

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee**  
**IDWR State Office at Idaho Water Center, Boise, Idaho**  
**February 18, 2022**

The meeting started at approximately 9:30 a.m. Director Gary Spackman, Shelley Keen, and Tim Luke attended at the IDWR State Office in Boise. Other attendees participated via Zoom video conferencing and/or telephone. See the attached list of attendees.

After a brief introduction and taking of advisory committee attendance, a time for discussion of old business items was offered, but no old business items were discussed. Meeting discussion then transitioned into a review of the draft management plan. Shelley and Tim reported to the committee on a Wood River Resource Conservation and Development Council (“WRRCDC”) meeting they attended on February 3. The WRRCDCS will administer (i.e., receive and distribute funds) the Conservation, Infrastructure and Efficiency Fund (“CIEF”). The CIEF will consist of two accounts, one for projects and another for cloud seeding. The WRRCDC charges a small fee per transaction for its services.

Tim then raised specific management plan items needing further discussion. Those items included groundwater season of use limits, 2022 CIEF contribution timing, election/appointment of a CIEF committee and the development of bylaws, obtaining compliance with the management plan, and additional actions needed for the management plan. The committee decided to stick with an ending date of 9/15 for the groundwater season of use. The 2022 CIEF contributions shall be made by April 15. Cooper Brossy and Carl Pendleton agreed to work on the CIEF committee formation. Compliance with the plan will be handled through the groundwater districts. Sharon Lee agreed to work on a petition to the Idaho Water Resource Board for contributions to the CIEF. Carl Pendleton indicated that he and Cooper Brossy could help Sharon. Bill Simon indicated he would work on a request for a Camas Prairie aquifer study.

Shelley then updated the committee on the need for a new moratorium for the Big Wood River Groundwater Management Area and that it needs to be separate and independent of the management plan. However, the moratorium should be issued simultaneously with the management plan approval. When asked if the moratorium would have the same restrictions as the current BWRGWMA management policy, Shelley reported that it would probably be mostly the same, except that IDWR is considering treating external domestic use, like lawn irrigation, and municipal use as consumptive uses requiring mitigation to be approved. Pat McMahan agreed to work on a petition requesting the issuance of the moratorium.

The meeting was then opened for public comment:

- Larry Schoen expressed support for having a new moratorium issued simultaneously with a management plan approval and sticking with an ending date of 9/15 for the groundwater irrigation season of use. He also raised the possibility of looking into

establishing a groundwater recharge district and the need to establish an Area of Common Groundwater Supply (citing Judge Wildman's recent decision). Larry also expressed concern that his surface water right is often curtailed in June, but the neighboring junior groundwater users are still pumping.

- TJ Budge commended everyone on a good agreement, but he also added that a ground water management area is a tool for managing an aquifer for groundwater users and not for conjunctive management. TJ recommended that actions benefiting surface water users be excluded from the management plan and included in a separate agreement. (Shelley replied that the Idaho Code § 42-233b states that a management plan for a GWMA can be for “managing the effect of ground water withdrawals on the aquifer . . . and on any other hydraulically connected sources of water.”)
- Keri York appreciated everyone's efforts and suggested that meetings between the cities, Sun Valley Co., Sun Valley Water & Sewer District, and the NGOs, as outlined in the cities' term sheet agreement, also be attended by an IDWR representative. She also said that she and other NGO representatives have previously commented to the committee about support for existing minimum instream flow rights; that meeting the minimum instream flow rights will help achieve the goals of the management plan.
- Brian Olmstead wanted to get people thinking about the CIEF and emphasized that the IWRB can fund water conservation projects, but not mitigation. Brian also mentioned that if there are water obstructions on the Little Wood River other than beaver dams, additional permitting may be required.
- Jennifer Sukow recommended that the parties collaborate for data collection and that monthly groundwater diversion data rather than annual data works better for the groundwater model.
- Kevin Lakey added that Water District 37 has budgeted to read wells weekly in the South Valley Ground Water District, but not in the Galena Ground Water District.

Following public comment, Shelley inquired about the advisory committee's thoughts about forwarding the draft management plan to Director Spackman. The general committee feedback was in favor of the plan with Pat Purdy, Corey Allen, Brian Yeager, Nick Westendorf, Rod Hubsmith, Carl Pendleton, and Bill Simon specifically expressing favorable comments and/or the desire to move forward.

Tim then outlined the next steps, including submitting final management plan comments/edits by February 25 and holding a public meeting the week of March 7 or 15 with a comment period of 10 days. The goal is to have the management plan completed by the end of March.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

**Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee  
February 18, 2022 Attendance**

**Advisory Committee**

Cooper Brossy  
Rod Hubsmith  
Sharon Lee  
Pat McMahan  
Kristy Molyneux  
Carl Pendleton  
Pat Purdy  
Bill Simon  
Nick Westendorf  
Brian Yeager  
Corey Allen

**IDWR Staff**

Gary Spackman  
Shelley Keen  
Tim Luke  
Cherie Palmer  
Corey Skinner  
Sean Vincent  
Jennifer Sukow

**Members of the Public**

Dave Shaw  
Zach Hill  
Greg Loomis  
Ashlynn Goody  
Kevin Lakey  
Larry Schoen  
Candice Mc Hugh  
Jim Speck  
Chase Hendricks  
John Stevenson  
TJ Budge  
Sunny Healey  
Ryan Santo  
Keri York  
Heather O'Leary

**Idaho Water Resource Board Members**

Brian Olmstead  
Dean Stevenson