ESPA Ground Water Management Area Management Plan Advisory Committee Meeting September 13, 2023, 1:00 pm, Pocatello City Council Chambers

Meeting Minutes

Attending in Person: James Cefalo, Mike Williams, Bill Stoddart, Stephanie Mickelsen, Ellis Gooch, Brent Bowen, Roger Blass, Tim Deeg, Mike Telford, Lynn Carlquist, Karen Henderson, Kresta Davis, Jeff Mansfield, Randy Brown.

Attending by Video: All committee members attended in person.

The moderator welcomed committee members, legislators and interested persons to the meeting. The moderator and committee members introduced themselves and provided a summary of their work in the water arena.

The committee reviewed Idaho Code §§ 42-233b and 42-237a. The committee discussed whether the management plan should be focused on stabilizing the aquifer or recovering the aquifer but did not reach a consensus on that subject. There was some discussion of improved measurement technology for ground water and surface water diversion, but the topic was saved for a later meeting focused on measurement and reporting.

The moderator presented some ideas for making the meetings run efficiently and the committee supported those ideas. The moderator and committee members shared broad ideas for the management plan and some concerns about some of the topics to be addressed in the management plan. Kresta Davis asked the committee to establish clearly defined short-term and long-term goals before diving into the specific provisions of the plan. Brent Bowen asked whether other management plans could serve as templates for the ESPA GWMA management plan. Committee members agreed that the plan must be adaptable and flexible to account for hydrologic changes or changes in the GWMA.

The committee decided to primarily meet in person moving forward. Committee members agreed to each come to the next meeting with contact information for an alternate who can fill in for the committee member if they are absent. The next meeting was set for Monday, October 23, 2023, at 1 pm at the City Council Room for the City of Pocatello.