

**ESPA Ground Water Management Area
Management Plan Advisory Committee Meeting
November 15, 2023, 1:00 pm, Pocatello City Council Chambers**

Meeting Minutes

Attending in Person: James Cefalo, Mike Williams, Bill Stoddart, Jay Barlogi, Tim Deeg, Mike Telford, Andy Prescott, Mike Beck, Karen Henderson, Kresta Davis, Jeff Mansfield.

Attending by Video: Ellis Gooch, Stephanie Mickelsen.

The committee reviewed minutes from the October 23, 2023, meeting.

Jennifer Sukow presented a summary of the ESPA water budget. Her charts and tables used data from 1980 to the present day because the data is more reliable. Jennifer identified the inputs to the aquifer (natural recharge, incidental recharge, managed recharge, head dependent recharge) and the outputs from the aquifer (ground water pumping, evaporation, head dependent discharge). She then presented graphs depicting the recent trends for each of these components. Jennifer stated that the most reliable way to gage aquifer health is by direct ground water level measurements. Committee members shared their thoughts about the water budget presentation and asked a few follow-up questions.

Jaxon Higgs gave an overview of how the pumping reductions from the 2015 SWC-IGWA Agreement were divided between the ground water districts and how each ground water district allocated the pumping reductions among its members. The pumping reductions were divided between the districts in proportion to 2010-2014 diversion volumes. Each district adopted a different plan for allocating the reduction, but there were some similarities in the methods employed.

Candice McHugh described the mitigation plan approved for the Coalition of Cities. The cities are currently providing 7,650 af per year of aquifer enhancement. This volume could increase in the future if the IGWA reduction increases. Candice shared an annual report prepared by the cities, which summarizes the total diversions of the cities and the amount and location of the aquifer enhancement activities.

Committee members discussed possible topics for future meetings (flow augmentation, 2015 Agreement, current moratorium order, ESPA measurement, CAMP). The next meeting was set for Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at 1 pm.