

Meeting Minutes
Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee
IDWR State Office at Idaho Water Center, Boise, Idaho
April 7, 2021

The meeting started at 1:35 p.m. Director Gary Spackman, Deputy Director Mat Weaver, 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, old business items were discussed. Comments were solicited regarding IDWR's response to questions/comments from the Galena and South Valley Groundwater Districts relating to IDWR's March 17th observations, but no comments were given. Cooper Brossy gave an update from surface water users on predicted shortfalls. Cooper's update prompted discussion about BOR-AFRD2-BWCC exchange contracts, river rights with exchange conditions, and supplemental AFRD2 water. Tim Luke said he will draft watermaster instructions regarding delivery of water rights with exchange conditions. . The instructions will be shared with the committee. Sean Vincent of IDWR updated the committee on 2021 hydrologic conditions and the predicted water supply. IDWR staff then reported on its' review of BWRGWMA groundwater rights having supplemental use conditions. On April 8, 2021, IDWR will send notice to holders of supplemental groundwater rights summarizing their groundwater use and reminding them of the requirement to use their surface water supplies before using groundwater.

After the discussion of old business, the meeting transitioned to discussing mitigation proposals that the Wood River Valley groundwater districts may take during the 2021 irrigation season. The South Valley Groundwater District offered a 10% reduction in pumping compared to its five year average excluding 2017 (resulting average = 33,569 acre-feet) and recharge of 3,500 acre-feet to the aquifer using recharge pits located in the southern area of the Bellevue Triangle. The Galena Groundwater District also offered a 10% pumping reduction, plus \$50,000 for the one year purchase of water and an additional \$10,000 to complete an engineering study for a water conservation/pipeline conveyance project within the Big Wood Canal Company North Shoshone tract.

The lower valley surface water users made a counter proposal that included limiting groundwater within the Galena Groundwater District to 12,000 acre feet, limiting groundwater pumping within the South Valley Groundwater District to 25,000 acre feet, an August 15th end date for groundwater irrigation pumping, a minimum flow target of 50 cfs on the Little Wood River at Station 10, increased monitoring and enforcement by the groundwater districts, monetary penalties of \$40 per acre-foot for exceeding pumping reduction limits and for pumping after the August 15th date, and \$200 per cfs for not meeting the proposed minimum flow target on the Little Wood River. The lower valley surface water users also proposed an 800 acre-foot allowance that could be utilized by the districts after the August 15th shutoff date.

These proposals led to further discussion but not to agreement among the committee members. When it was clear that there would not be agreement between the ground water users

and the surface water users, Director Spackman addressed the committee. The Director stated that the previously submitted groundwater management plans lacked details and metrics, and that we now have an inadequate water supply for the 2021 irrigation season. He stated that for 2021 he is exploring all options, consistent with the prior appropriation doctrine, to protect water users having senior priority water rights.’ The Director further stated that the proposed mitigation proposals and counter proposals made by both the groundwater districts and lower valley surface water users were either inadequate or unreasonable. He said that he may move forward with administrative actions that will not likely meet the full objectives of either side.

IDWR staff and committee members discussed potential next steps, including reconsideration of the mitigation proposals for the 2021 season. Reconsideration would require the groundwater districts and the surface water users to confer with their members over the following week. After further discussion, the committed proposed meeting again on April 15, 2021 .

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Next Committee Meeting: April 15, 2021, 1:00 p.m., IDWR State Office at IDWR Water Center – Boise, with Zoom and teleconference participation.

**Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee
April 7, 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

Tim Luke
Cherie Palmer
Corey Skinner
Gary Spackman
Jennifer Sukow
Sean Vincent
Shelley Keen
Nathan Erickson
Mat Weaver

Members of the Public

Kevin Lakey
Larry Schoen
Mary Beth Collins
Zach Hill
Al Barker
Chris Bromley
Dave Shaw
Eric Miller
Jim Speck
Judd McMahan
Erick Powell
Chris Simms
Jim Bartolino
Dennis Strom
Mark Johnson
Travis Thompson
Thomas Beck
Kent Fletcher
Megan Stevenson
W. Strasley
Neil Crescent
Michael Lawrence
Sunny Healy