

Meeting Minutes
Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee
Big Wood Canal Company Office, Shoshone, Idaho
September 5, 2023

The meeting started at 1:30 pm. Most Advisory Committee members attended in person. Pat Purdy participated via ZOOM. Brian Yeager and Sen. Ron Taylor did not attend. See the attached list of attendees. After a brief introduction by Shelley Keen, Carl Pendleton reported on CIEF Committee actions. Carl stated that after spending money on projects involving the lining of the Bypass Canal north of Shoshone and improvements to the Slough Ditch near Gooding, there is still money in the CIEF. The next round of applications for conservation and efficiency funds is due March 1, 2024. The CIEF Committee may consider acting early on applications submitted before March 1, 2024.

Tim Luke reported on 2023 flows at Stations 10 and 54 on the Little Wood River, at Hailey and Stanton Crossing on the Big Wood River, and at Sportsman's Access on Silver Creek. Hydrographs for all the stations indicated flows above median throughout 2023 so far.

The next topic was the acquisition of storage water by Galena Ground Water District for the Big & Little Wood Water Users Association in 2023. Several committee members who irrigate with surface water in the lower basin stated that due to high flows this season, there does not appear to be a need for storage water this year. Committee members representing upper basin ground water users stated that the money collected for storage water acquisition in 2023 can be used in future years. After discussion, the committee members unanimously agreed that the surface water supply is adequate to finish the 2023 irrigation season without the storage water contemplated by the management plan.

The next topic was groundwater irrigation season shut-off dates. IDWR and committee members have been approached by several groundwater users about the possibility of extending the groundwater pumping season beyond the September 15th shutoff date stated in the groundwater management plan. During the discussion, Jesse Human requested an irrigation season extension for Don McFarland. Mr. Human indicated that they are raising seed potatoes near Corral, west of Fairfield. He indicated that there is a possibility that they may need to irrigate after October 1 to harvest the potatoes. After discussion, the committee members unanimously agreed to allow Mr. Human to pump after October 1 (due to unique circumstances) and other groundwater pumpers could pump until September 30th, provided they made a request to their groundwater district or a committee member. The groundwater districts will have to document these requests and allowances and report to the committee. Additionally, this irrigation season adjustment is for the 2023 season only.

The meeting transitioned to new business items, other topics, and public comments. Tim Luke reported on, and shared a handout detailing, the Camas Prairie Water Resource Study progress. There were no public comments. The next committee meeting will occur in late January, not to conflict with the Idaho Water Resource Board meeting that month. The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

**Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee Meeting
September 5, 2023, Attendance**

Advisory Committee

Corey Allen
Cooper Brossy
Pat McMahon
Carl Pendleton
Justin Stevenson
Pat Purdy (via ZOOM)
Bill Simon
Nick Westendorf
Sharon Lee
Rod Hubsmith
Rep. Jack Nelson (Ex-Officio)

IDWR Staff

Shelley Keen
Tim Luke
Corey Skinner

IWRB Members

Brian Olmstead

Idaho Legislature

Rep. Ned Burns

Members of the Public

Kevin Lakey
Sunny Healey
Jesse Human
Kara Finkler
Dean Hovencamp
Mary Beth Collins (via ZOOM)
Dave Shaw (via ZOOM)
Chris Bromley (via ZOOM)
Heather O'Leary (via ZOOM)
Judd McMahon (via ZOOM)
Kent Fletcher (via ZOOM)
Chase Hendricks (via ZOOM)
Eric Miller (via ZOOM)
Jami Anderson (via ZOOM)
Erika Phillips (via ZOOM)
Neil Crescenti (via Zoom)