

Meeting Minutes
Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee
IDWR State Office at Idaho Water Center, Boise, Idaho
February 17, 2021

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

After a brief introduction, Tim Luke discussed some IDWR staffing updates that will impact IDWR staff participation in future meetings, and then old business items were discussed. Kristy Molyneux provided an update on local water bank legislation indicating that it will not be heard this session, but that discussions are ongoing. The Idaho Water Resource Board and the Idaho Water Users Association are interested in the committee's opinions relating to the topic. Tim Luke stated that meeting materials from the previous meeting are on the Departments website, including reports relating to supplemental water use and information relating to reach gains in the system. Tim then gave a brief recap on the definition of Area of Common Ground Water Supply (ACGWS), pointing out that it is defined in the Conjunctive Management Rules (CMRs) and that the only ACGWS designated in the CMRs is the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (the Director has authority to determine ACGWS for other areas pursuant to process in CMRs). Tim explained that ACGWS applies only to CMR delivery calls, not to Ground Water Management Areas (GWMAs), so it is not necessary to determine ACGWS when developing a GWMA management plan.

Ed Squires presented on Camas Prairie ground water system and conditions. The presentation was recorded and is available on IDWR's website. Ed presented information showing that the Camas Prairie aquifer drains to the southeast under Magic Reservoir. He concluded that curtailing Camas Prairie ground water pumping will not result in more water storage in Magic Reservoir.

The South Valley and Galena Ground Water Districts (GWDs) then gave a technical presentation that was also recorded and available on IDWR's website. Kristy Molyneux introduced the topic and the GWDs consultants, Dave Shaw and Erick Powell. Dave and Erick presented information on the hydrology of the Wood River Valley, including Big Wood River and Silver Creek historical flows, as well as statistical trend analyses of area stream gages, Magic Reservoir, and ground water levels. They also presented information about historical development of ground water rights, historical priority cuts of surface water above and below Magic Dam, and area water use efficiencies including irrigation use. GWD representatives indicated that they don't agree with certain assumptions, values or results presented by surface water users at the prior meeting but are looking forward to collectively working through the values and some differences.

Senator Michelle Stennett was unable to attend the meeting; there was no legislative update.

The meeting was then opened up for public comments, questions, new items, and discussion about future meetings. Tim Luke pointed out that the group is wrapping up the technical presentations and should transition to the next phase of the process where the committee would begin to focus more on clarification of data and issues, common interests, and problem solving. Tim discussed a handout and homework assignment that had been sent to committee members with the list of topics discussed in previous meetings. He would like a response from committee members with their thoughts about future discussions, common interests, and short term/long term needs and goals. He encouraged members to review both the GWDs' Draft Management Plan and the surface water users' Draft Agreement Plan located on IDWR's website as they consider responses. Tim asked for responses by Thursday, February 25, 2021.

The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

Next Committee Meeting: March 3, 2021, 1:30 p.m., IDWR State Office at IDWR Water Center – Boise, with Zoom and teleconference participation.

**Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee
February 22, 2021 Attendance**

Advisory Committee

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

IDWR Staff

Nathan Erickson
Tim Luke
Caitlin McCoy
Alex Moody
Cherie Palmer
Corey Skinner
Gary Spackman
Jennifer Sukow
Sean Vincent

Members of the Public

John Arkoosh
Al Barker
Chris Bromley
Mary Beth Collins
Bradley Dawson
Kira Finkler
Kent Fletcher
Sunny Healey
Zach Hill
Charles Honsigner
Chris Johnson
Kevin Lakey
Greg Loomis
Judd McMahan
Eric Miller
Heather O'Leary
Loren Pearson
Erick Powell
Norm Semanko
Dave Shaw
Larry Shoen
Jim Speck
Ed Squires
David Stephenson
Justin Stevenson
Lynn Tominaga
Keri York