

Meeting Minutes
Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee
IDWR State Office at Idaho Water Center, Boise, Idaho
November 29, 2021

The meeting started at approximately 1:30 p.m. Shelley Keen, Tim Luke, and Director Gary Spackman 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, Senator Michelle Stennett reported on communications with the Governor's office. Sen. Stennett has opened discussions requesting that the State of Idaho appropriate money to support elements of the draft term sheet, including potential conservation and efficiency projects in Basin 37 and an aquifer characterization or modeling study of the Camas Prairie. Sen. Stennett will meet with Governor's Office officials at 2:30 p.m. on November 30, 2021. Tim Luke, and other IDWR staff will attend the meeting. Sen. Stennett asked anyone with recommendations for a possible appropriation to email her by tomorrow morning.

Tim Luke then gave an update on the draft term sheet. In general, the term sheet includes 1) Snake River storage water for Little Wood River and Big Wood River users, 2) fallowing of some land irrigated with ground water within the GWDs, 3) additional mitigation in dry years (< 210 KAF at Hailey), 4) a 32 cfs stream flow goal at Station 10 on the Little Wood River during the irrigation season, 5) establishing a conservation/infrastructure/efficiency fund, 6) a three-year management plan trial period, and 7) IDWR/State actions, including re-issuance of a moratorium order for the GWMA. After Tim explained the changes made since the last meeting, the discussion was open to committee members.

Kristy Molyneux agreed with most of the term items, but she would like a year-to-year review and other edits to item no. 6 of the draft term sheet. She said she had some additional wording she would email to Tim and Shelley. Cooper Brossy will recommend some additional language related to the Little Wood River stream flow target in item no. 4 of the draft term sheet. Cooper explained that his proposed language will address when the 32 cfs stream flow at Station 10 is a requirement (hard target) and when it is desirable goal (soft target).

Sharon Lee has had questions about users of non-consumptive ground water rights. Tim and Shelley felt that these rights may need to be reviewed individually to determine how they should participate. The most likely means of participation is as non-irrigation water rights not participating in the GWDs. Pat McMahon stated that Galena GWD would have difficulty fallowing 500 acres/yr. in the first year of the management plan. He recommended that Galena GWD fallow 200 acres in the first year and add more over time.

Brian Yeager then briefly presented a draft term sheet for the cities, Sun Valley Water and Sewer District, and Sun Valley Company. A copy of the draft was emailed to committee members before the meeting. The main elements of the cities' proposal are the contribution of

\$10 per AF of non-irrigation ground water to a fund for infrastructure improvements, the use of those funds to purchase Snake River storage water, and the contribution of an additional \$3.60 per AF of non-irrigation ground water for cloud seeding.

Bill Simon agreed to talk with the Camas Prairie ground water users and email their position to the advisory committee and to Sen. Stennett prior to her meeting at the Governor's Office. Sen. Stennett stated that the Governor's Office would want to know if all the water user groups represented in the advisory committee support the draft term sheet.

Sean Vincent of IDWR then reported on the activities of the Technical Work Group ("TWG"), which spent the last two weeks preparing responses to the questions submitted to the TWG. Following several TWG meetings, the responses were sent to members of the advisory committee last week.

Following Sean's report, the committee discussed whether the TWG could reconvene to propose a tiered structure for additional mitigation in years when the forecast is projected to be less than 210 KAF at the Hailey gage. Pat Purdy asked how the purchase of Snake River storage water might impact the calculations of tiered consumptive use reductions. The committee agreed that consultants participating in the TWG would draft proposals for two tiers below the 210 KAF. The TWG will then meet to generate a single recommendation for the committee to consider. The TWG will have its recommendation by Friday, December 10, 2021.

Director Gary Spackman addressed questions about the process for finalizing the term sheet by his December 1, 2021, deadline. Besides needing the TWG recommendation described above, the cities need time for their councils to consider the term sheet at their December meetings. The Director stated that because the term sheet appears close to completion, he can wait until December 25, 2021, for it to be finalized.

The meeting was then opened for public comment. Larry Schoen commented that he feels the term sheet is not serving his interests, does not promote aquifer health, and does not address certain "what if" scenarios, like "what if" storage water is not available. Pat Purdy expressed his thoughts on how the draft agreement does address the health of the aquifer because aspects of the plan require reductions of ground water pumping and some aquifer recharge. Tim Luke pointed out that per the draft term sheet, the Ground Water Districts have committed to securing and delivering Snake River storage water to surface water users when needed.

The advisory committee then discussed next steps, including a TWG meeting within the next two weeks. The term sheet will be updated and reviewed via email by the end of Wednesday, December 1, 2021. Further updates are expected after December 10 when the TWG reports its' recommendation on the tiered reductions. The next advisory committee will be scheduled after calendars are checked. The meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

**Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee
November 29th, 2021, Attendance**

Advisory Committee

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

IDWR Staff

Tim Luke
Cherie Palmer
Nathan Erickson
Sean Vincent
Shelley Keen
Jennifer Sukow
Gary Spackman

Members of the Public

Dave Shaw
Chris Bromley
Ashlynn Goody
Larry Schoen
Sunny Healey
Judd McMahon
Rusty Kramer
Kent Fletcher
Mike Lawrence
Keri York
Jim Speck
Justin Stevenson
Candice McHugh
Zach Hill
Eric Miller
Greg Loomis
Heather
Kevin Lakey
Kira Finkler
Rick Webking
Mary Beth Collins
Robin Lezamiz

Idaho Water Resource Board Members

Brian Olmstead