

Meeting Notes
Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee
Lincoln County Community Center
April 17, 2024

Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) Deputy Director Shelley Keen called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM by taking Advisory Committee roll call and introducing IDWR personnel attending the meeting. He also noted that Idaho Water Resource Board member Pat McMahon and State Legislator Jack Nelsen were in attendance. A list of attendees is included at the conclusion of these notes.

The second item on the agenda was a report from IDWR Southern Region Manager Corey Skinner on the updated April to September streamflow predictions for the Big Wood River. Mr. Skinner said that the average of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Northwest River Forecast Center predicted stream flow volumes at Hailey remained sufficient to avoid additional management actions in the plan.

Next on the agenda was the Conservation, Infrastructure, and Efficiency Fund (CIEF) report from Larry Schoen. Mr. Schoen said that the Committee was considering an application for canal lining funding for the Baseline Bypass Canal and that measuring devices would be installed on the canal to determine where the lining would be most effective.

The review of Questions/Recommendations for the Management Plan Extension was the fourth agenda item. Regarding Item #1 on the Question/Recommendation spreadsheet, Shelley Keen introduced draft language proposed to be inserted into the plan which would recognize minimum stream flow (MSF) water rights as historical management measures. Pending possible edits to the language, the Advisory Committee was in favor of including the language, a related table, and map into the plan.

The Advisory Committee discussed Items 3-5 on the spreadsheet, which were related to management plan goals. Draft language was created for the goal section of the plan that addressed providing reasonable certainty to ground water users early in the season so they could plan for the crop year. Additionally, sub-groups of water users (Municipal and Community, Camas Prairie, Ground Water, Big Wood River, and Magic Reservoir) were assigned to submit their proposed goals by May 7.

Sean Vincent gave an update on the Technical Working Group's (TWG) efforts and reported that the TWG met on April 4 and would meet again on April 24. Mr. Vincent will email summary statements of the TWG activity relating to its assigned spreadsheet items to Mr. Keen and Mr. Skinner.

The Advisory Committee took a break from 11:37 AM until the meeting resumed at 11:52 AM.

Larry Schoen presented the CIEF Committee's written responses to their assigned items on the Question/Recommendation spreadsheet. The Advisory Committee voiced support for CIEF as part of the plan, and suggested improvements to CIEF, which included: increasing the pre-construction cost share amount, utilizing staff within IDWR to assist with the CIEF funding application process, increasing funding to allow for more costly projects, streamlining the application process relative to the monetary value of the request, and increasing public outreach to raise awareness of the availability of funding for projects.

The municipal/community water users team will propose goal and action language to be inserted into the management plan no later than May 7.

Bill Simon gave a report on the Camas Prairie Question/Recommendation spreadsheet items and noted that the Camas Prairie ground water pumping impact on Camas Creek flows was unknown and couldn't be quantified until the upcoming Camas Prairie aquifer characterization study is complete. Mr. Simon gave Corey Skinner a draft copy of a paragraph addressing that topic, which he requested be inserted into Section VII of the plan.

Shelley Keen and Corey Skinner gave a presentation relating to the enforcement option items on the Question/Recommendation spreadsheet. Advisory committee members want to improve management plan compliance by non-participants and by ground water district members. Applying the statutes or administrative rule option available to IDWR could have uncertain outcomes because they have been used infrequently or contain language that is not clearly directed to GWMA administration. The Advisory Committee did not choose to recommend a specific enforcement option, but discussion focused primarily on Idaho Code §§ 42-233b, 42-350, 42-351, 42-5232, and 42-5244.

Corey Skinner discussed changing the language in the plan regarding the frequency of the meetings of the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee agreed to change the frequency of their meetings as described in Section XI of the plan from 'periodically' to 'annually in late February.'

The fifth agenda item was to discuss the process for reviewing the remaining questions, and the Advisory Committee did not address that topic. This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

Agenda item number six was a discussion of new business/other topics, and there was no discussion under this item.

The public comment section of the agenda was the next item, and Larry Schoen led off the discussion with the suggestion that any goals or Question/Recommendation suggestions should be submitted to Shelley Keen or Corey Skinner by May 7. Mike Lawrence suggested that any ground water or surface water rights located within Water District 37 should be able to be curtailed by the Watermaster of Water District 37.

Shelley Keen adjourned the meeting at 2:16 PM. The next meeting of the Advisory Committee will be held in Hailey on May 15.

**Big Wood River Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee Meeting
April 17, 2024 Attendance**

Advisory Committee

Corey Allen
Cooper Brossy
Rod Hubsmith
Pat McMahon
Justin Stevenson
Carl Pendleton
Pat Purdy
Bill Simon
Nick Westendorf
Brian Yeager
Jack Nelsen (Ex-officio Member)

IDWR Staff

Shelley Keen
Corey Skinner
Corey King
Jim Bitzenburg
Sean Vincent (via Zoom)
Jennifer Sukow (via Zoom)
Matt Anders (via Zoom)

IWRB Members

Pat McMahon

Members of the Public

Sunny Healey
Chris Bromley
Larry Schoen
Dave Shaw (via Zoom)
Michael Lawrence (via Zoom)
Zach Hill (via Zoom)
Heather O'Leary (via Zoom)
Judd McMahon (via Zoom)
Mitch Fleming
Keri York (via Zoom)
Wendy Pabich
Kajsa Van de Riet (via Zoom)
Chase Hendricks (via Zoom)
Cort Blackburn (via Zoom)
Tim Luke (via Zoom)
...and others via Zoom