

BWRGWMA Advisory Committee Meeting – March 28, 2023
Updates/Status of Other Actions identified under Management Plan
(Distributed to Advisory Committee on 3/27/2023)

1. Camas Prairie Aquifer Study

- IDWR finalized an agreement with the USGS on 3/1/2023 and in process of routing for signature. The USGS incorporated comments on the proposal from the BWRGWMA Technical Working Group that were received in October 2022.
- The USGS study will be completed over 4.5 years, at an estimated cost of \$628,000. The IWRB is funding \$514,800 of the total and the USGS is providing \$113,200. IWRB is funding an additional \$200k for the drilling of new monitoring wells.
- IDWR is providing staff time match for surface water and water level measurement, drilling oversight, and contract/project management.
- Planned milestones for the major components include the following: water level synoptic maps complete in quarter 1 of federal fiscal year 2026 (Q1 FFY26), hydrogeologic framework report complete in Q4 FFY26, and water budget report in Q2 FFY27.
- The water budget will have two components, a basin-wide groundwater budget and a water budget for just Magic Reservoir.
- IDWR will drill up to 5 new monitoring wells to fill data gaps. Wells expected to be drilled by March 2025. IDWR will initiate the bidding process in the next few months.
- IDWR will be improving the existing IDWR groundwater monitoring network, as needed.
- IDWR will assist the project by measuring nine surface water sites up to six times per year for the next three years (lower Camas Creek and tributaries).

2. Ground Water Flow Model

- The next WRV MTAC meeting will be held on April 19, 2023 via Webex. IDWR will status the committee on progress toward recalibrating the WRV groundwater flow model.

3. WD 37 - Water Right Accounting

- IDWR plans to create a prototype of water right accounting for the Big Wood and Little Wood Rivers in Excel. A staff hydrologist has been assigned to begin work on prototype in the next few months. Timeline for completion of prototype uncertain as of 3/28/2023.
- Efforts will start with diversions on Silver Creek and Little Wood River; currently working on assigning water rights and diversion records to those diversions.

4. Gaging Stations Updates

A. Silver Creek at Sportsman's Access Gage (USGS 13150403):

The USGS resumed the normal manual measurement frequency of once every six weeks starting in December. The measurement frequency will increase to once every 2 weeks when the macrophytes start growing again, which typically occurs during the late May timeframe.

B. New Surface Velocity Radar (SVR) gage near Silver Creek Sportsman's Access (USGS 131504031)

- The new measurement site is ~1,200 ft downstream of the Sportsman gage at the foot bridge near the Silver Creek West campground.
- The SVR instrument was installed on September 1. There have been seven manual measurements at the new site beginning in July of last year.
- The SVR streamflow estimating method is still under development by the USGS.
- Streamflow estimates from the new gage won't be made public until after the Techniques and Methods document for the SVR method has been published. The Techniques and Methods document is in review.
- Like a side-mounted Acoustic Doppler Velocity Meter (ADVM), the SVR instrument theoretically is useful for measuring streamflow in channels that are susceptible to aquatic growth/die-off. However, the cost of an SVR instrument is roughly one-tenth the cost of an ADVM and it requires less maintenance.

C. Susie Q Gage

- Per Management Plan: The Parties agree to evaluate a new flow gage at Susie Q Bridge and make recommendations to IDWR based on the evaluation.
 - Seek updates about any evaluation completed by the Parties at 3/28/2023 Advisory Committee meeting.

D. Ragsdale Gage

- WD37 will contract with SPF Engineering to install/maintain Ragsdale gage station on Silver Creek, starting 2023.
- Additional update from WD37?

5. Data Sharing & Monitoring Networks

- Per Management Plan: The Parties agree to collaborate with IDWR, the United States Geological Survey, Water Districts 37 and 37B, the Wood River Collaborative, or other entities to share, maintain and improve ground water and surface water monitoring networks to supply accurate, representative data in support of existing or new hydrologic models or studies, and management of water resources within IDWR Administrative Basin 37.
 - The parties have not coordinated with the referenced agencies/entities on this item. IDWR is not one of the parties as defined in the management plan. IDWR is willing to discuss monitoring and data sharing ideas or issues with the parties. IDWR lacks resources to host and/or maintain a separate website or data management system for Basin 37 beyond those data management systems already in place and available to the public on its website. IDWR is supportive of the parties hosting/maintaining a separate system or website with links to IDWR, USGS or other data networks/systems. IDWR can provide reciprocating links.

6. Beaver Dams

- IDFG staff will be at the advisory committee meeting to discuss questions regarding management/removal of beaver dams.

7. BWRGWMA Moratorium Order – Update from Shelley Keen