IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

MINUTES
MEETING NO. 10-26

Water Center
Conference Rooms 602 B-D
322 E. Front Street
Boise

September 17, 2026
JOINT WORK SESSION

Brad Little
Governor

Jeff Raybould
Chairman
St. Anthony
At Large

Jo Ann Cole-Hansen
Vice Chair
Lewiston
At Large

Dean Stevenson
Secretary
Paul
District 3

Dale Van Stone
Hope
District 1

Albert Barker
Boise
District 2

Brian Olmstead
Twin Falls
At Large

Marcus Gibbs
Grace
District 4

Patrick McMahon
Sun Valley
At Large

At 8:30 AM (MT) Chairman Raybould called the meeting to order in Boise, Idaho, and on Zoom.

Agenda Item No. 1: Roll Call

Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) Board Members Present:
Jeff Raybould, Chairman
Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, Vice Chairman
Dean Stevenson, Secretary
Albert Barker
Patrick McMahon
Brian Olmstead
Dale Van Stone

Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) Commissioners Present:
Erik Olsen, Chairman
Wendy Pratt, Vice-Chair
Blake Hollingsworth, Treasurer-Secretary
Mitch Silvers
Joan Cloonan
Karen Sharpnack
Richard Savage, Online

Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) Staff Members Present:
Mathew Weaver, Director
Brian Patton, Deputy Director and IWRB Executive Manager
Cynthia Bridge Clark
Wesley Hipke
Matt Anders
Mary Condon
Mike McVay
Ethan Geisler
Justin Ferguson
John Loffredo
Ann Yribar
Milin Ream, Online

Others Present:
George Hitz, ISWCC
Loretta Strickland, SWCC
Sarah Quidgeon, SWCC
Corri Parsley, SWCC Administrative Assistant II
Doug Jones
Brian Murdock
Mark Zirschky, Flood District 10
Steve Stuebner

Agenda Item No. 2: Idaho Department of Water Resources / Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission Merger

Mathew Weaver, Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources and Acting Administrator of the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission, provided an informational update on the merger of the two agencies.

Mr. Weaver's update included a review of a draft Memorandum of Understanding between the IDWR and SWCC and the most recent Strategic Plan for IDWR, SWCC, and the IWRB for fiscal years 2027–2030, provided to the members as informational materials.

Following review and discussion, Chairman Raybould moved to the next item on the agenda.

Agenda Item No. 3: Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission Water Quality Program for Agriculture

SWCC Agriculture Program Manager Loretta Strickland provided a PowerPoint presentation recapping and highlighting the Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA).

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

Agenda Item No. 4: Idaho Water Resource Board Grant Program Survey Summary

IDWR Project Manager Supervisor Mary Condon provided a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the results of staff's 2026 Comprehensive Grant Program survey. Ms. Condon reviewed the survey's scope and development, solicitation process and responses received, key findings, and staff recommendations based on the survey results.

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

Agenda Item No. 5: Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Update

SWCC CREP Manager Rob Sharpnack provided the Board and Commissioners with an informational overview of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Mr. Sharpnack's presentation reviewed the program enrollment period, current program participation, historical data, and the anticipated growth for fiscal year 2027.

Following review and discussion, Chairman Raybould called for a 10-minute break. Upon reconvening, the Board/Commission proceeded to Agenda Item 6.

Agenda Item No. 6: Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Groundwater Model (ESPAM) Background

Mike McVay IDWR Technical Engineer, provided the Board and Commission with a detailed PowerPoint update on ESPAM and the Eastern Snake Hydrologic Modeling Committee (ESHMC), focusing on the model's history, development, and committee processes.

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

Agenda Item No. 7: Lemhi River – L-6/L-7 Rehabilitation Project

John Loffredo IDWR Transactions Program Manager, provided a presentation on rehabilitation projects along the Lemhi River. Mr. Loffredo highlighted more than 20 years of collaboration of projects between the SWCC and IWRB, in the upper Salmon River Basin.

Following discussion, Chairman Raybould proceeded to the next Agenda item.

Agenda Item No. 8: Cattle Grazing Contributions to Watershed Management

SWCC Commissioner and Vice Chair Wendy Pratt provided an informational presentation on the contributions of cattle grazing to watershed management.

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

Agenda Item No. 9: Flood District 10 Improvement Projects

Mark Zirschky representing Flood District 10, provided a PowerPoint presentation of current District improvement projects. Following a brief question and answer period, Chairman Raybould moved to Adjournment.

Agenda Item No. 10: Adjourn

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Raybould adjourned the meeting at 12:37 PM.

The Board and Commission recessed for lunch at approximately 12:37 p.m. Following lunch, the group departed for a field trip to tour Flood District 10 improvement project sites.

Respectfully submitted this 13th Day of November 2026.

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Dean Stevenson, *Secretary*

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Milin J. Ream, *Administrative Assistant II*