

MEETING MINUTES
Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee
Lincoln County Community Center, Shoshone, Idaho
November 18, 2020

The meeting started at approximately 2:00 p.m. Shelley Keen and Gary Spackman attended at the community center in Shoshone. All other attendees participated via Zoom videoconferencing or telephone. See the attached list of attendees.

After a brief introduction and taking of attendance, Shelley Keen explained that IDWR is working on a web page for the committee and will notify the committee members and other participants when it is functional. Mr. Keen then discussed the facilitation process and the overall vision for the committee moving forward. This discussion included possible outcomes and potential steps moving forward. Mr. Keen shared a facilitation process outline Tim Luke drafted for the committee. The outline will be made available for the group's reference.

Deputy Attorney General Garrick Baxter then gave a presentation comparing and contrasting delivery calls made via the Rules for Conjunctive Management of Surface and Ground Water (IDAPA 37.03.11) and management plans for ground water management areas (Idaho Code § 42-233b). In his explanation of the delivery call process, Mr. Baxter presented information about total water supply and area(s) of common groundwater supply, which, were topics suggested during the committee's November 4th meeting.

Due to time constraints, Tim Luke's scheduled presentation on the history of water administration in the Big Wood River basin was shortened, but Mr. Luke indicated that he would make the presentation slides available for the group on IDWR's website. Mr. Luke asked for perspectives from lower drainage surface water users and upper drainage groundwater pumpers relating to past discussions held between the two sides. Carl Pendleton (lower drainage surface users) and Pat McMahon (upper drainage pumpers) shared information relating to these past discussions. In 2015, representatives of the two sides began meeting informally, but meetings have not been held for approximately a year and a half. Mr. Pendleton indicated that Magic Reservoir folks did not participate directly in these discussions, but perhaps they should be more involved. He also indicated that discussions included the idea that upper drainage pumpers rent water to be delivered through the American Falls Reservoir District #2 (AFRD2) system for use in the lower drainage. Mr. McMahon indicated that discussions often stalled when it came to numbers like costs and water amounts, but the talks helped build trust between the two sides.

Rod Hubsmith then led a discussion relating to conversion acres within the AFRD2 system. These conversion acres are typically accomplished with Upper Snake River/Water District 01 rental water that is leased in 50 cfs blocks. At some times, the canal system has capacity for about three blocks (150 cfs). The conversions/rentals are subject to wheeling fees and to losses in the canal (8 – 15%). Conversions are located in the upper portions of the AFRD2 system (mostly the Hunt area with a few in the Dietrich area). Mr. Hubsmith said the canal is overworked, but the Idaho Water Resource Board has helped repair portions of the canal to support its managed aquifer recharge program. Cooper Brossy added that users have experienced difficulty in obtaining water from the Water District 01 rental pool in the past.

Carl Pendleton led a discussion relating to exchange contracts, including information on the history of the Big Wood Canal Company and AFRD2 water delivery systems. The general concept of exchange contracts is that as much as possible, Big Wood Canal Company acres below the Milner Gooding Canal receive water from the Snake River via AFRD2/Milner Gooding Canal, while Big Wood Canal Company lands above the Milner Gooding canal receive water from the Big Wood River/Magic Reservoir system. General discussions were held relating to number of acres and timing of deliveries. Mr. Pendleton indicated that he feels that water is being delivered according to these contracts.

The meeting was then opened up for public comments, questions, and potential discussion topics for future meetings. Tim Luke and IDWR Hydrology Section Manager Sean Vincent said IDWR staff members are preparing to discuss ground water level trends and the Wood River Valley Groundwater-Flow Model. The attendees shared general thoughts and ideas relating to these topics. Chris Johnson wanted to ensure that municipalities are involved in the meetings/discussions and wanted information about municipal use. Pat McMahan indicated that he and Mr. Johnson could work on presenting municipal use information. Sharon Lee requested information relating to spill out of the lower system and excess irrigation acres. Kevin Lakey indicated he could provide information relating to the spill topic, and Tim Luke indicated he could address the excess irrigation acres. Shelley Keen inquired about the length of future meetings. The group indicated that three hour meetings are appropriate since attendance will be virtual and travel time is not anticipated for meetings in the near future.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30 p.m.

Next Committee Meeting: December 2, 2020, 1:30 p.m., IDWR State Office at IDWR Water Center - Boise

**Big Wood Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee
November 18, 2020 Attendance**

Advisory Committee

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

IDWR Staff

Garrick Baxter
Shelley Keen
Tim Luke
Caitlin McCoy
Michael McVay
Gary Spackman
Jennifer Sukow
Sean Vincent
Corey Skinner

Members of the Public

Peter Anderson
Chris Bromley
Mary Beth Collins
Chris Johnson
Kevin Lakey
Judd McMahan
Eric Miller
Heather O'Leary
Erika Philips
Larry Schoen
Dave Shaw
Jim Speck
Justin Stevenson
Pete VanderMeulen
Lynn Tominaga