

MEETING MINUTES
Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee
IDWR State Office at Idaho Water Center, Boise, Idaho
December 15, 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, old business items were discussed. Comments were solicited relating to the proposed process outline for the group that had been shared during the group's November 18, 2020 meeting. No comments were offered. Tim Luke gave an update on information he had gathered concerning losses in Silver Creek near the Highway 93 crossing. Tim stated that Brockway Engineering had prepared a draft 404 permit application for work to prevent water from leaving the channel, but the US Army Corps of Engineers would require a wetland delineation determination. Tim stated that Vic Conrad of Simplot Industries (landowner at area of concern) indicated that the highway bridge and a culvert west of the bridge might be contributing to the problem. Tim also indicated that Kevin Lakey has installed gage equipment upstream and downstream of the area of concern, and data shows that losses in the range of 7 to 15 cfs can occur in that reach of Silver Creek. Tim emphasized that work in the area could probably be done, but a State and Federal stream channel alteration permit and landowner permission would be needed. Some wetland mitigation may be required under the Federal permit. Committee discussion followed and centered on obtaining a report from Brockway Engineering relating to the matter.

Jennifer Sukow of IDWR then gave a presentation titled *Modeling Tools for Evaluating Ground Water and Surface Water Interactions in the BWRGWMA*. The presentation included information on the Camas Prairie and Wood River Valley aquifer systems and utilization of the Wood River Valley groundwater flow model to predict impacts to surface water sources. After Jennifer's presentation, advisory committee members and other asked questions that prompted discussion. Key points from the presentation and follow-up discussions included the following:

- There is a ground water divide in the unconfined and confined aquifers in the Bellevue Triangle. Ground water pumping west of the divide has a greater influence on the Big Wood River, and pumping east of the divide has a greater influence on Silver Creek.
- The model shows that ground water pumping mostly impacts surface water flows in the same year, but impacts continue into the following year.

Tim Luke then gave a presentation about IDWR investigations of potential unauthorized irrigation within or around the Big Wood Canal Company (BWCC)-AFRD2 service area, the Bellevue Triangle, and the upper Big Wood River area. The presentation covered ongoing and past efforts by IDWR to identify unauthorized irrigation in these areas and summarized IDWR's enforcement efforts.

Kevin Lakey then gave a presentation relating to spill water out of the Wood River system. The spill water consists of water returning to river channels from the BWCC, AFRD2, and North Side Canal Company (NSCC) systems. Discussion after the presentation centered on AFRD2 and NSCC return flows along the lower reaches of the Little Wood and Big Wood Rivers near Gooding.

Chris Johnson then presented information relating to water use by the City of Bellevue, City of Hailey, City of Ketchum, and the Sun Valley Water & Sewer District. From 2016 – 2019 annual individual water use for these four entities ranged from approximately 1022 acre-feet (City of Bellevue) to 3345 acre-feet (Sun Valley Water & Sewer District). Chris also discussed the economic impact of these particular users.

The meeting was then opened up for public comments, questions and potential discussion topics for future meetings. Cooper Brossy indicated that surface water users would be prepared to present information relating to their concerns in mid-January. Pat Purdy noted that he had noticed on Google Earth that there may be some areas along the Richfield Canal where water could be leaking. Carl Pendleton indicated that he, and perhaps Kevin Lakey, could present information on the Richfield Canal operations and perhaps water saving projects within the BWCC system. Larry Schoen inquired about supplemental wells vs. primary wells. Cooper Brossy also inquired about why water leaving the system (Kevin Lakey's presentation) could not be used by Little Wood River water users.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00 p.m.

Next Committee Meeting: January 5th, 2021, 1:30 p.m., IDWR State Office at IDWR Water Center - Boise

**Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee
December 15, 2020 Attendance**

Advisory Committee

Corey Allen
Cooper Brossy
Sharon Lee
Pat McMahan
Kristy Molyneux
Carl Pendleton
Pat Purdy
Nick Westendorf
Brian Yeager

IDWR Staff

Erick Boe
Shelley Keen
Tim Luke
Caitlin McCoy
Corey Skinner
Jennifer Sukow
Sean Vincent

Members of the Public

Peter Anderson
Chris Bromley
Mary Beth Collins
Mark Davidson
Kent Fletcher
Sunny Healey
Chris Johnson
Rusty Kramer
Kevin Lakey
Sarah Lien
Judd McMahan
Eric Miller
Heather O'Leary
Dave Shaw
Jim Speck
Evan Robertson
Larry Shoen
Dave Shaw
David Stephenson
Justin Stevenson
Lynn Tominaga
Kylie Turner
Peter VanderMeulen
Keri York