

MEETING MINUTES
Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee
IDWR State Office at Idaho Water Center, Boise, Idaho
December 2, 2020

The meeting started at approximately 1:30 p.m. Director Gary Spackman and IDWR staff members Shelley Keen and Tim Luke attended at the IDWR State Office in Boise. Other attendees participated via Zoom videoconferencing or telephone. See the attached list of attendees.

After a brief introduction and taking of attendance, Shelley Keen provided an update on progress relating to the group's web page, including a visual demonstration on where to access the page from IDWR's main website. Tim Luke gave an update on his Historical Review PowerPoint posted to the web page. Tim stated that two of his maps needed updating. Tim emphasized a significant number of activities were accomplished over the past nine years that are important to the management of water resources in the Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area (BWRGWMA).

Jim Bartolino of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) then gave a presentation titled "Wood River Valley Aquifer System Hydrologic Framework". The presentation gave an overview of the Wood River Valley aquifer system, including how ground water and surface water interact in the system. After Jim's presentation, advisory committee members and other asked questions that prompted discussion. Key points from the presentation and follow-up discussions included the following:

- The Big Wood River is a gaining reach upstream from Hailey, a losing reach downstream from Hailey, and a perched system in the Glendale area.
- The Timmerman and Picabo Hills are the southern boundary of the aquifer system, with some aquifer flow leaving to the southeast along Silver Creek and the southwest along the Big Wood River.
- Silver Creek is mostly connected to the upper, unconfined layer of the aquifer system.
- Ground water levels in wells within the aquifer show some correlation with seasonal and precipitation trends and perhaps some influence from irrigation practices.

Mike McVay of IDWR then gave a presentation titled "Hydrogeology of the Camas Prairie Aquifer System: Ground Water Level Trends for Wood River Valley and Camas Prairie Aquifers". The presentation provided an overview of the Camas Prairie aquifer system and ground water level information for wells in the Camas and Wood River Valley areas. Key points from Mike's presentation and follow-up discussion included the following:

- Most of the Camas Prairie Aquifer discharge is to Camas Creek on the east end of the valley.
- The Camas Prairie aquifer has no significant connection to the Wood River Valley aquifer system.
- Most wells in the confined Camas Prairie aquifer system exhibit statistically significant, long-term declining water level trends.

- Ground water levels appear to be responsive to climatic influences. Climatic changes may be impacting long-term water level trends.
- Leaky confining layers allow upward flow from the confined aquifer to the unconfined aquifer in the Camas Prairie.

The meeting was then opened up for public comments, questions and potential discussion topics for future meetings. Tim Luke said IDWR staff member Jennifer Sukow will present on the Wood River Valley Groundwater-Flow Model at the next meeting (about 1 hour with questions). Tim said he will present on excess irrigation acres. Water District 37 watermaster Kevin Lakey indicated he could present information relating to river systems spills that was requested at the last meeting. Chris Johnson confirmed he and Pat McMahon can provide information about municipal water use in the Wood River Valley.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Next Committee Meeting: December 15, 2020, 1:30 p.m., IDWR State Office at IDWR Water Center - Boise

**Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee
December 2, 2020 Attendance**

Advisory Committee

Corey Allen
Cooper Brossy
Rod Hubsmith
Sharon Lee
Pat McMahon
Carl Pendleton
Pat Purdy
William Simon
Nick Westendorf
Brian Yeager

IDWR Staff

Shelley Keen
Tim Luke
Caitlin McCoy
Michael McVay
Alex Moody
Jennifer Sukow
Sean Vincent
Corey Skinner
Remington Buyer

Members of the Public

Jim Bartolino
Chris Bromley
Mary Beth Collins
Chris Johnson
Rusty Kramer
Kevin Lakey
Judd McMahan
Eric Miller
Heather O'Leary
Erika Philips
Larry Schoen
Dave Shaw
Jim Speck
Justin Stevenson