

Meeting Notes
Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee
Blaine County Community Campus, Hailey, Idaho
September 18, 2024

IDWR Southern Region Manager Corey Skinner called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM and took Advisory Committee roll call. He introduced IDWR personnel, Idaho Water Resource Board members, and an Idaho State Legislator in attendance. A list of attendees is included at the conclusion of these notes.

The second agenda item was to open the floor for public comment, and Larry Schoen had several observations regarding topics in the meeting materials, which had previously been posted on the BWRGWMA Advisory Committee webpage.

Next on the agenda was the Conservation, Infrastructure, and Efficiency Fund (CIEF) report from Larry Schoen. He noted that the fund account currently totaled \$540,778.50, much of it in certificates of deposit that mature in December 2024.

The fourth item on the agenda was a report from Sharon Lee on the Goals and Strategies draft update to the plan. Sharon Lee went through the proposed goals and strategies item-by-item, and the Advisory Committee approved the draft version. Shelley Keen noted that even though the language regarding 'safe harbor' had been adjusted in the draft, the idea that compliance with the management plan affords safe harbor from priority administration under all circumstances, not just under Idaho Code § 42-233b, is untested.

The fifth agenda item was the Technical Working Group report from Mike McVay. Mr. McVay said that the TWG had begun reviewing the April 1 Allotment ("A1A") model, and felt that it had some merit. However it would take a year or more to do a complete review.

The next item on the agenda was a review of the Responses to Concepts for Plan Updates Memo, with Corey Skinner giving an outline of the Memo and the Response Summary Table. He presented a pie chart showing the distribution of the responses, ranging from 'All in agreement' to 'Multiple members in disagreement'. Shelley Keen and multiple Advisory Committee members made note that the responses given in the survey, which showed a lack of consensus on many items, didn't seem to align with the opinions voiced in previous Advisory Committee meetings.

The lack of agreement in the Responses Summary lead Shelley Keen to guide the discussion into the seventh agenda item, the Roadmap Moving Forward. He noted some unresolved issues that could be helpful in finalizing a new Plan, such as the Camas Prairie aquifer characterization study due in 2027, the Wood River Valley Groundwater Flow Model calibration due in 2026, the A1A model review, experience implementing the condition 161 exchange, and others. Shelley Keen suggested that the Advisory Committee could push forward to complete a new Plan, or they could request that the Director extend the existing Plan for a period time while the unresolved items are completed. Mr. Keen told the Committee that they would need to make a written request to the Director to extend the Plan. Brian Yeager asked the Advisory Committee if extending the current Plan was the direction they wanted to go, and that was their preference. The Advisory Committee considered a one-year extension and a three-year extension

and settled on three years. Mr. Yeager then asked the Committee what adjustments to the Plan they would like to make. At that point, Mr. Keen suggested that it would be a good time to pause for a break.

A break was taken from 11:27 AM until the meeting was resumed at 11:48 AM.

After the break, Brian Yeager led the Advisory Committee through an exercise to identify a set of minimal Plan adjustments that will accompany the extension request. The Advisory Committee agreed that the portion of the Plan requesting a moratorium specific to the BWRGWMA had been achieved.

The Advisory Committee members took turns giving their suggestions on potential adjustments to the Plan, resulting in extensive discussion on items such as the 32 cfs flow target at Station 10, following, adequate funding for CIEF, adjustment of the *Recommended forecast water supply tiers and additional management actions* (Table 1 of the Plan), among others. The Committee made recommendations for the Section VIII, 'Other Actions' portion of the Plan.

It was decided that the Department would draft a memo containing the suggested Management Plan adjustments and three year project topics, which would become part of the letter from the Advisory Committee to the Director requesting an extension of the Plan. The Cities, Ground Water Districts, and Carl Pendleton were assigned to come up with an amount that would be the appropriate contribution level to CIEF. The Flow Targets/Storage subcommittee will meet to discuss storage water acquisition volumes. The Department will meet with its legal section and the Advisory Committee to determine how to move forward with a Plan extension.

Public comment was again requested, and Larry Schoen gave some input on items discussed during the meeting. Mike McVay inquired if the TWG's main goal would be to review the A1A model, and that idea was confirmed. Because of the large amount of money held in the CIEF, it was agreed that it would be best to renew the Plan before it expires.

The final agenda item was to set the next meeting of the Advisory Committee for October 3, 2024, at 10:00 AM at the Lincoln County Community Center in Shoshone.

Corey Skinner adjourned the meeting at 2:25 PM.

**Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee Meeting
September 18, 2024 Attendance**

Advisory Committee

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

IDWR Staff

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

IWRB Members

Pat McMahon
Dean Stevenson

Members of the Public

Sunny Healey
Chris Bromley
Larry Schoen
Brittany Gailey (via Zoom)
Greg Loomis (via Zoom)
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
Greg Sullivan (via Zoom)
Jana Reeder
...and others via Zoom and in-person