

Meeting Minutes
Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee
Blaine County Community Campus, Hailey, Idaho
December 15, 2022

The meeting started at 10:07 a.m. with most of the Advisory Committee attending in person. Some committee members participated via Zoom video conferencing or telephone. See the attached list of attendees.

After a brief introduction by Shelley Keen, presentations were given relating to 2022 Management Plan actions. A link to related reports required by the Management Plan is posted to IDWR's webpage on the [BWRGWMA Advisory Committee page](#).

- Carl Pendleton reported that the CIEF committee was formed, by-laws were created, and funds were collected. CIEF funds were used to lease storage water and for a Big Wood Canal Company canal lining project. Carl indicated that the CIEF committee is looking for additional projects to fund this year.
- Sunny Healey reported on Water District 37 activities, including storage water deliveries and priority cuts.
- Pat McMahon reported on Galena Groundwater District (GGWD) activities, including the purchase of storage water and the inability to meet fallowing objectives and groundwater reductions within the district.
- Kristy Molyneux reported on South Valley Groundwater District (SVGWD) activities, indicating that overall groundwater reduction goals appear to have been met.
- Cooper Brossy and Tim Luke reported on Little Wood River flows at Station 10; Tim gave an update on IDWR's review of fallowed acres and groundwater reductions in both SVGWD and GGWD during the 2022 season.
- Shelley Keen provided a status update on the Big Wood River Groundwater Management Area Moratorium and the Amended Snake River Basin Moratorium.
- Bill Simon reported on Camas Prairie water use.

After a brief break, the meeting transitioned into discussion of potential modifications to the Management Plan. Pat Purdy recommended investigating whether the relatively low flows at Station 10 during the month of May are historical occurrences. He suggested that it may not be necessary to maintain 32 cfs at Station 10 when return flows from the Big Wood Canal Company system are satisfying 1884 priority water rights downstream from Station 54. Pat Purdy also suggested that some evaluation should be made as to whether fallowing is helping the aquifer or

moving the needle enough to warrant continuation of the practice. The committee also discussed needs for better data and possibly adjusting the timing of annual reports to allow time for Water District 37 data to be compiled and included. Tim suggested the deadline for some reports should be moved to January. Overall, the committee expressed that all things considered, implementation of management plan actions went well during the first year.

Pat McMahon asked about the September 15 shut-off date and to whom it applies. There was some confusion if it applied to irrigation of domestic lots within cities. Pat said Sun Valley Water and Sewer District notified their patrons to shut off after September 15 but IDWR had told some of their patrons and other domestic lot owners in the valley that the shut off did not apply to them. Tim clarified that he had fielded inquiries on this question in September and said he thought the 9/15 shut-off only applied to holders of water rights having an irrigation use component with a designated season of use, not municipal rights where irrigation of domestic lots may be included as part of the municipal use. Brian Yeager, City of Hailey, and advisory committee member said that Hailey encouraged domestic lot irrigation shut-off after September 15 but did not mandate it. There was a suggestion that the Management Plan could be amended to clarify this issue.

Discussion was then held regarding potential adjustments to the makeup of the Advisory Committee. Kristy Molyneux stated that Justin Stevenson would be replacing her on the South Valley Groundwater District board and that he should probably take her place on the Advisory Committee. With Michelle Stennett's retirement, Senator Ron Taylor indicated that he would be interested in serving on the committee. Rep. Jack Nelson expressed interest in staying informed. Corey Allen also mentioned the possibility of adding an NGO member to the committee.

The meeting was then opened for public comments and questions and scheduling of the next meeting. Language in the Management Plan relating to who pays for additional storage water in dry years was discussed. Keri York, representing Wood River Land Trust and a CIEF Committee member, suggested consideration be given to including an NGO member on the advisory committee. Some comments and discussion were offered regarding ground water domestic use exemption and potential statute changes, and potential proliferation of domestic wells in the Wood River Valley vs. community wells.

Shelley Keen stated that the Department would provide the committee with a list of potential Management Plan updates for consideration at another meeting, possibly in mid to late January.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

There are no meeting materials other than the reports posted to the link on the advisory committee's webpage titled [Management Actions Annual Reports](#).

**Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee Meeting
December 15, 2022 Attendance**

Advisory Committee

Corey Allen
Cooper Brossy
Rod Hubsmith
Sharon Lee
Pat McMahan
Kristy Molyneux (via ZOOM)
Carl Pendleton
Pat Purdy
Bill Simon (via ZOOM)
Michelle Stennett
Nick Westendorf
Brian Yeager (via ZOOM)

IDWR Staff

Shelley Keen
Tim Luke
Corey Skinner
Corey King

IWRB Members

Brian Olmstead (via ZOOM)

Legislative Members

Sen. Ron Taylor
Rep. Jack Nelson
Rep. Britt Raybould (via ZOOM)

Members of the Public

Kevin Lakey

Sunny Healey

Justin Stevenson

Keri YorkKira Finkler

Larry Schoen (via ZOOM)

Kent Fletcher (via Zoom)

Neil Crescenti (via Zoom)

Jerry Rigby (via Zoom)

Chase Hendricks (via Zoom)

Michael Lovas (via Zoom)

Note: The list of public Zoom participants is incomplete as IDWR staff did not record names of all Zoom participants.