

Meeting Minutes
Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee
IDWR State Office at Idaho Water Center, Boise, Idaho
December 15, 2021

The meeting started at approximately 1:30 p.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 committee attendance, Tim Luke reported under “old business” that public access to the Wood River Water Collaborative group (Zach Hill) dataset has not yet been established.

Sean Vincent then discussed the Technical Work Group’s (TWG) report that was shared with the advisory committee on December 10th. The report recommends three tiers of groundwater consumptive use reductions and delivery of additional storage water to the Little Wood River when the April - September predicted runoff at the Hailey gage is less than 210 KAF. Committee discussion regarding the TWG report focused on methods to achieve the consumptive use reductions. Rather than relying entirely on fallowing irrigated land, the ground water districts prefer to reduce their average annual diversion volumes. Achieving a consumptive use reduction by reducing the average annual diversion volume require an estimate or determination of the application efficiency rates for each irrigation system.

Tim Luke then reviewed the most recent updated draft Term Sheet and emphasized items that still needed to be resolved. The unresolved items in the Term Sheet included who would pay for Snake River storage water and whether funds from the proposed Conservation Fund should be utilized for this purpose. Because no participants agreed to pay for the delivery of 1100 AF of Snake River storage water to Big Wood River water users or 1300 AF of Snake River storage water to Little Wood River water users in dry years, the advisory committee discussed whether funding could come from the Conservation Fund.

IWRB members Brian Olmstead and Dean Stevenson, along with Senator Michelle Stennett, expressed optimism that the State of Idaho &/or the IWRB could provide at least one-to-one matching funds into the Conservation Fund to help facilitate the agreement. The IWRB members reported that the IWRB probably does not want to directly fund the purchase of Snake River storage water. To help settle the Surface Water Coalition delivery call, the State of Idaho and the IWRB are funding managed aquifer recharge. Because funding aquifer recharge would be an ineffective approach in the Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area, however, the IWRB would have to consider a different means of support for the management plan. Brian Olmstead stated that if the IWRB contributes matching funds, those funds could be used for conservation and infrastructure projects, which would free up contributions from the cities, non-

irrigation water users, and Camas Prairie ground water users to pay Snake River storage water when it is needed.

The meeting was then opened for public comment. Neil Crescenti of The Nature Conservancy recommended that the advisory committee continue to be mindful of the need for instream flows. Larry Schoen recommended adding additional support for ground water level monitoring and streamflow gaging to the Term Sheet. Advisory Committee members supported Larry Schoen's recommendation.

Shelley Keen then inquired about the committee's thoughts relating to the draft Term Sheet. The general committee feedback was in favor of accepting the draft Term Sheet with some minor modifications.

Tim Luke then outlined the next steps moving forward. Those steps include:

1) submittal of advisory committee member comments and minor revisions to the Term Sheet this week,

2) edits to the Term Sheet and circulation to the advisory committee members for signatures next week,

3) incorporating the Term Sheet into the Management Plan and submitting the Management Plan to the Director and the advisory committee members for review in mid-January, and

4) public notice and holding a public meeting in mid-February, with the goal of a finalized Management Plan in early March.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00 p.m.

**Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee
December 15, 2021, Attendance**

Advisory Committee

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

IDWR Staff

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

Idaho Water Resource Board Members

Brian Olmstead
Dean Stevenson

Members of the Public

Dave Shaw
Zach Hill
Greg Loomis
Chris Bromley
Ashlynn Goody
Kevin Lakey
Mary Beth Collins
Larry Schoen
Judd McMahon
Candice Mc Hugh
Kent Fletcher
Sarah Lien
Mike Lawrence
Jim Speck
John Arkoosh
Chase Hendricks
Justin Stevenson
Eric Miller
Neil Crescenti