

**Meeting Notes**  
**Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee**  
**Lincoln County Community Center, Shoshone, Idaho**  
**August 21, 2024**

IDWR Deputy Director Shelley Keen called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM. Corey Skinner took Advisory Committee roll call, introduced IDWR personnel, Idaho Water Resource Board members, and Idaho State Legislators in attendance. A list of attendees is included at the conclusion of these notes.

The first order of business was to open the floor for public comment, and Larry Schoen voiced concerns with portions of the *Concepts for BWRGWMA Management Plan Updates* memo.

Next on the agenda was the Conservation, Infrastructure, and Efficiency Fund (CIEF) report from Larry Schoen. He said that the Committee met on August 19 and approved \$65,000 in funding – about 10% of the project’s total cost -- for an irrigation efficiency project on a single farm in the Shoshone area. The CIEF Committee also approved \$15,000 to help fund a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) project on the Big Wood Canal Company/AFRD 2 system and heard a report from Kevin Lakey on the SCADA devices. Sharon Lee inquired if there was a requirement for CIEF to show that the funded projects worked. Mr. Schoen replied that there was, and it was available on the CIEF webpage.

Mr. Schoen, Carl Pendleton, and Pat Purdy stated that they were opposed to the idea of the CIEF Committee having to create and operate its own webpage, as proposed by IDWR. One of the reasons they opposed the idea is the added expense to CIEF. Shelley Keen responded that IDWR placed a disclaimer on the CIEF webpage to inform the public that the CIEF webpage material and actions were its own, and not that of IDWR. He noted that the Department didn’t have the time, staff, or statutory directive to host the CIEF webpage, and it was doing so as a courtesy to CIEF until the CIEF establishes its own web page independent of IDWR.

The fourth item on the agenda was the presentation of the reports from the Subcommittee Groups, and the first group presenting was the Management Plan Goals subgroup with Cooper Brossy and Sharon Lee. There was lengthy discussion on whether or not compliance with a GWMA management plan adopted pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-233b gives safe harbor from any form of water call or just from administration pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-233b. The ground water users voiced concerns that they could abide by the terms of the Plan and still be harmed by a water call. Mr. Keen said that the safe harbor provision of Idaho Code § 42-233b has not been tested and the only way to know the extent of its applicability would be through a court decision or legislation. Attorney Kent Fletcher suggested that the Plan could extend its “safe harbor” coverage by functioning as both a GWMA management plan under Idaho Code § 42-233b and a mitigation plan under the Rules for Conjunctive Administration of Surface and Ground Water Resources. The Advisory Committee left Kent Fletcher’s suggestion for further discussion at a later time.

Mr. Keen gave the Enforcement subgroup report and cited a suggestion from Al Barker that the Director could issue a standing order pursuant to Idaho Code § 42-233b instructing the Watermasters of Water Districts 37 and 37B to curtail junior ground water rights not protected by the Plan. Discussion ensued as

to the number of wells not participating in the Plan, options available to non-participants (such as CIEF), and the issue of non-participants in the Plan rotating in and out of CIEF.

Larry Schoen reported that the CIEF subgroup has not met again and are ready for further information. Corey Allen stated that the CIEF recommendations are nearly ready to be approved. Shelley Keen noted that CIEF is addressed in the concepts memo.

The Camas Prairie subgroup report was presented by Corey Skinner and Bill Simon and initiated extensive discussion as to the impacts of Camas Prairie ground water pumping on the flows of Camas Creek into Magic Reservoir. Mr. Skinner noted that ground water levels on the Prairie are mostly stable and recover quickly. The discussion also pointed out that while the major component of flows into Magic Reservoir from the Camas Prairie is the spring runoff, it seems likely that ground water pumping has an impact on base flows in Camas Creek. Mr. Simon stated that reduced pumping of ground water on the Camas Prairie showed no immediate effects on the flows in Camas Creek. Carl Pendleton and Mr. Simon agreed that the forthcoming Camas Prairie hydrologic investigation will tell the story.

Shelley Keen reported that the Flow Target on BWR/Magic – Station 10 Target – Storage Water Acquisition group did not meet and had nothing to report. Corey Skinner gave the Forecasting Methods/Models subgroup report. He said that the group met the day before (August 20) the Advisory Committee meeting and noted that the Technical Working Group would look at past forecasts of the NRCS and NWRFC to see how accurate the predictions were. Cooper Brossy then gave a presentation on the *April 1 Allotment (A1A) Model for Consumptive Use Allotment Estimations*. Discussion took place regarding the specifics of the model and whether or not the Technical Working Group (TWG) had time to evaluate the model, considering how late in the year it is.

Shelley Keen reported for the Season of Use – Fallowing – Pumping Reductions subgroup and said that the group had not met since the last Advisory Committee meeting and had nothing to report.

A break was taken from 12:20 PM until the meeting was resumed at 12:39 PM.

The 5<sup>th</sup> agenda item was Mike McVay's presentation of the latest TWG report, which is available on the BWRGWMA Advisory Committee Meeting Materials page on the IDWR website. Shelley Keen asked Mr. McVay how long it would take the TWG to review the A1A Model and Mr. McVay said that the TWG could look at it, but couldn't give a timeframe for completion of the review.

Shelley Keen introduced item #6 on the agenda, a Review of Concepts for Plan Updates, and a review of the Management and Implementation Table, with the intent to approve, disapprove, or change each item. The goals presented in Cooper Brossy's and Sharon Lee's Management Plan Goals update were added to the Plan Goal section. The Flow Targets section had some language stricken in items 1 and 5, with a new item, 'Provide a way for non-participants to "on-ramp"' added.

It was decided that the Review of Concepts would end for the day and that a *Concepts for BWRGWMA Management Plan Response Form* would be worked up by Corey Skinner and emailed to the Advisory Committee members to expedite the process of reviewing and approving the Plan updates. The deadline

for returning the forms to IDWR was set for August 28. It was also decided that the TWG would review the A1A Model.

Public comments were then taken again, with Larry Schoen touching on flow targets, CIEF contributions, and stating that all entities are accountable for stream flows. Keri York stated that there should be target flows on both the Big Wood and Little Wood sides.

In the final agenda item, the next Advisory Committee meeting was set for September 18, 2024 in Hailey. The meeting was adjourned at 2:29 PM.

**Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee Meeting  
August 21, 2024, Attendance**

**Advisory Committee**

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

**IDWR Staff**

Shelley Keen  
Corey Skinner  
Corey King  
Jim Bitzenburg  
Mike McVey (via Zoom)

**IWRB Members**

Pat McMahon  
Brian Olmstead (via Zoom)  
Dean Stevenson

**Members of the Public**

Kevin Lakey  
Mary Beth Collins (via Zoom)  
Chris Bromley (via Zoom)  
Larry Schoen  
Keri York  
Dave Shaw (via Zoom)  
Michael Lawrence (via Zoom)  
Zach Hill (via Zoom)  
Kent Fletcher (via Zoom)  
Chase Hendricks (via Zoom)  
Heather O'Leary (via Zoom)  
Mitch Fleming  
Ned Burns (Idaho State Representative representing District 26) (via Zoom)  
Jana Reeder  
Tim Luke (via Zoom)  
Fred Brossy  
Heidi Smith (via Zoom)  
Lindsay Mollinaux  
Wyatt Johnson (via Zoom)  
...and others via Zoom and in-person