

Report of the Conservation, Infrastructure & Efficiency Fund (CIEF) Committee for Water Year 2024

To: Idaho Water Resources Board (IWRB), Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR)
& Big Wood River Groundwater Management Area (BWRGWMA) Advisory Committee
Date: December 10, 2024

The CIEF Committee respectfully submits this annual report to the above-named agencies pursuant to BWRGWMA Management Plan (GWMP), Paragraph V.1.C.7. which states:

The CIEF Committee shall report on the following items to the BWRGWMA Advisory Committee, IDWR, and the IWRB by December 1 of each year: CIEF contributions and expenditures, CIEF Committee decisions, and the results of any actions taken by the CIEF Committee.

This report consists of a narrative description of the Committee's activities this year, followed by a statement of financial status.

Summary of Significant Events:

The CIEF Committee met four times in 2024. In addition to the below described actions, the CIEF Committee heard updates on approved projects. It conducted ongoing discussions on how best to accomplish its mission, as experience has been gained, in accordance with the intent of the GWMP. In light of GWMP amendments, the Committee shortly will be asking IDWR for some new guidance. No storage water was leased this year.

At its March meeting, the Treasurer reported on the investment of cash balances in certificates of deposit. After lengthy discussion, direction was given to Upper Wood River Water Users Association (UWRWUA) & Project Big Wood, re: the Baseline Bypass Canal lining project proposal. No other actions taken.

At its May meeting, the Committee authorized a grant in the amount of \$30,000 to UWRWUA & Project Big Wood, re: the Baseline Bypass Canal lining project proposal, for installation & monitoring of data loggers as part of a seepage study. The Committee also authorized an additional \$100,000 for the canal lining itself, contingent upon Bureau of Reclamation grant funding (or other co-funding) and study results.

At its August meeting, the Committee authorized partial reimbursement in the amount of \$15,000.00 to Big Wood Canal Company, American Falls Reservoir District #2 & Water District 37 for the SCADA monitoring stations project. Though authorized for funding, it was reported the Slough Ditch project has not begun. Also at this meeting, the Committee approved an application by 4L Farms for 50% of the costs of an electrical system upgrade as part of an efficiency project, not-to-exceed \$65,000. (Nick Westendorf recused himself from deliberations & vote.)

At its December meeting, the Committee heard that flows at Station 10 on the Little Wood River fell below the 32cfs target five times, but never for longer than 1-2 days. It approved development of an investment guidelines document. It authorized reimbursement of \$30,000 to Project Big Wood for the seepage study. It gave direction to Alton Huyser, Big Wood Farms to get more information regarding the proposal for a pivot drag & drip line conversion demonstration project.

2024 COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENT -- Conservation Infrastructure & Efficiency Fund

10/31/24	Bank Balance	\$ 215,778.90	
05/31/24	Farmer's Bank 6 month CD - principal	\$ 80,000.00	Matures 11/30/24
06/03/24	Farmer's Bank 6 month CD - principal	80,000.00	Matures 12/03/24
12/14/23	Zions Bank 12 month CD - principal	150,000.00	Matures 12/11/24
	TOTAL CASH ALL POSITIONS	\$ 525,778.90	
	Recent disbursement(Auth04Dec):	\$ 30,000.00	
	BALANCE TOTAL AVAILABLE	\$ 495,778.50	

CD Interest earned upon maturity	
6-month 11/30/24 @ 4.75%	\$ 1,900.00 (est)
6-month 12/03/24 @ 4.75%	\$ 1,900.00 (est)
12-month 12/11/24 @ 5.20%	\$ 7,190.95
TOTAL INTEREST EARNINGS	\$ 11,000.00 (est)

BALANCE AVAILABLE -- Mid-December \$ 507,000.00 (approx)

PENDING GRANT COMMITMENTS (Approved projects)

Big Wood Canal Company, American Falls Reservoir District #2, Water District 37
 SCADA monitoring stations on canals, laterals and river diversions \$ 15,000.00

Big Wood Canal Company, American Falls Reservoir District #2, Water District 37
 Slough Ditch lining, SCADA monitoring and automated flow controls \$ 50,000.00

~~UWRWUA, Big Wood River Bypass Canal lining, seepage monitoring study \$ 30,000.00~~

4L Farms, 3-phase power upgrade \$ 65,000.00

TOTAL COMMITMENTS (Anticipate payment requests by spring 2025) \$ 130,000.00

BALANCE, Net of commitments \$ 377,000.00

ANTICIPATED (Future) GRANT REQUESTS

UWRWUA, Big Wood River Bypass Canal lining \$ 100,000.00

Big Wood Farms, pivot drag line conversion demonstration project \$ 20,000.00

Big Wood Canal Company, Rye Grass Bypass \$ 200,000.00