

Meeting Minutes
Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee
IDWR State Office at Idaho Water Center, Boise, Idaho
March 24, 2021

The meeting started at 1:33p.m. Director Gary Spackman, Tim Luke, and Shelley Keen 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 old business items. Tim updated the committee regarding a meeting that was held on March 18th at the Silver Creek/Highway 93 site. Committee members Sharon Lee and Rod Hubsmith were in attendance, along with Vic Conrad of Simplot Industries (main landowner at the site), ITD representatives, and others. The meeting was held primarily for Vic Conrad's benefit and included general discussions about both stream channel work and permitting options at the site.

Sean Vincent and Tim Luke then presented information about IDWR's observations of the Wood River Basin hydrologic relationships and conditions that were shared with the committee in writing on March 17, 2021. The presentation included information relating to potential 2021 water supplies, quantifications of timing and special distribution of impacts of groundwater curtailments utilizing the Wood River Valley groundwater flow model, and possible benefits to delivery of certain surface water priority dates resulting from a curtailment scenario. The presentation prompted numerous questions and comments from committee members.

Committee members representing ground water users offered various reactions to IDWR's observations. Cooper Brossy, on behalf of the surface water users, gave a brief update on estimated shortfalls to surface water users in 2021. Preliminary estimates, using 2014 as an analog year, anticipate a shortage of at least 14,000 acre-feet. Cooper indicated that final estimates are likely to be a few thousand acre-feet larger as revisions continue.

Committee members continued to discuss possible future water management actions and areas of common interest. Director Spackman weighed in during this discussion and reminded the group that he formed the committee after receiving groundwater management proposals that lacked detail and quantification. He formed the committee to present opportunities for participants to learn about surface water and ground water resource interactions and use in the Wood River basin so that they can quantify the impacts of various water management proposals. He further emphasized that approving a management plan for the Big Wood River Groundwater Management Area is not his only authority or duty; he has some responsibility during times of shortage to deliver water by priority in accordance with Idaho law. The Director suggested that due to the high probability of surface water shortages during the 2021 irrigation season, which will begin soon, ground water users need to propose specific remedial actions in the next two to three weeks. Tim and Shelley indicated that IDWR was available to help the group.

Committee members representing ground water users asked for more information about exchange contracts between American Falls Reservoir District No. 2 and Big Wood Canal Company.

The meeting was then opened for public comments and questions. Sen. Michelle Stennett said that she was willing to help facilitate smaller group discussions if needed.

The meeting adjourned shortly after 5:00 p.m.

Next Committee Meeting: April 7, 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
March 24, 2021 Attendance**

Advisory Committee

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

IDWR Staff

Tim Luke
Cherie Palmer
Corey Skinner
Gary Spackman
Jennifer Sukow
Sean Vincent
Shelley Keen

Members of the Public

Kevin Lakey
Larry Schoen
Mary Beth Collins
Pete Van Der Meulen
Zach Hill
Al Barker
Chris Bromley
Dave Shaw
Eric Miller
Greg Loomis
Jim Speck
Judd McMahan
Rusty Kramer
Rachel Cohen
Sunny Healey
Erick Powell
Michael Lawrence
Norm Semanko
John Arkoosh