

Meeting Minutes
Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee
Blaine County Community Campus Performing Arts Theatre, Hailey, Idaho
August 9, 2021

The meeting started at 1:38 p.m. Director Gary Spackman attended the meeting along with several IDWR staff. The entire Advisory Committee was in attendance along with various members of the public. See the attached list of attendees.

After a brief introduction and taking of committee attendance, Shelley Keen introduced Idaho Water Resource Board members Brian Olmstead and Dean Stevenson. Shelley explained that Brian and Dean have extensive experience working on ESPA water delivery calls and settlements, and that both are available to assist the committee and IDWR with groundwater management area plan discussions and negotiations. Both Brian and Dean gave a few brief introductory remarks.

Sen. Michelle Stennett gave a few introductory remarks. She commended committee members and others on their work this summer to reach consensus on the 2021 term sheet agreement and mitigation plan; she encouraged users to continue cooperative efforts.

Director Spackman recapped the Basin 37 administrative proceedings, next steps in the process, and emphasized the expectation that a ground water area management area plan needs to be developed for the entire basin by December 1, 2021.

Kevin Lakey, Water District 37 watermaster, gave an update on mitigation implementation. Kevin summarized the following items:

- term sheet agreement between ground water and surface water users;
- elements of the approved mitigation plan including location and use of flow augmentation wells, and use of Snake River storage water rented by the ground water districts to benefit holders of senior surface water rights on the Little Wood River;
- water right priority cuts on Silver Creek and Little Wood River; and
- increases and maintenance of flows at Station 10 on the Little

Tim Luke then outlined expectations and the anticipated process for the development of the groundwater management area plan. This included the formation of a Technical Work Group (“TWG”) to assist the Advisory Committee in the development of a plan. Tim indicated that the technical work group would be facilitated by Sean Vincent and Jennifer Sukow of IDWR’s Hydrology Section and consist of consultants representing the Advisory Committee’s various user groups.

Several members of the Advisory Committee representing the committee’s user groups then presented their possible groundwater management area plan ideas and positions. Pat McMahon presented ideas on behalf of the Galena and South Valley Groundwater Districts. Nick Westendorf, Rod Hubsmith, Cooper Brossy, and Carl Pendleton all presented ideas on behalf of the lower valley surface water users. Bill Simon presented information for the Camas Groundwater Group. Brian Yeager made a statement on behalf of the Wood River Valley cities, and Corey Allen read a statement as a representative for the Sun Valley Company. Tim Luke noted some areas of common interests among the various ideas and statements presented by the different water user groups on the Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee members identified their representatives for the TWG as follows:

- Erick Powell (representing Galena Groundwater District),
- Dave Shaw (representing South Valley Groundwater District),
- Eric Miller (representing the BWLWUA and BWCC)
- Ed Squires (representing the Camas Groundwater Group)
- Greg Sullivan (representing the cities)

The lower valley surface water users also asked for the right to add a second representative to the technical work group. The advisory committee gave consent to this suggestion contingent that Eric Miller be the primary contact for the surface water users.

The meeting was then opened for public comment and discussion concerning the next meeting. A suggestion was made by Keri York, representing Wood River Land Trust, to add a member to the advisory committee to represent area environmental or recreational public interest groups (“Non-Government Organizations” or “NGOs”). No action was taken on the suggestion.

Tim Luke and Shelley Keen indicated that they would start drafting a “high level concept” groundwater management area plan “framework” document to share with the committee before the next meeting. They also committed to send an email to the committee after the meeting with some draft questions for the TWG and invite additional questions from committee members. They also committed to work on scheduling the next advisory committee meeting, targeting potential dates around mid-September.

Sharon Lee raised a question about allowing some additional exceptions to the August 15 shut off date of ground water diversion within the Bellevue Triangle curtailment area, as specified in the 2021 Term Sheet Agreement. Committee members and others who were parties to the term sheet agreement expressed general support for allowing exceptions for commercial and industrial water uses such as landscape nurseries, concrete plants, or irrigation water rights used specifically for landscape nursery stock. Surface water users on the committee did not support extending exceptions for irrigation of pasture. It was agreed that parties to the 2021 Term Sheet Agreement continue this discussion offline after meeting adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15, without a follow up meeting being scheduled.

**Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee
August 9, 2021, Attendance**

Advisory Committee

Corey Allen
Cooper Brossy
Rod Hubsmith
Sharon Lee
Pat McMahon
Kristy Molyneux
Carl Pendleton
Pat Purdy
Bill Simon
Nick Westendorf
Michelle Stennett
Brian Yeager

IDWR Staff

Tim Luke
Corey Skinner
Gary Spackman
Sean Vincent
Shelley Keen
Nathan Erickson

Idaho Water Resource Board Members

Dean Stevenson
Brian Olmstead

Members of the Public

Kevin Lakey
Sunny Healey
Rusty Kramer
Larry Schoen
John Arkoosh
Keri York
Fred Brossy
Jerry Rigby
Eric Miller
Kent Foster
Michael Lawrence
Chris Bromley
Jim Speck
Sarah Lien
Neil Crescenti

- Note several other members of the public were in attendance but not captured herein.