

**Meeting Notes**  
**Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee**  
**Blaine County Community Campus, Hailey, Idaho**  
**May 15, 2024**

IDWR Deputy Director Shelley Keen called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM by taking Advisory Committee roll call and introducing members of the State Legislature attending the meeting. A list of attendees is included at the conclusion of these notes.

The second order of business was a report from IDWR Southern Region Manager Corey Skinner on the updated streamflow predictions for the Big Wood River. Mr. Skinner said that the average of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Northwest River Forecast Center predicted stream flow volumes at Hailey still should be above the 210 KAF threshold to avoid additional management actions in the plan, but the low elevation snow has melted and the region experienced a dry April.

Next on the agenda was the Conservation, Infrastructure, and Efficiency Fund (CIEF) report from Larry Schoen. He said that the CIEF Committee had received an application for canal lining of one mile of the Baseline Bypass canal from the Upper Wood River Water Users Association. Carl Pendleton brought up other projects that have not yet been submitted and noted that the CIEF fund was up to about \$550,000.

Shelley Keen introduced the fourth item on the agenda, which was adopting a process for reviewing unassigned questions. He stated that the Committee should have two primary goals for the day: deciding how to review the unassigned questions and finalizing the management plan goals section. Mr. Keen discussed nine management plan areas that would be a starting point for the discussion: CIEF purpose and operational procedures; acquisition of storage water; the Camas Prairie; enforcement; a flow target on Big Wood/Magic Reservoir side of the basin; Station 10 flow target; forecasting methods; season of use adjustments; and fallowing impacts. After a lengthy discussion, the group of nine goals was recombined into six areas: CIEF; the Camas Prairie; enforcement; flow target on Big Wood/Magic, Station 10 target, and acquisition of storage water; forecasting methods; and season of use adjustments, fallowing impacts, and pumping reductions. Working groups of four Advisory Committee members plus an IDWR representative were assigned to each goal. The IDWR representative in each working group will reach out and schedule the first meeting of each group and assist with setting an agenda of topics to be discussed.

Larry Schoen suggested that Item 46 from the question/recommendation spreadsheet be added to the list of management plan goals, the Advisory Committee did not take action on the suggestion. Mr. Keen suggested that a 49<sup>th</sup> item, the use of CIEF to fund fallowing, should be added to the question/recommendation spreadsheet, and it was. There was a discussion among the Advisory Committee members whether or not the four-person working groups would violate open meeting laws and it was decided that as long as the groups consisted of four or less Committee members, there should be no problem.

A break was taken from 11:25 AM until the meeting was resumed at 11:42 AM.

Agenda item #5, the Technical Working Group update, was the next order of business. Mike McVay was unable to attend the meeting, but sent a memo to Mr. Keen, which will be forwarded to the Advisory Committee and interested parties.

A review of the questions/recommendations that had been assigned to the various groups for the Management Plan Goals was the sixth item on the agenda. Shelley Keen started off the review by presenting the first item, which was the finalization of the Minimum Stream Flow language proposed by Chris Bromley. The Advisory Committee approved the proposed language with the final two sentences of the draft removed. Cooper Brossy presented the Big Wood and Little Wood Water User's Association/Big Wood Canal Company group's proposed goals next, and, with the addition of more encompassing language into their first goal, their proposed goals were accepted.

The South Valley Ground Water District presented their suggested goal of seasonal predictability which was accepted as presented. Brian Yeager gave the CIEF goals and Management Plan goals on behalf of the Cities and Sun Valley Company. After brief discussion about the possible overlap with other goals, they were accepted by the Committee. Bill Simon, of the Camas Prairie water users, gave that group's proposed language recommendation, which provoked a vigorous discussion about the impact of Camas Prairie ground water withdrawals on the flows in Camas Creek. No action was taken regarding the Camas Prairie group's proposal.

Larry Schoen then offered his suggested goals for the plan; the Committee accepted his proposed revisions with the exception of one of his bulleted items. There was not a representative of the NGO group available to give a presentation of their suggested goals. The Committee did not seem supportive of the proposals outlined in the NGO submission.

At the conclusion of the Management Plan goal presentations, Shelley Keen and Brian Yeager initiated a discussion on how to move forward. It was decided that Mr. Keen would compile the proposals into one document and send it out to all of the submitting entities to see if their ideas were properly addressed.

The next order of business was to open the floor to public comment. John Seiller, attorney representing the Community School, requested that the Advisory Committee and IDWR consider allowing schools/sports clubs in the Wood River Valley to water their athletic fields longer in the fall, so that they can practice on green grass until they are no longer competing in the fall sports seasons. Trent Smither, with the Community School, and Conor Quinn, with Sun Valley Lacrosse, also voiced support for this proposal.

In new business, Sharon Lee suggested that it would be a good idea to have markers set through the rest of the year to ensure that the Advisory Committee stays on schedule. It was decided that Shelley Keen would come up with a general schedule for the remainder of the year.

Finally, the next meeting of the Advisory Committee was scheduled for June 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM at the Lincoln County Community Center in Shoshone.

Shelley Keen adjourned the meeting at 2:00 PM.

**Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee Meeting  
May 15, 2024, Attendance**

**Advisory Committee**

Corey Allen  
Cooper Brossy  
Rod Hubsmith  
Sharon Lee  
Pat McMahon  
Justin Stevenson  
Carl Pendleton  
Pat Purdy  
Bill Simon  
Nick Westendorf (via Zoom)  
Brian Yeager  
Ron Taylor (Idaho State Senator representing District 26)

**IDWR Staff**

Shelley Keen  
Corey Skinner  
Corey King  
Jim Bitzenburg  
Matt Anders (via Zoom)

**IWRB Members**

Pat McMahon

**Members of the Public**

Ned Burns (Idaho State Representative representing District 26)  
Kevin Lakey (via Zoom)  
Sunny Healey  
Mary Beth Collins (via Zoom)  
Chris Bromley  
Larry Schoen  
Dave Shaw (via Zoom)  
Michael Lawrence (via Zoom)  
Zach Hill (via Zoom)  
Chase Hendricks (via Zoom)  
Judd McMahon (via Zoom)  
Kajsa Van de Riet (via Zoom)  
Kortnee Fleming (via Zoom)  
Trent Smither  
John Seiller  
Conor Quinn  
Wyatt Johnson (via Zoom)  
...and others via Zoom and in person