

Meeting Minutes
Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee
IDWR State Office at Idaho Water Center, Boise, Idaho
September 28, 2021

The meeting started at 1:31 p.m. Director Gary Spackman and Shelley Keen attended at the IDWR State Office in Boise. Other attendees participated via Zoom video conferencing and/or telephone. See the attached list of attendees.

After a brief introduction and taking of committee attendance, Water District 37 Watermaster Kevin Lakey updated the committee on 2021 mitigation efforts, including the amounts of mitigation water used, Station 10 and 54 flows, and WD 37 priority cuts. Sean Vincent then reported on updates from the Technical Work Group (“TWG”). The TWG held its first meeting on September 9 and has continued to meet since. The TWG’s fourth meeting is scheduled for October 5. Sean indicated that the TWG would like further guidance from the committee concerning potential water supply forecasts (frequency, goals, etc.) and the basis for recommending ground water diversion limits (forecasts, groundwater levels, flow objectives, etc.). After much discussion, the committee indicated that multiple forecasts through the season are desired and that initially the TWG should focus on potential groundwater limits based on targeted flows of 99 cfs and 80 to 85 cfs at the Sportsman’s Access gage.

After a short break, the meeting shifted toward discussions relating to the draft GWMA Plan Framework. Camas Prairie representatives questioned how involved they should be in the plan. WD 37B Watermaster Rusty Kramer stated wells in the Camas Prairie have been shut off for some time this season with very little flow increase observed in Camas Creek. Shelley Keen asked the committee to consider whether all water users throughout the entire GWMA should have the same obligations under a management plan or if users in different areas should have different requirements.

Kristy Molyneux presented a draft proposal from the South Valley and Galena Ground Water Districts to mitigate groundwater pumping within the Bellevue Triangle area. The draft proposal included fallowing (or retiring) acres irrigated with surface water rights and supplemental ground water rights and re-purposing the surface water for managed aquifer recharge or some other form of mitigation. A set of fallowed acres and associated water rights will be modeled using the groundwater flow model to determine if the effort is feasible to mitigate the average impact to surface water flows (based on the period of 1995-2014) during the irrigation season. South Valley and Galena Ground Water Districts will submit a sample land list and list of water rights to the TWG. The draft proposal would be phased in over a three-year period. The committee discussed the draft proposal and then the meeting was opened for public comment and discussion relating to the next meeting.

Larry Schoen asked the committee to hear a presentation from Zach Hill that Zach had recently presented to the Wood River Water Collaborative group. The committee decided to schedule a separate meeting specifically for this presentation via Zoom and to make it available to advisory committee members and any other interested parties. The meeting adjourned shortly

before 5:00 with the next advisory committee meeting scheduled for October 20th at the IDWR State Office with Zoom and teleconference participation.

**Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee
September 28, 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
Cherie Palmer
Corey Skinner
Gary Spackman
Sean Vincent
Shelley Keen
Nathan Erickson
Jennifer Sukow

Idaho Water Resource Board Members

Brian Olmstead
Dean Stevenson

Members of the Public

Kevin Lakey
Mary Beth Collins
Rusty Kramer
Larry Schoen
Dave Shaw
Jim Speck
Judd McMahan
Sunny Healy
Sarah Lien
Kent Fletcher
Candice
Neil Crecenti
Michael Lawrence
Kira Finkler
Ben Arkoosh
Zach Hill
Eric Miller
Justin Stevenson
Keri York