDWR Project Manager
Date: October 15, 2026
Subject: North Side Canal Company– Existing Water Project Loan Application

REQUESTED ACTION: Consider a Loan Extension Request for \$500,000

The North Side Canal Company (NSCC) is requesting an extension on its existing loan in the amount of \$500,000 from the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB). The original loan (contract number IWRB1038) for \$5,000,000 at a 4.38% interest rate was for repairing an aging delivery system (canals). The original cost of the project was \$7,342,000, with NSCC funding of \$342,600, an Aging Infrastructure Grant covering \$2,000,000, and the loan covering the remaining estimated project cost. The original scope of work has been completed; however, the project conditions changed while working on the project, requiring additional work to complete the project.

Once the project was started, it became apparent there was more degradation of the walls along the side channel than originally estimated. Due to the condition of the side channel walls, the contractor had to use more cast-in-place concrete than the shotcrete that had initially been scoped and budgeted for to satisfactorily complete the project.

Based on information provided by representatives from the NSCC, Staff has no concerns about the project's progress or the NSCC's ability to make the increased annual assessment if the loan were extended. Staff would recommend extending the funding under contract IWRB1038 to include the additional \$500,000 from the Revolving Development Account for the North Side Canal Company.

Attachment(s):

- *Draft Resolution*

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE NORTH SIDE CANAL
COMPANY LOAN REQUEST

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE LOAN FUNDING
TO REPAIR DELIVERY SYSTEM
INFRASTRUCTURE

1 WHEREAS, the North Side Canal Company (Company) submitted a loan application to the Idaho
2 Water Resource Board (IWRB) in the amount of \$5,000,000.00 to cover costs for a project to repair aging
3 delivery system infrastructure (Project); and
4

5 WHEREAS, the Company, located in Jerome County, delivers water for 155,000 acres and
6 approximately 2,200 shareholders in Elmore, Gooding, and Jerome counties; and
7

8 WHEREAS, the Company's delivery infrastructure was constructed in 1908 with improvements
9 being made most recently as 2017; and
10

11 WHEREAS, to remain sustainable for future use and conserve water the Company will need to
12 make repairs and improvements to its aging infrastructure; and
13

14 WHEREAS, total project costs were estimated to be \$7,342,600, of which the Company will cover
15 \$342,600, was awarded an Aging Infrastructure grant for \$2,000,000, and requested a loan in the amount
16 of \$5,000,000 from the IWRB for project costs; and
17

18 WHEREAS, the project is underway with a large amount of work completed to date; and
19

20 WHEREAS, the Project conditions have changed and require cast-in-place concrete walls rather
21 than the shotcrete that had been included in the project cost estimate; and
22

23 WHEREAS, the NSCC is requesting additional funding, in the amount of \$500,000 to cover the
24 increase in project costs; and
25

26 WHEREAS, the existing loan was approved for \$5,000,000 from the Revolving Development
27 Account at 4.38% interest with a 20-year repayment term.
28

29 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB authorizes additional funding, in the amount of
30 \$500,000 for a total of 5,500,000, under contract IWRB1038 between the IWRB and the NSCC, from the
31 Revolving Development Account. The term and interest rate will not be changed as part of the extension
32 of funding.
33

34 NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB provides authority to the Chairman of
35 the Idaho Water Resource Board, Executive Manager, Brian Patton, to enter into contracts, to effectuate
36 the loan, with the Company on behalf of the IWRB.
37

38 NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution and the approval of the loan are
39 subject to the following conditions:
40

- 41 1) The Company shall comply with all applicable rules and regulations that apply to the proposed
42 Project.
43 2) Prior to the disbursement of any funds, the Company shall comply with all statutory
44 requirements for incurring debt.
45 3) Prior to the disbursement of any funds, the Company will provide acceptable security for the
46 loan to the IWRB, including but not limited to its water rights and assessment income which
47 the Company collects from its members.

DATED this 13th day of November 2026.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
JO ANN COLE-HANSEN, Secretary

MEMO



To: Idaho Water Resource Board Finance Committee
From: Mary Condon, Project Management Services Supervisor
Date: October 22, 2026
Subject: Regional Water Sustainability Priority List Criteria

REQUESTED ACTION: Consider Revised Regional Water Sustainability Priority List Criteria

BACKGROUND

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) maintains the Regional Water Sustainability Priority List (List) to support the implementation of major projects that can improve long-term water sustainability across Idaho. The list highlights regional, basin-wide, or statewide efforts, such as aquifer recharge, infrastructure modernization, and large-scale water studies, that help address declining water supplies, aging systems, and future water demands. While inclusion on the list does not guarantee funding, it signals that a project is an important regional priority and may receive IWRB support through coordination, letters of support, and assistance in seeking state or federal funding.

The IWRB adopted revised Regional Water Sustainability Priority List Criteria in May 2026. Staff have since identified additional, worthy edits to the criteria for improved clarity. The intent of the attached draft criteria is to provide clearer expectations for project sponsors seeking inclusion on the Regional Water Sustainability Priority List.

Attachment(s):

- *Regional Water Sustainability Priority List Criteria – draft revision*
- *Draft Resolution*



IWRB Regional Water Sustainability Priority List Criteria

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) maintains the [Regional Water Sustainability Priority List](#) (RWS Priority List) to identify and promote projects that have the potential to improve long-term water sustainability across Idaho. As stated in the [Idaho State Water Plan](#), sustainability requires the active stewardship of Idaho's water resources to satisfy current uses while ensuring water availability for future generations. Surface and groundwater systems are not limitless, and many regions of the state are experiencing increased pressure due to declining water levels, growing demand, aging infrastructure, and changing hydrologic conditions.

To support effective statewide water management, the IWRB uses the RWS Priority List as a planning tool to highlight regional scale (basin-wide, multi-entity, and statewide) projects—both studies and capital improvements—that address significant water resource challenges. These projects may contribute to stabilizing aquifer levels, modernizing critical infrastructure, improving drought resilience, resolving anticipated water supply conflicts, and protecting existing water rights and beneficial uses identified in Idaho Code. The IWRB may group related efforts into a single program or establish programs to support coordinated regional implementation.

The RWS Priority List also supports implementation of the Idaho State Water Plan, including the prioritization of IWRB funding programs, development of cooperative regional solutions, and early engagement with federal, state, tribal, and local partners. Inclusion on the RWS Priority List does not constitute a funding commitment, but elevates a project for consideration, supports coordination, and enables the Board to advocate for funding and technical resources (federal and state).

This document outlines the requirements and considerations for project sponsors seeking inclusion on the RWS Priority List. Inclusion on the RWS List is not a funding commitment, but rather a recognition that the project has the potential to help achieve water sustainability or address a regional water related issue.

I. IWRB Considerations

The IWRB takes into account a wide range of factors when considering potential projects for the RWS Priority List. Projects that are not chosen to be on the RWS Priority list may be eligible for other IWRB programs. The IWRB is guided by direction from the Governor and Idaho Legislature through funding allocations and related directives, including:

- Projects that support and forward the [Idaho State Water Plan](#).
- Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 137 (2016) – directs the IWRB address statewide aquifer stabilization and sustainability projects and studies in key basins within the state.
- House Concurrent Resolution No. 7 (2023) – directs the IWRB to establish a long-term plan that identifies future projects intended to protect, improve, and secure the state’s water resources for the benefit of the citizens of the state and for future generations.
- Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 110 (2025) – recognizes the need to continue activities by water users and the IWRB to improve Snake River reach gains between Blackfoot and the Minidoka Dam to support the 2024 Stipulated Mitigation Plan.
- House Joint Memorial No. 14 (2026) - supports the development of new reservoirs through research on the feasibility, planning, and design for the raising of current dams and the development of new dams to create 750,000 acre-feet of new water storage.

Additional prioritization factors that may affect prioritizations of projects include:

- Ability to resolve long-standing or emerging water supply challenges
- Magnitude and regional scale of benefits
- Contribution to aquifer stabilization or groundwater recovery
- Protection of existing water rights and consideration of benefits to hydropower, fish and wildlife, recreation, and water quality
- Anticipation of future water demands, including municipal, agricultural, or industrial development
- Modernization or improvement of aging water infrastructure
- Development of new surface water storage, protection of existing storage assets, and enhancement of statewide surface water storage capacity

II. Regional Water Sustainability Priority List Eligibility Criteria

Projects added to the RWS Priority List provide regional scale benefits and meaningfully contribute to long-term water sustainability in Idaho. These projects generally fall into the following categories:

- **Aquifer Stabilization**
Projects that help reverse declining groundwater trends, improve aquifer storage, and strengthen long-term water reliability.

- **Regional Water Supply and Water Management**
Projects that support long-term water planning or management through analysis, improved regional data collection, modeling, forecasting, or basin-wide evaluations that improve understanding of water availability, trends, infrastructure needs, hydrologic interactions, or future demands.
- **Infrastructure Modernization and Rehabilitation**
Upgrades or replacement of aging storage, diversion, and delivery systems that impact multiple users, or address infrastructure at risk of failure with regional consequences.
- **Surface Water Storage and Operational Improvements**
Projects that enhance reservoir capacity, optimize operations, improve system connectivity, or enable more effective management of surface and groundwater resources. This includes the development of new surface water storage, protection of existing storage assets, and enhancement of statewide storage capacity, consistent with legislative direction in House Joint Memorial No. 14 (2026), the Idaho State Water Plan, and IWRB strategic priorities for long-term water supply reliability and resilience.
- **Multi-Benefit and Integrated Water Management Projects**
Projects affecting a regional area involving multiple partners or districts that improve drought resilience, protect existing water rights, support hydropower, improve water quality, or provide other regional water management benefits.

Eligible Entities:

Entities eligible to submit a request include:

- Irrigation Districts, Irrigation Boards of Control, Canal Companies, and Water Districts
- Drainage Districts, Flood Control Districts, Groundwater Districts, and Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- Municipal Irrigation Districts (Title 50, Chapter 18, Idaho Code)
- Regional Water Supply Organizations
- State agencies, tribes, and municipalities

Eligible Geographic Area:

Statewide.

Eligible Projects:

Projects must provide regional scale water sustainability benefits.

To qualify, a project must meet **all three** of the following:

1. Address a significant regional water sustainability issue, such as declining groundwater levels, surface-groundwater interaction challenges, enhancement of water supply, drought resilience, aging or inadequate delivery or storage systems, infrastructure deficiencies that pose demonstrable safety risk, or anticipated water supply conflicts.

2. Improve water management at the basin or regional level and provide benefits that extend beyond a single entity.
3. Align with the sustainability goals outlined in the Idaho State Water Plan, including active stewardship, protection of existing water rights, and support for future water needs.

Ineligible Projects:

Municipal drinking water or wastewater system improvements, ~~and projects whose primary purpose is to serve or benefit only a single entity,~~ do **not** qualify for inclusion on the List.

III. Required Proposal Materials

Sponsors requesting inclusion on the RWS Priority List must submit a written request containing the following:

1. Cover Letter

- Project name, sponsor, and geographic area
- Brief project summary
- Sponsor contact information

2. Proposal, must clearly address the following:

- **Sponsor Description**
 - I. Organization type, governance structure, and operational background
 - II. Service area and population served (if applicable)
 - III. Revenue sources and financial capacity to complete the project
 - IV. Overview of current operations relevant to the project
- **Project Background**
 - I. Description of existing infrastructure or system
 - II. Identify regional water supply issues, deficiencies, risks, or declining trends
- **Project Description**

Narrative of project overview

 - I. **Define the regional issue**

Identify the basin-wide or regional water sustainability challenge being addressed, including whether it represents a long-standing or emerging issue.
 - II. **Explain how the project / program addresses the regional issue**

Describe the mechanism (e.g., managed recharge, infrastructure or operational improvements, construction of new infrastructure, etc.)

III. Identify and quantify impact(s) to the regional issue

Include metrics such as water savings, recharge volumes, impact to groundwater levels, heightened reliability, improved safety, economic, or environmental conditions, or other measurable outcomes.

IV. Identify and quantify all potential impacts (positive and negative)

Impacts to groundwater and surface water, hydrologic impacts locally and regionally, alignment with regional settlement agreements, operational changes, construction disturbance, and/or long-term benefit.

- **Demonstrate regional support**
Provide evidence such as letters, MOUs, partnerships, or stakeholder endorsements.
- **Map showing project location and regional context**
- **Conceptual design or plan**
- **Known permitting requirements**
- **Environmental considerations**

3. Additional Information (If Available)

- Preliminary cost estimates and budget
- Potential / Other funding sources; i.e., federal, IWRB, other state grants and funding
- Proposed project schedule

IV. IWRB Support – what type of support can the IWRB provide?

Funding Support

- Eligibility for IWRB funding programs for planning, design, or implementation phases
- Cost-share participation determined on a case-by-case basis, considering project scope, regional benefit, and sponsor capacity
- Potential for phased funding (e.g., feasibility, design, construction)
- Inclusion on the RWS Priority List may improve competitiveness for state and federal funding opportunities

Advocacy and Funding Coordination

- Advocacy for state and federal funding, including coordination with agencies such as the Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Support for legislative awareness and potential appropriations aligned with statewide water priorities
- Inclusion in broader state water resource initiatives or funding strategies

Technical Assistance

- Support for hydrologic analysis, modeling, and data evaluation
- Assistance with feasibility studies and alternatives analysis
- Coordination and integration with statewide data and monitoring efforts
- Facilitation of interagency technical collaboration

Project Development and Coordination

- Assistance refining project scope, phasing, and alternatives
- Support in identifying and coordinating regional partners
- Convening stakeholders to advance multi-entity or basin-wide solutions

V. Additions to the RWS Priority List

The IWRB may add projects to the RWS Priority List at its discretion. Project sponsors may submit a request at any time.

IWRB staff will work with the Project Sponsor to ensure the application is complete and the project meets the eligibility criteria. A complete application will be presented to the IWRB for consideration.

Submittal Instructions

Requests must be submitted electronically to:

IWRB-Info@idwr.idaho.gov

VI. Additional resources and information

Navigate to the IWRB Financial Programs and Grants webpage at <https://idwr.idaho.gov/iwrboverview/iwrb-financial-programs-grants/> and select the “Resources & Guidance” tab for additional resources and information.

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE REGIONAL
WATER SUSTAINABILITY PRIORITY LIST

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT UPDATED
CRITERIA

1 WHEREAS, in July 2021 the IWRB adopted an initial Regional Water Sustainability (RWS)
2 Priority List to help guide the Idaho Water Resource Board's (IWRB's) spending for large, regional
3 water sustainability projects from state general funds, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds,
4 or other applicable sources; and
5

6 WHEREAS, on January 21, 2022, the IWRB adopted Resolution No. 02-2022 establishing a
7 qualifying criteria requiring that a project "help achieve water supply sustainability on a regional,
8 basin-wide, or statewide basis" to be included on the RWS Priority List; and
9

10 WHEREAS, the IWRB last updated the criteria for the RWS Priority List through Resolution
11 No. 22-2026 on May 21, 2026; and
12

13 WHEREAS, on October 27, 2026, the IWRB Finance Committee recommended newly
14 updated criteria for inclusion of projects on the RWS Priority List for consideration by the full
15 Board.
16

17 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB adopts the attached criteria for
18 inclusion on the RWS Priority List.
19

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that non-substantive changes made to the adopted criteria by
21 IWRB staff will be considered approved by the IWRB unless specifically disapproved at the first
22 regular IWRB meeting following the proposed changes.

DATED this 13th day of November 2026.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

MEMO



To: Idaho Water Resource Board Finance Committee
From: Mary Condon, Project Management Services Supervisor
Date: October 16, 2026
SUBJECT: Idaho Water Resource Board Grant Criteria

REQUESTED ACTION: Consider Revised Grant Criteria for Flood Management, Aging Infrastructure, Measuring & Monitoring, and Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Grants

Background:

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB/Board) currently administers four grant programs: Aging Infrastructure, Flood Management, Groundwater to Surface Water Conversions, and Measuring & Monitoring.

The Flood Management criteria was last updated in March 2026, and the other three criteria were updated in May of 2026, to improve the consistency between the criteria layouts and add additional information for applicants regarding registration in online portals for payments, insurance requirements, and in-kind reimbursement requirements. During the 2026 grant application cycle, staff examined each of the criteria and scoring to evaluate any additional efficiency opportunities to improve the application and scoring process.

Current Grant Criteria Concerns:

The application requirements are currently in a separate section from the points scoring criteria in each of the four grant criteria. This causes some confusion for the applicants applying and for the staff scoring the applications to match the items required and the level of detail requested. All four criteria have been streamlined to merge the application requirements with the scoring criteria to better describe the level of detail expected from a project proposal.

Proposal:

Consider revisions to the grant criteria for Flood Management, Aging Infrastructure, Measuring & Monitoring, and the Ground Water to Surface Water Conversions to a standardized format with a single merged section for the application requirements and scoring criteria. Changes to language and/or additional language have been highlighted, while the newly merged "Application Requirements & Evaluation Criteria" section is not highlighted.

Aging Infrastructure Grant Criteria – Consider adding to the ineligible projects, "Integrated irrigation and drinking water systems"

Attachments:

- *Aging Infrastructure Grant Criteria – draft revision*
- *Flood Management Grant Criteria – draft revision*
- *Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Grant Criteria – draft revision*
- *Measuring & Monitoring Grant Criteria – draft revision*
- *Draft Resolution – Aging Infrastructure Grant Criteria*
- *Draft Resolution – Flood Grant Criteria*
- *Draft Resolution – GW to SW Conversion Grant Criteria*
- *Draft Resolution – Measuring and Monitoring Grant Criteria*



IWRB Aging Infrastructure Grant Criteria

The Idaho Legislature has appropriated funding to the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) to be used for grants for water projects to ***rehabilitate or improve aging water infrastructure***.

Projects that rehabilitate or improve Idaho's water infrastructure support the Idaho economy, provide economic value, and ensure long-term water resource stability and sustainability. The IWRB has developed these criteria to provide financial assistance on a statewide competitive basis through grants to eligible entities interested in pursuing eligible projects to rehabilitate or improve aging water infrastructure.

Eligible Projects: The IWRB defines an aging water infrastructure project as any new project, or new phase of an improvement project intended to repair, maintain, replace, or improve existing infrastructure that supports irrigation water delivery, storage, drainage, treatment, and use of water for irrigation. Water efficiency projects that reduce incidental recharge will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Ineligible Projects:

- Projects that are already completed or underway by the application deadline
- Municipal drinking, **integrated irrigation and drinking water systems**, or wastewater systems

Eligible Entities: Irrigation Districts, Irrigation Boards of Control, Canal Companies, Drainage Districts, Groundwater Districts, Ditch Companies, Lateral Ditch Users Associations, Reservoir Districts, Municipal Irrigation Districts (formed per Title 50, Chapter 18, Idaho Code), Municipalities, Counties, Water Districts, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Eligible Geographic Area: Statewide

Program Budget: No more than 50% of the total budget may be spent within a single IWRB district. This limit may be waived if there are no competing funding demands.

Funding Details:

- Funding Details: Up to \$2,000,000 per project; one project per application.
- IWRB grant portion cannot exceed 50% of total project costs. Projects that include higher cost share amounts will be prioritized during project evaluations (see evaluation criteria).
- Costs incurred prior to the grant award date are not eligible for reimbursement.
- Reimbursement requests can be made once a cost-reimbursement contract is established between the awardee and IWRB.

- Reimbursement of invoices will not exceed 50% of the invoice amount ("Reimbursable Funds") submitted to Board Staff. Of the Reimbursable Funds, 10% will be retained until Awardee submits a certificate of completion.
- Contract term will not exceed 3 years after the grant funding award (date of IWRB Resolution) unless an extension is approved by IWRB's contract manager
- Funds may be reallocated if a project is not completed within the term of the cost-reimbursement contract, or if the Awardee does not provide contract development information requested within 90 days after the grant award date.
- If your project has been partially funded through a different IWRB funding program (loan, Regional Water Sustainability Priority List, grant), please call and speak to an IWRB staff member before submitting your grant application.

Application Requirements & Evaluation Criteria:

For the grant proposal to be considered, the following must be provided. Projects that do not meet eligibility requirements shall be declared ineligible and not scored. Applications missing required documents or information shall be returned to the applicant. To maximize the effective and efficient use of available funds, the applications will be evaluated, scored (130-point scale), and ranked according to the following criteria:

- **Completed [Applicant Information Sheet](#)** provided by IWRB.
- A **cover letter** that is addressed to the IWRB and with the eligible entity's letterhead. The letter must contain a project summary and the project manager's contact information. The summary must include the funding request dollar amount and expected total project cost, as well as all other funding sources.
- An **application** containing the following:
 1. **Project Details — Up to 20 Points**
 - **Eligible Entity — 5 points:** Description of the project sponsor, including organization type, background, revenue sources, and current operations.
 - **Project Proposal — 10 points:** Description of the project purpose, existing infrastructure, proposed repair, rehabilitation, replacement, or improvement, project objectives.
 - **Project Location — 5 points:** Description of project location, water source, county, coordinates or PLS information, photographs where applicable, and detailed project map(s).
 2. **Urgency of Project — Up to 20 Points**
 - The application must describe the urgency of the proposed project, including infrastructure age, condition, function, risk of failure, consequences of failure, and the need for repair, rehabilitation, replacement, or improvement.
 3. **Public Interest of Project — Up to 30 Points**
 - **Economic Value — 15 points:** Economic values supported by the existing or proposed infrastructure, including communities served, irrigated acreage, water provided for future development, and economic activity supported by the infrastructure.

- **Public Benefits — 15 points:** Benefits identified pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-1760, including applicable benefits related to water quality, fish and wildlife, recreation, hydropower, water supply stability and sustainability, drought resiliency, public safety, and other benefits to Idaho citizens.

Water-efficiency projects that reduce incidental recharge within a GWMA or CGWA must provide the required mitigation information and demonstrate consistency with the State Water Plan. Projects within the ESPA GWMA that reduce incidental recharge must also demonstrate how the project supports aquifer-stabilization efforts.

4. Budget Planning and Cost-Effectiveness — Up to 25 Points

- **Cost-Effectiveness — 10 points:** Description of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed project compared with other alternatives considered, including longevity of the project.
- **Project Budget — 10 points:** Detailed cost estimates for labor, materials, and other anticipated project costs, including justification of costs and identification of all funding sources and amounts, including any IWRB awarded grants or loans. The application must include a summary table identifying the cost-share percentage for each funding source including in-kind work. If other grants are required to complete the project (USACE, NRCS, FEMA, etc.), include timelines for receiving those funds. In-kind work must be detailed and included in cost estimates.

Water-efficiency projects that reduce incidental recharge within a GWMA or CGWA must separately identify costs that are not associated with reductions in incidental recharge if those costs are to be considered for partial funding.

- **Non-State Funds — 5 points:** At least 50% of the matching funds provided by parties other than the state.

5. Project Readiness — Up to 30 points

- **Project Schedule — 10 points:** Timeline identifying important project milestones, including anticipated funding, permitting, construction start, and project completion.
- **Plans and Specifications — 10 points:** Relevant design plans, drawings, material specifications, land entitlements, known environmental issues, and regulatory approvals or permits. If permits have not yet been obtained, the anticipated permitting schedule must be identified.
- **Project Team and Experience — 10 points:** Identification of the organizations and personnel responsible for completing the project, including their roles, anticipated time commitment, and relevant experience.

Application Submittal:

- Applications can be emailed to IWRBGrants@idwr.idaho.gov. Applications that are emailed must be received by the application due date.
- Applications that are mailed must be received on the application due date. Mailing address:
ATTENTION: IWRB GRANTS TEAM
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
PO BOX 83720
BOISE, ID 83720-0098

- Applications can be dropped off in person on the 6th floor of the Idaho Water Center in Boise. Applications must be dropped off on weekdays, excluding holidays, between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm. The Idaho Water Center is located at:
IDAHO WATER CENTER
322 E FRONT ST STE 648
BOISE, ID 83702-7371

Grant Process:

- IWRB staff evaluate and score applications based on IWRB approved evaluation criteria
- IWRB staff present funding recommendations to IWRB Finance Committee
- Funding awarded at a regular IWRB meeting
- IWRB staff will notify eligible entity of grant approval and will administer cost-reimbursement contracts

Additional Conditions of Award:

- Sponsor shall obtain and maintain liability insurance for the duration of the grant contract. The Sponsor shall provide the IWRB certificates of insurance within 15 days of the execution of the grant contract.
- Funding may be reallocated if:
 - No response is received from the awardee within 90 days of the award dated resolution
 - A proposed contract is not signed and returned within 60 days of issuance
 - If the project is not completed within the award contract term
 - The contract expires without a renewal or extension request from the awardee

Cost-Reimbursement Process:

- Awardee must be registered with the Idaho Secretary of State (SCO) in [IPRO Supplier Portal](#) and in [PaymentWorks](#), See "Action Center" on the homepage of SCO at <https://www.sco.idaho.gov/LivePages/scohome.aspx>
- Funds will be distributed upon the awardee submitting an IWRB acceptable funding reimbursement request to the IWRB.
- Reimbursement of invoices will not exceed 50% of the invoice amount ("Reimbursable Funds") submitted to IWRB staff. Of the Reimbursable Funds, 10% of the funds will be retained until Awardee submits a certificate of completion.
- The IWRB and IDWR staff will review and upon approval, pay invoices in accordance with Idaho Code § 67-2302
- In-kind services, labor, and materials must be invoiced to the IWRB to be eligible for reimbursement
- The IWRB shall determine the value of in-kind contributions of materials and labor
- Invoices should be sent to IdwrPayable@idwr.idaho.gov
- A certificate of project completion and a financial summary of the total project cost shall be submitted by the awardee in order to receive final reimbursement

In-kind Matching Funds Documentation. In-kind matching contributions must be adequately documented and verifiable from the awardee's official records. Documentation must be sufficient to answer the following:

- Awardee must be able to demonstrate that the contribution is from an acceptable source.
- Awardee must be able to demonstrate what is being used as match is suitable for match.

- The IWRB shall determine the value of the in-kind contribution
 - Awardee is responsible for providing accurate documentation to support their in-kind valuation
 - Value shall be based on standard objective sources rather than awardees' estimate
- Awardee must certify that the information is correct and IWRB must review and approve

Accounting records must be supported by source documentation such as vouchers, canceled checks, invoices, payroll, time and attendance records, contract and sub-grant award documents, or other required forms.

Force account labor and equipment. The use of the awardee's staff (labor) and/or equipment costs must be verifiable from the awardee's accounting system. For labor, the records must include: the name of each worker, dates worked, hourly rate of pay, number of hours worked specific to the grant activity, and the total cost for each worker. Documentation of equipment costs must include the type of equipment used, dates used, hourly rate value, number of hours used, how the hourly rate was determined and total cost.

Donated contract labor and volunteer services may be counted as matching share if they are an integral and necessary part of the approved work.

- Rates claimed for volunteer services must be consistent with those rates paid for similar work in other activities and must not include fringe benefits and overhead costs.
- Match must be documented and, to the extent feasible, supported by the same methods used by the awardee for its own employees.
- At minimum this includes signed and dated time sheets filled out by volunteers working and approved by the supervisor with first-hand knowledge of the activity

Additional resources and information

Navigate to the IWRB Financial Programs and Grants webpage at <https://idwr.idaho.gov/iwrboverview/iwrb-financial-programs-grants/> and select the "Resources & Guidance" tab for additional resources and information.

IWRB Districts are as follows:

District No. 1: Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone, Benewah, Latah, Clearwater, Nez Perce, Lewis and Idaho counties.

District No. 2: Adams, Valley, Washington, Payette, Gem, Boise, Canyon, Ada, Elmore and Owyhee counties.

District No. 3: Camas, Gooding, Jerome, Twin Falls, Cassia, Blaine, Lincoln, Minidoka, Lemhi, Custer and Butte counties.

District No. 4: Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, Teton, Bingham, Bonneville, Power, Bannock, Caribou, Oneida, Franklin and Bear Lake counties.

** No more than 50% of the total budget may be spent within a single IWRB district.
This limit may be waived if there are no competing funding demands.*



IWRB Flood Management Grant Criteria

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) has developed these criteria for the Flood Management Grant to provide financial assistance on a competitive statewide basis to Flood Control Districts, Drainage Districts, Irrigation Districts, Canal Companies, Municipalities, Counties and other public entities interested in pursuing flood damaged stream channel repair, stream channel improvement, flood risk reduction, and flood prevention projects.

Eligible Projects: Pursuing flood damage repair and improvement projects can help prevent or reduce flood damage in Idaho's streams and rivers. To be considered for grant funding, entities must be able to provide evidence of flood damage, or evidence of conditions that create the risk of flooding in a stream channel and submit a funding request document outlining the proposed repairs and/or improvements to the stream channel.

Ineligible Projects: Projects already completed or underway by the application deadline.

Eligible Entities: Flood Control Districts, Drainage Districts, Irrigation Districts, Canal Companies, Municipalities, Counties, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Other public entities are eligible to apply. Individuals must apply through one of the eligible entities.

Eligible Geographic Area: Statewide

Program Budget: No more than 50% of the total budget may be spent within a single IWRB district. This limit may be waived if there are no competing funding demands.

Funding Details:

- Funding Details: Up to \$200,000 per project; one project per application.
- IWRB grant portion cannot exceed 50% of total project costs. Projects that include higher cost share amounts will be prioritized during project evaluations (see evaluation criteria).
- Eligible entity is responsible for providing permit documentation to IWRB staff.
- Costs incurred prior to the grant award date are not eligible for reimbursement.
- Project costs related to the installation of road appurtenances (road signs, guard rails, etc.) are not eligible for reimbursement.
- Reimbursement requests can be made once a cost-reimbursement contract is established between the awardee and IWRB.

- Reimbursement of invoices will not exceed 50% of the invoice amount (“Reimbursable Funds”) submitted to IWRB Staff. Of the Reimbursable Funds, 10% will be retained until Sponsor submits a certificate of completion.
- Contract term will not exceed 3 years after the grant funding award (date of IWRB Resolution) unless an extension is approved by IWRB’s contract manager
- Funds may be reallocated if a project is not completed within the term of the cost-reimbursement contract, or if no response is received by the awardee within 90 days after the grant award date
- If your project has been partially funded through a different IWRB funding program (loan, Regional Water Sustainability Priority List, grant), please call and speak to an IWRB staff member before submitting your grant application.

Application Requirements and Evaluation Criteria:

For the grant proposal to be considered, the following documents and information must be provided. Projects that do not meet eligibility requirements or are determined not to be flood-related by staff shall be declared ineligible and not scored. Applications missing required documents or information shall be returned to the applicant. To maximize the effective and efficient use of available funds, the applications will be evaluated, scored (*130-point scale*), and ranked according to the following criteria:

- Completed [Applicant Information Sheet](#) provided by IWRB.
- A **cover letter** addressed to the IWRB and with the eligible entity’s letterhead. The letter shall contain a project summary and the project manager’s contact information. The summary shall include the funding request dollar amount and expected total project cost, as well as all other funding sources.
- An **application** containing all the following information:
 1. **Project Details — Up to 25 Points**
 - **First Time Applicant — 5 points** (if applicable)
 - **Eligible Entity — 5 points:** Description of the project sponsor, including organization type, background, revenue sources, and current operations.
 - **Project Proposal — 10 points:** Description of the project purpose, project objectives including evidence of flood damage or conditions that create a flood risk and demonstrate how the project addresses flood conditions.
 - **Project Location — 5 Points:** Description of project location, water source, county, coordinates or PLS information, photographs where applicable, and detailed project map(s).
 2. **Urgency of Project — Up to 20 Points**
 - The application must describe the urgency of the proposed project, including relevant factors such as risk to human life or property damage.
 3. **Public Interest of Project — Up to 30 Points**
 - **Public Support — 15 points:** Documentation that local stakeholders have been consulted. If the project is within an active Flood Control District, the eligible entity must include a letter of support.

- **Public Benefits — 15 points:** Benefits identified pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-1760, including applicable benefits related to stream channel repair, stream channel improvement, flood risk reduction, water quality improvement, other ecological benefits.
- 4. **Budget Planning and Cost-Effectiveness — Up to 25 Points**
 - **Cost-Effectiveness — 10 points:** Description of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed project compared with other alternatives considered, including longevity of the project.
 - **Project Budget — 10 points:** Detailed cost estimates for labor, materials, and other anticipated project costs, including justification of costs and identification of all funding sources and amounts, including any IWRB awarded grants or loans. The application must include a summary table identifying the cost-share percentage for each funding source including in-kind work. If other grants are required to complete the project (USACE, NRCS, FEMA, etc.), include timelines for receiving those funds. In-kind work must be detailed and included in cost estimates.
 - **Non-State Funds — 5 points:** At least 50% of the matching funds provided by parties other than the state. **Projects that propose matching cost-share amounts above 50% will receive additional points in their score (1 point for each additional 1% up to 20 additional points)**
- 5. **Project Readiness — Up to 30 points**
 - **Project Schedule — 10 points:** Timeline identifying important project milestones, including anticipated funding, permitting, construction start, and project completion.
 - **Plans and Specifications — 10 points:** Relevant design plans, drawings, material specifications, land entitlements, known environmental issues, and regulatory approvals or permits. If permits have not yet been obtained, the anticipated permitting schedule must be identified.
 - **Project Team and Experience — 10 points:** Identification of the organizations and personnel responsible for completing the project, including their roles, anticipated time commitment, and relevant experience.

Application Submission:

- Applications can be emailed to IWRBGrants@idwr.idaho.gov. Applications that are emailed must be received by the application due date.
- Applications that are mailed must be received on the application due date. Mailing address:
ATTENTION: GRANTS TEAM
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
PO BOX 83720
BOISE, ID 83720-0098
- Applications can also be dropped off in person on the 6th floor of the Idaho Water Center in Boise. Applications must be dropped off on weekdays, excluding holidays, between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm. The Idaho Water Center is located at:
IDAHO WATER CENTER
322 E FRONT ST STE 648
BOISE, ID 83702-7371

Grant Process:

- IWRB staff evaluate and score applications based on IWRB approved evaluation criteria
- IWRB staff present funding recommendations to IWRB Finance Committee
- Funding awarded at the IWRB meeting
- IWRB staff will notify eligible entity of grant approval and will administer cost-reimbursement contracts

Additional Conditions of Award:

- Sponsor shall obtain and maintain liability insurance for the duration of the grant contract. The Sponsor shall provide the IWRB certificates of insurance within 15 days of the execution of the grant contract.
- Funding may be reallocated if:
 - No response is received from the awardee within 90 days of the award dated resolution
 - A proposed contract is not signed and returned within 60 days of issuance
 - If the project is not completed within the award contract term
 - The contract expires without a renewal or extension request from the awardee

Cost-Reimbursement Process:

- Awardee must be registered with the Idaho Secretary of State (SCO) in [IPRO Supplier Portal](#) and in [PaymentWorks](#), See "Action Center" on the homepage of SCO at <https://www.sco.idaho.gov/LivePages/scohome.aspx>
- Funds will be distributed upon awardee submitting an acceptable funding reimbursement request to the IWRB.
- Reimbursement of invoices will not exceed 50% of the invoice amount ("Reimbursable Funds") submitted to IWRB staff. Of the Reimbursable Funds, 10% of funds will be retained until Sponsor submits a certificate of completion.
- The IWRB and IDWR staff will review and pay invoices, upon approval, in accordance with Idaho Code § 67-2302
- In-kind services, labor, and materials must be invoiced to IWRB to be eligible for reimbursement
- The IWRB shall determine the value of in-kind contributions of materials and labor
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- A certificate of project completion and a financial summary of the total project cost shall be submitted by the awardee in order to receive final reimbursement

In-kind Matching Funds Documentation. In-kind matching contributions must be adequately documented and verifiable from the awardee's official records. Documentation must be sufficient to answer the following:

- Awardee must be able to demonstrate that the contribution is from an acceptable source.
- Awardee must be able to demonstrate what is being used as match is suitable for match.
- The IWRB shall determine the value of the in-kind contribution
 - Awardee is responsible for providing accurate documentation to support their in-kind valuation; and
 - Value shall be based on standard objective sources rather than awardee's estimates.
- Awardee must affirm that the information is correct and IWRB will review and may approve.

Accounting records must be supported by source documentation such as vouchers, canceled checks, invoices, payroll, time and attendance records, contract and sub-grant award documents, or other required forms.

Force account labor and equipment. The use of the awardee's staff (labor) and/or equipment costs must be verifiable from the awardee's accounting system. For labor, the records must include: the name of each worker, dates worked, hourly rate of pay, number of hours worked specific to the grant activity, and the total cost for each worker. Documentation of equipment costs must include the type of equipment used, dates used, hourly rate value, number of hours used, how the hourly rate was determined and total cost.

Donated contract labor and volunteer services may be counted as matching share if they are an integral and necessary part of the approved work.

- Rates claimed for volunteer services must be consistent with those rates paid for similar work in other activities and must not include fringe benefits and overhead costs.
- Match must be documented and, to the extent feasible, supported by the same methods used by the awardee for its own employees.

At minimum this includes signed and dated time sheets filled out by volunteers working and approved by the supervisor with first-hand knowledge of the activity

Additional resources and information

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District No. 2: Adams, Valley, Washington, Payette, Gem, Boise, Canyon, Ada, Elmore, and Owyhee counties.

District No. 3: Camas, Gooding, Jerome, Twin Falls, Cassia, Blaine, Lincoln, Minidoka, Lemhi, Custer, and Butte counties.

District No. 4: Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, Teton, Bingham, Bonneville, Power, Bannock, Caribou, Oneida, Franklin, and Bear Lake counties.

** No more than 50% of the total budget may be spent within a single IWRB district. This limit may be waived if there are no competing funding demands.*



IWRB ESPA Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Grant Criteria

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) is offering grant funding to be used for water projects targeted at converting lands irrigated from groundwater to surface water irrigation (Conversion Projects).

Projects that convert irrigated lands from groundwater to surface water irrigation support the Idaho economy, provide economic value, and ensure long-term water resource stability and sustainability. The IWRB has developed these criteria to provide financial assistance on a competitive basis through grants to eligible entities in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) area of common groundwater supply interested in pursuing eligible projects to convert existing irrigated lands from groundwater to surface water irrigation.

Eligible Projects: Projects located in an eligible geographic area that propose to convert from groundwater to surface water irrigation. "Hard Conversions" are projects that would permanently convert to the use of surface water. "Soft Conversions" would partially convert to the use of surface water but may have to use groundwater when surface water is not available.

Ineligible Projects: Projects that are already completed before the application deadline.

Eligible Entities: Groundwater Districts, Irrigation Districts, Irrigation Boards of Control, Canal Companies, and Municipalities. Individuals must apply through one of the eligible entities.

Eligible Geographic Area: Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) area of common groundwater supply.

Funding Details:

- IWRB grant portion cannot exceed (50%) of total project costs for soft conversions. IWRB grant portion cannot exceed (75%) of total project costs for hard conversions.
- Must agree to cease pumping the proposed portion of groundwater related to project and that delivered conversion water will be used only on lands with an existing ground water right tied to this project. Ground water rights previously used on the conversion project lands cannot be put in the Water Bank for lease.

- If project construction is completed by the application deadline the project is not eligible for this funding opportunity. Projects that have previously been awarded conversion grant funding are eligible to apply for additional funding.
- Costs incurred prior to the grant award date are not eligible for reimbursement.
- Reimbursement requests can be made once a cost-reimbursement contract is established between the awardee and IWRB.
- Reimbursement of invoices will not exceed 50% for soft and 75% for hard conversions of the invoice amount ("Reimbursable Funds") submitted to Board Staff. Of the Reimbursable Funds, 10% will be retained until Awardee submits a certificate of completion.
- Contract term will not exceed 3 years after the grant funding award (date of IWRB Resolution) unless an extension is approved by IWRB's contract manager.
- Funds may be reallocated if a project is not completed within the term of the cost-reimbursement contract, or if the Awardee does not provide contract development information requested within 90 days after the grant award date.
- If your project has been partially funded through a different IWRB funding program (loan, Regional Water Sustainability Priority List, grant), please call and speak to an IWRB staff member before submitting your grant application.

Application Requirements & Evaluation Criteria:

For the grant proposal to be considered, the following must be provided. Projects that do not meet eligibility requirements shall be declared ineligible and not scored. Applications missing required documents or information shall be returned to the applicant. To maximize the effective and efficient use of available funds, the applications will be evaluated, scored (130-point scale), and ranked according to the following criteria:

- Documentation is required from **Irrigation District/Canal Company** of **support** for the project **and agreement to deliver** the surface water supply for the conversion project. Documentation of long-term leases, storage water, existing shares, etc. to support the proposed project *if* not directly diverted from a river. Documentation should address the term of the surface water delivery agreement and how often water will be available to support the project.
- Documentation from **Groundwater District** of **support** for the project and agreement to administer the pumping reduction.
- **List of groundwater rights** on conversion project lands. Include well tag numbers or WMIS ID's
- **Completed** [Applicant Information Sheet](#) provided by IWRB.
- A **cover letter** addressed to the IWRB and with the eligible entity's letterhead. The letter shall contain a project summary and the project manager's contact information. The summary shall include the funding request dollar amount and expected total project cost, as well as all other funding sources.
- An **application** containing all the following information:
 1. **Project Details — Up to 15 Points**
 - **Eligible Entity — 5 points:** Description of the project sponsor, including organization type, background, revenue sources, and current operations.

- **Project Proposal — 5 points:** Description of the project purpose, existing infrastructure, improvement needs/objectives/benefits, 30% design plans, land entitlements at project location, description of any known environmental issues.
- **Project Location — 5 points:** Description of project location, water source, county, coordinates or PLS information, photographs where applicable, and detailed project map(s).

2. Benefits/Effectiveness of Project — Up to 75 Points

Applicants should submit modeling results to support their claims.

- **Pumping Offset — 15 points:** Project with a greater percentage of pumping offset will receive more points when ranked against all eligible project proposals
- **Groundwater pumping reduction — 10 points:** The application demonstrates a reduction in average annual groundwater pumping in acre-feet associated with this project
- **Surface water supply — 5 points:** The applicant demonstrates the dependability of the surface water supply in terms of quantity and seasonal availability
- **Aquifer / Reach gain benefits — 20 points:** The applicant demonstrates aquifer storage benefits and/or reach gain benefits associated with the project
- **Regionally focused — 5 points:** The applicant demonstrates the project involves multiple entities, or the project is regionally focused
- **Recharge component — 10 points:** A recharge component is a priority of the project
- **Efficiency — 10 points:** Conversions that are greater than 85% efficient will receive more points. Efficiency is calculated by the ground water saved based on historic baseline pumping divided by the surface water diverted. (1 acre-foot of surface water compared to historic 0.85 acre-feet of ground water = 85% efficiency)

Conversion Efficiency Table		Ground Water Acre-Feet Baseline					
		0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	1	1.1
Surface Water Acre-Feet Diverted	0.6	100%	117%	133%	150%	167%	183%
	0.7	86%	100%	114%	129%	143%	157%
	0.8	75%	88%	100%	113%	125%	138%
	0.9	67%	78%	89%	100%	111%	122%
	1	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%	110%
	1.1	55%	64%	73%	82%	91%	100%
	1.2	50%	58%	67%	75%	83%	92%
	1.3	46%	54%	62%	69%	77%	85%
	1.4	43%	50%	57%	64%	71%	79%
	1.5	40%	47%	53%	60%	67%	73%
	1.6	38%	44%	50%	56%	63%	69%

3. Urgency of Project — Up to 10 Points

- The application must describe the urgency of the proposed project. The project is necessary to avoid curtailment or to help support a settlement.

4. Budget Planning and Cost-Effectiveness — Up to 15 Points

- **Cost-Effectiveness — 5 points:** Description of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed project compared with other alternatives considered, including longevity of the project.
- **Project Budget — 5 points:** Detailed cost estimates for labor, materials, and other anticipated project costs, including justification of costs and identification of all funding sources and amounts, including any IWRB awarded grants or loans. The application must include a summary table identifying the cost-share percentage for each funding source including in-kind work. If other grants are required to complete the project (USBOR, NRCS), include timelines for receiving those funds. In-kind work must be detailed and included in cost estimates.
- **Non-State Funds — 5 points:** At least 50% of the matching funds provided by parties other than the state.

5. Project Readiness — Up to 15 points

- **Project Schedule — 5 points:** Timeline identifying important project milestones, including anticipated funding, permitting, construction start, and project completion.
- **Plans and Specifications — 5 points:** Relevant design plans, drawings, material specifications, land entitlements, known environmental issues, and regulatory approvals or permits. If permits have not yet been obtained, the anticipated permitting schedule must be identified.
- **Project Team and Experience — 5 points:** Identification of the organizations and personnel responsible for completing the project, including their roles, anticipated time commitment, and relevant experience.

Application Submittal:

Applications can be emailed to IWRBGrants@idwr.idaho.gov. Applications that are emailed must be received by the application due date.

Applications that are mailed must be received on the application due date. Mailing address:

ATTENTION: IWRB GRANTS TEAM
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
PO BOX 83720
BOISE, ID 83720-0098

Applications can be dropped off in person on the 6th floor of the Idaho Water Center in Boise. Applications must be dropped off on weekdays, excluding holidays, between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm. The Idaho Water Center is located at:

IDAHO WATER CENTER
322 E Front St, Suite 648
Boise, ID 83702-7371

Grant Process:

- IWRB staff evaluate and score applications based on IWRB approved evaluation criteria
- IDWR staff will perform modeling of application conversion scenario to calculate benefit
- IWRB staff present funding recommendations to IWRB Finance Committee
- Funding awarded at a regular IWRB meeting
- IWRB staff will notify project applicants of grant approval and will administer cost-reimbursement contracts

Additional Conditions of Award:

- Sponsor shall obtain and maintain liability insurance for the duration of the grant contract. The Sponsor shall provide the IWRB certificates of insurance within 15 days of the execution of the grant contract.
- Funding may be reallocated if:
 - No response is received from the awardee within 90 days of the award dated resolution
 - A proposed contract is not signed and returned within 60 days of issuance
 - If the project is not completed within the award contract term
 - The contract expires without a renewal or extension request from the awardee

Cost-Reimbursement Process:

- Awardee must be registered with the Idaho Secretary of State (SCO) in IPRO Supplier Portal and in PaymentWorks, See "Action Center" on the homepage of SCO at <https://www.sco.idaho.gov/LivePages/scohome.aspx>
- Funds will be distributed upon the awardee submitting an IWRB acceptable funding reimbursement request to the IWRB.
- Reimbursement of invoices will not exceed 50% for soft and 75% for hard conversions of the invoice amount ("Reimbursable Funds") submitted to Board Staff. Of the Reimbursable Funds, 10% will be retained until Awardee submits a certificate of completion.
- The IWRB and IDWR staff will review and upon approval, pay invoices in accordance with Idaho Code § 67-2302
- In-kind services, labor, and materials must be invoiced to the IWRB to be eligible for reimbursement
- The IWRB shall determine the value of in-kind contributions of materials and labor
- Invoices should be sent to IdwrPayable@idwr.idaho.gov
- A certificate of project completion and a financial summary of the total project cost shall be submitted by the awardee in order to receive final reimbursement

In-kind Matching Funds Documentation. In-kind matching contributions must be adequately documented and verifiable from the awardee's official records. Documentation must be sufficient to answer the following:

- Awardee must be able to demonstrate that the contribution is from an acceptable source.
- Awardee must be able to demonstrate what is being used as match is suitable for match.
- The IWRB shall determine the value of the in-kind contribution
 - Awardee is responsible for providing accurate documentation to support their in-kind valuation
 - Value shall be based on standard objective sources rather than awardees' estimate
- Awardee must certify that the information is correct and IWRB must review and approve

Accounting records must be supported by source documentation such as vouchers, canceled checks, invoices, payroll, time and attendance records, contract and sub-grant award documents, or other required forms.

Force account labor and equipment. The use of the awardee's staff (labor) and/or equipment costs must be verifiable from the awardee's accounting system. For labor, the records must include: the name of each worker, dates worked, hourly rate of pay, number of hours worked specific to the grant activity, and the total cost for each worker. Documentation of equipment costs must include the type of equipment used, dates used, hourly rate value, number of hours used, how the hourly rate was determined and total cost.

Donated contract labor and volunteer services may be counted as matching share if they are an integral and necessary part of the approved work.

- Rates claimed for volunteer services must be consistent with those rates paid for similar work in other activities and must not include fringe benefits and overhead costs.
- Match must be documented and, to the extent feasible, supported by the same methods used by the awardee for its own employees.
- At minimum this includes signed and dated time sheets filled out by volunteers working and approved by the supervisor with first-hand knowledge of the activity

Additional resources and information

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IWRB Measuring & Monitoring Support Grant Criteria

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) has allocated funding to continue to promote water conservation efforts throughout the state of Idaho through the purchase and installation of monitoring equipment, measurement devices, or other supportive infrastructure for ground and surface water diversions.

Funding under this program seeks to continue and expand upon the previous Telemetry grant utilizing funding from the Bureau of Reclamation. Measurement and monitoring equipment must meet current Idaho Department of Water Resources Standards – [IDWR Water Measurement Information](#).

Eligible Projects: Projects considered under this program are for the purchase and installation of monitoring and measurement equipment for both surface and groundwater diversions. *Example projects: New monitoring wells, flumes, weirs, telemetry equipment, software development, automation equipment, etc.*

Ineligible Projects:

- Projects that are completed before the application deadline are not eligible for this program.

Eligible Entities: Irrigation Districts, Irrigation Boards of Control, Canal Companies, Drainage Districts, Groundwater Districts, Ditch Companies, Lateral Ditch Users Associations, Reservoir Districts, Municipal Irrigation Districts (formed per Title 50, Chapter 18, Idaho Code), Municipalities, Counties, and Water Districts. Individuals must apply through one of the eligible entities.

Eligible Geographic Area: Statewide, with preference for projects in response to an active measurement order issued by the IDWR Director.

Funding Details:

- Funding Details: Up to a maximum of \$250,000 per project; one project per application
- IWRB grant portion cannot exceed 50% of total project costs Projects that include higher cost share amounts will be prioritized during project evaluations (see evaluation criteria).
- Reimbursement requests can be made once a cost-reimbursement contract is established between the applicant and IWRB
- Reimbursement of invoices will not surpass 50% of the invoice amount ("Reimbursable Funds") submitted to Board Staff. Of the Reimbursable Funds, 10% will be retained until Awardee submits a certificate of completion.

- Contract term will not exceed 3 years after the grant funding award (date of IWRB Resolution) unless an extension is approved by IWRB's contract manager.
- Funds may be reallocated if a project is not completed within the term of the cost-reimbursement contract, or if the awardee does not provide contract development information requested within 90 days after the grant award date.
- If your project has been partially funded through a different IWRB funding program (loan, Regional Water Sustainability Priority List, grant), please call and speak to an IWRB staff member before submitting your grant application.

Application Requirements and Evaluation Criteria:

For the grant proposal to be considered, the following documents and information must be provided. Projects that do not meet eligibility requirements shall be declared ineligible and not scored. Applications missing required documents or information shall be returned to the applicant. To maximize the effective and efficient use of available funds, the applications will be evaluated, scored (*120-point scale*), and ranked according to the following criteria:

- **Completed [Applicant Information Sheet](#)** provided by IWRB.
- A **cover letter** addressed to the IWRB and with the eligible entity's letterhead. The letter shall contain a project summary and the project manager's contact information. The summary shall include the funding request dollar amount and expected total project cost, as well as all other funding sources.
- An **application** containing all the following information:
 1. **Project Details — Up to 15 Points**
 - **Eligible Entity — 5 points:** Description of the project sponsor, including organization type, background, revenue sources, and current operations.
 - **Project Proposal — 5 points:** Description of the project purpose, project objectives including how the project addresses measurement needs and the equipment being installed.
 - **Project Location — 5 Points:** Description of project location, water source, county, coordinates or PLS information, photographs where applicable, and detailed project map(s). Tabulate locations of equipment for proposals with more than 5 installation locations.
 2. **Urgency of Project — Up to 10 Points**
 - **Measurement Order — 10 points:** Applicant is complying with an active measurement order issued by the IDWR Director
 3. **Public Interest of Project — Up to 30 Points**
 - **2024 SWC/Ground Water District Settlement Agreement in the ESPA — 30 points:** The applicant can demonstrate how this project will further agreement priorities regarding water resources.
 4. **Budget Planning and Cost-Effectiveness — Up to 30 Points**
 - **Cost-Effectiveness — Up to 20 points:** Description of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed project compared with other alternatives considered, including longevity of the project:
 - **New equipment — 20 points:** A new install of monitoring, telemetry, and/or measurement equipment on the Project diversion works; *or*
 - **Retrofit — 5 points:** A retrofit of existing monitoring, telemetry and/or measurement

equipment already installed on the Project diversion works.

- **Project Budget — 10 points:** Detailed cost estimates for labor, materials, and other anticipated project costs, including justification of costs and identification of all funding sources and amounts, including any IWRB awarded grants or loans. The application must include a summary table identifying the cost-share percentage for each funding source including in-kind work. If other grants are required to complete the project (USBOR), include timelines for receiving those funds. In-kind work must be detailed and included in cost estimates.
- **Non-State Funds – 5 points:** At least 50% of the matching funds provided by parties other than the state.

5. Project Readiness – Up to 35 points

- **Project Schedule — 15 points:** Timeline identifying important project milestones, including anticipated funding, permitting, construction start, and project completion.
 - The Project will be completed in 1 year; *(15 points) or*
 - The Project will be completed in 2 years; *(10 points) or*
 - The Project will be completed in subsequent years. *(5 points)*
- **Plans and Specifications — 10 points:** Relevant design plans, drawings, material specifications, land entitlements, known environmental issues, and regulatory approvals or permits. If permits have not yet been obtained, the anticipated permitting schedule must be identified.
- **Project Team and Experience — 10 points:** Identification of the organizations and personnel responsible for completing the project, including their roles, anticipated time commitment, and relevant experience.

Application Submission:

- Applications can be emailed to IWRBGrants@idwr.idaho.gov. Applications that are emailed must be received by the application due date.
- Applications that are mailed must be received on the application due date. Mailing address:
ATTENTION: GRANTS TEAM
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
PO BOX 83720
BOISE, ID 83720-0098
- Applications can also be dropped off in person on the 6th floor of the Idaho Water Center in Boise. Applications must be dropped off on weekdays, excluding holidays, between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm. The Idaho Water Center is located at:
IDAHO WATER CENTER
322 E FRONT ST STE 648
BOISE, ID 83702-7371

Grant Process:

- IWRB staff evaluate and score applications based on IWRB approved evaluation criteria
- IWRB staff present funding recommendations to IWRB Finance Committee
- Funding awarded at the IWRB meeting

- IWRB staff will notify eligible entity of grant approval and will administer cost-reimbursement contracts

Additional Conditions of Award:

- Sponsor shall obtain and maintain liability insurance for the duration of the grant contract. The Sponsor shall provide the IWRB certificates of insurance within 15 days of the execution of the grant contract.
- Funding may be reallocated if:
 - No response is received from the awardee within 90 days of the award dated resolution
 - A proposed contract is not signed and returned within 60 days of issuance
 - If the project is not completed within the award contract term
 - The contract expires without a renewal or extension request from the awardee

Cost-Reimbursement Process:

- Awardee must be registered with the Idaho Secretary of State (SCO) in [IPRO Supplier Portal](#) and in [PaymentWorks](#), See “Action Center” on the homepage of SCO at <https://www.sco.idaho.gov/LivePages/scohome.aspx>
- Funds will be distributed upon awardee submitting an acceptable funding reimbursement request to the IWRB.
- Reimbursement of invoices will not surpass 50% of the invoice amount (“Reimbursable Funds”) submitted to IWRB staff. Of the Reimbursable Funds, 10% of funds will be retained until Sponsor submits a certificate of completion.
- The IWRB and IDWR staff will review and pay invoices, upon approval, in accordance with Idaho Code § 67-2302
- In-kind services, labor, and materials must be invoiced to IWRB to be eligible for reimbursement
- The IWRB shall determine the value of in-kind contributions of materials and labor
- Invoices should be sent to ldwrPayable@idwr.idaho.gov
- A certificate of project completion and a financial summary of the total project cost shall be submitted by the awardee in order to receive final reimbursement

In-kind Matching Funds Documentation. In-kind matching contributions must be adequately documented and verifiable from the awardee’s official records. Documentation must be sufficient to answer the following:

- Awardee must be able to demonstrate that the contribution is from an acceptable source.
- Awardee must be able to demonstrate what is being used as match is suitable for match.
- The IWRB shall determine the value of the in-kind contribution
 - Awardee is responsible for providing accurate documentation to support their in-kind valuation; and
 - Value shall be based on standard objective sources rather than awardee’s estimates.
- Awardee must affirm that the information is correct and IWRB will review and may approve.

Accounting records must be supported by source documentation such as vouchers, canceled checks, invoices, payroll, time and attendance records, contract and sub-grant award documents, or other required forms.

Force account labor and equipment. The use of the awardee’s staff (labor) and/or equipment costs must be verifiable from the awardee’s accounting system. For labor, the records must include: the name of each worker, dates worked, hourly rate of pay, number of hours worked specific to the grant activity, and

the total cost for each worker. Documentation of equipment costs must include the type of equipment used, dates used, hourly rate value, number of hours used, how the hourly rate was determined and total cost.

Donated contract labor and volunteer services may be counted as matching share if they are an integral and necessary part of the approved work.

- Rates claimed for volunteer services must be consistent with those rates paid for similar work in other activities and must not include fringe benefits and overhead costs.
- Match must be documented and, to the extent feasible, supported by the same methods used by the awardee for its own employees.

At minimum this includes signed and dated time sheets filled out by volunteers working and approved by the supervisor with first-hand knowledge of the activity

Additional resources and information

Navigate to the IWRB Financial Programs and Grants webpage at <https://idwr.idaho.gov/iwrboverview/iwrb-financial-programs-grants/> and select the “Resources & Guidance” tab for additional resources and information.

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF AGING WATER
INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT UPDATED
CRITERIA

1 WHEREAS, House Bill 769 passed and approved in 2022 by the Idaho Legislature directed
2 the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) to develop a grant program and criteria to provide
3 funding for projects that rehabilitate or improve aging water infrastructure; and
4

5 WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 42-1760, Idaho Code, state general funds deposited into
6 the Water Management Account (WMA) are continuously appropriated to the IWRB for water
7 projects that conserve or increase water supply, improve drought resiliency, address water
8 sustainability, or support flood management, including the development of grant programs
9 pursuant to Section 42-1760 (2) (c), Idaho Code; and
10

11 WHEREAS, on June 7, 2022, the IWRB adopted Resolution No. 21-2022 establishing Aging
12 Infrastructure Grants Program and associated criteria; and
13

14 WHEREAS, the IWRB last updated the criteria for the award of Aging Infrastructure Grants
15 through Resolution No. 25-2026 on May 21, 2026; and
16

17 WHEREAS, on October 27, 2026, the IWRB Finance Committee recommended newly
18 updated criteria for the award of Aging Infrastructure Grants for consideration by the full Board.
19

20 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB adopts the attached criteria for the
21 award of Aging Infrastructure Grants from the Water Management Account.
22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that non-substantive changes made to the adopted criteria by
24 IWRB staff will be considered approved by the IWRB unless specifically disapproved at the first
25 regular IWRB meeting following the proposed changes.
26

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB may consider scheduling a single or multiple
28 award cycle(s) in a fiscal year, as funds are available, which will be announced at least 45 days
29 prior to an application deadline.

DATED this 13th day of November 2026.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF FLOOD
MANAGEMENT GRANTS

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT UPDATED
CRITERIA

1 WHEREAS, House Bill 712 passed and approved by the 2018 Idaho Legislature created a
2 Flood Management Grant Program administered by the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) to
3 be used for the purpose of flood-damaged stream channel repair, stream channel improvement,
4 flood risk reduction, or flood prevention projects; and
5

6 WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 42-1760, Idaho Code, state general funds deposited into
7 the Water Management Account (WMA) are continuously appropriated to the IWRB for water
8 projects that conserve or increase water supply, improve drought resiliency, address water
9 sustainability, or support flood management, including the development of grant programs
10 pursuant to Section 42-1760 (2) (c), Idaho Code; and
11

12 WHEREAS, the IWRB last updated the criteria for the award of Flood Management Grants
13 through Resolution No. 12-2026 on March 27, 2026; and
14

15 WHEREAS, on October 27, 2026, the IWRB Finance Committee recommended newly
16 updated criteria for the award of Flood Management Grants for consideration by the full Board.
17

18 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB adopts the attached criteria for the
19 award of Flood Management Grants from the Water Management Account.
20

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that non-substantive changes made to the adopted criteria by
22 IWRB staff will be considered approved by the IWRB unless specifically disapproved at the first
23 regular IWRB meeting following the proposed changes.
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB may consider scheduling a single or multiple
26 award cycle(s) in a fiscal year, as funds are available, which will be announced at least 45 days
27 prior to an application deadline.

DATED this 13th day of November 2026.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF ESPA GROUNDWATER
TO SURFACE WATER CONVERSION GRANTS

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT UPDATED
CRITERIA

1 WHEREAS, the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) adopted criteria creating the ESPA
2 Groundwater to Surface Water Conversion Grant program through Resolution No. 22-2025 on
3 May 23rd, 2025, as part of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) Regional Water Sustainability
4 (RWS) Project Priority List; and
5

6 WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 42-1760, Idaho Code, state general funds deposited into
7 the Water Management Account (WMA) are continuously appropriated to the IWRB for water
8 projects that conserve or increase water supply, improve drought resiliency, address water
9 sustainability, or support flood management, including the development of grant programs
10 pursuant to Section 42-1760 (2) (c), Idaho Code; and
11

12 WHEREAS, the IWRB last updated the criteria for the award of ESPA Groundwater to
13 Surface Water Grants through Resolution No. 26-2026 on May 21, 2026; and
14

15 WHEREAS, on October 27, 2026, the IWRB Finance Committee recommended newly
16 updated criteria for the award of ESPA Groundwater to Surface Water Grants for consideration
17 by the full Board.
18

19 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB adopts the attached criteria for the
20 award of ESPA Groundwater to Surface Water Grants from the Water Management Account.
21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that non-substantive changes made to the adopted criteria by
23 IWRB staff will be considered approved by the IWRB unless specifically disapproved at the first
24 regular IWRB meeting following the proposed changes.
25

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB may consider scheduling a single or multiple
27 award cycle(s) in a fiscal year, as funds are available, which will be announced at least 45 days
28 prior to an application deadline.

DATED this 13th day of November 2026.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

BEFORE THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF MEASURING &
MONITORING SUPPORT GRANTS

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT UPDATED
CRITERIA

1 WHEREAS, the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) adopted criteria creating the
2 Monitoring Support Grant Program, through Resolution No. 24-2025 on May 23rd, 2025, to
3 provide financial assistance within the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) Area of Common
4 Ground Water Supply (ACGWS), to increase the measurement and monitoring capability of
5 irrigators within the ESPA ACGWS; and
6

7 WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 42-1760, Idaho Code, state general funds deposited into
8 the Water Management Account (WMA) are continuously appropriated to the IWRB for water
9 projects that conserve or increase water supply, improve drought resiliency, address water
10 sustainability, or support flood management, including priority consideration for certain water
11 measurement infrastructure projects above Milner Dam; and
12

13 WHEREAS, the Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) has issued
14 orders requiring measuring devices (Measurement Orders) to specified water users within
15 designated water districts across the state of Idaho to better administer water resources, and
16 there is a great number of water users within water districts, including outside of the ESPA
17 ACGWS, in need of funding assistance to comply with measurement orders; and
18

19 WHEREAS, staff have developed criteria for the award of Measuring & Monitoring
20 Support Grants open to the entire state of Idaho with a preference for projects above Milner
21 Dam; and
22

23 WHEREAS, the IWRB last updated the criteria for the award of Measuring & Monitoring
24 Support Grants through Resolution No. 27-2026 on May 21, 2026; and
25

26 WHEREAS, on October 27, 2026, the IWRB Finance Committee recommended newly
27 updated criteria for the award of Measuring & Monitoring Support Grants for consideration by
28 the full Board.
29

30 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the IWRB adopts the attached criteria for the
31 award of Measuring & Monitoring Support Grants from the Water Management Account.
32

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that non-substantive changes made to the adopted criteria by
34 IWRB staff will be considered approved by the IWRB unless specifically disapproved at the first
35 regular IWRB meeting following the proposed changes.
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWRB may consider scheduling a single or multiple
38 award cycle(s) in a fiscal year, as funds are available, which will be announced at least 45 days
39 prior to an application deadline.

DATED this 13th day of November 2026.

JEFF RAYBOULD, Chairman
Idaho Water Resource Board

ATTEST _____
DEAN STEVENSON, Secretary

MEMO



To: Idaho Water Resource Board Finance Committee
From: Mary Condon, Project Management Services Supervisor
Date: October 16, 2026
Subject: Idaho Water Resource Board Grant Application Timing

REQUESTED ACTION: Consider Administrative Adjustment to Grant Application Deadlines and Award Timing

Background:

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB, Board) currently administers four grant programs: Aging Infrastructure, Flood Management, Groundwater to Surface Water Conversions, and Measuring & Monitoring.

In September of 2026, staff presented alternative calendar options for the application due dates and award dates for the Flood Management, Aging Infrastructure, and Ground Water to Surface Water Conversion grants in response to the Grant Comprehensive Survey results and feedback provided to better manage workloads.

Proposals:

1. The Aging Infrastructure and Ground Water to Surface Water Conversion grants are the most complex and heaviest lift for scoring and require more time between the application due date and the award date than provided in the current grant schedule. Survey results support adjusting the award date to late summer, with applications in the spring. Staff recommend adjusting the application dates for the Aging Infrastructure and Ground Water to Surface Water Conversion grants to an April due date with a July award date.
2. Flood management grant applications are not a complex lift at this time based on the average number of applications and the project proposals. A turnaround time of 60 days is optimal. There were only a few respondents for the flood management grants in the survey results, so the IWRB asked staff in September to follow up more closely with flood management grant applicants and awardees to ask when timing for their grants would work best. Staff called the last two rounds of applicants and awardees for flood management grants, and asked if their project was preventative or responsive, and the award date that worked best with their projects. Staff recommend an April due date with July Award date for Flood Management grants based on the feedback.
 - 52% of the projects had components that were both preventative and reactive to a previous flooding event, 32% were reactive only, and 16% were preventative only.
 - 84% of respondents prefer the July award regardless of an earlier application date, and one entity in the Clearwater region stated an application date in April may be too early (snow on the ground still). An August award date is too late for 84% of respondents to start their projects the same year.
3. Measuring & Monitoring grant applications are not a complex lift at this time based on the low average number of applications and the project proposals. A turnaround time of 60 days is optimal. While still allowing applications year-round, staff recommend a hard cut-off of 60 days prior to three award dates during the year to score, rank, and prepare materials. The award dates would be the regular IWRB meetings in January, May, and September.

Attachment(s):

- *Proposed IWRB Grant Cycle Calendar for 2027*

Proposed IWRB Grant Cycle Calendar for 2027

Grant Program Timelines		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Flood Management Due First Friday in April Award July	Application Consultation												
	Staff Review & Ranking				D								
	Finance Committee & Board Meeting							R					
	Contract Development												
	Contract Mgt., Invoicing, Inspection												
Aging Infrastructure Due First Friday in April Award July	Application Consultation												
	Staff Review & Ranking				D								
	Finance Committee & Board Meeting							R					
	Contract Development												
	Contract Mgt., Invoicing, Inspection												
Groundwater to Surface Water Conversions Due First Friday in April Award July	Application Consultation												
	Staff Review & Ranking				D								
	Finance Committee & Board Meeting							R					
	Contract Development												
	Contract Mgt., Invoicing, Inspection												
Telemetry/ Measuring & Monitoring Accepted Year-Round Awards Sep, Jan, May	Application Consultation												
	Staff Review & Ranking							D					
	Finance Committee & Board Meeting	R				R				R			
	Contract Development												
	Contract Mgt., Invoicing, Inspection												

MEMO



To: Idaho Water Resource Board Finance Committee (Committee)
From: Planning & Projects Bureau Staff
Date: October 26, 2026
Subject: Other Items

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

This item is included to allow the Committee an opportunity to bring forward and discuss any other matters.

Attachments:

- *None*