ESPA Ground Water Management Area
Management Plan Advisory Committee Meeting
January 2, 2024, 1:00 pm, Pocatello City Council Chambers

Meeting Minutes

Attending in Person: Bill Stoddart, Lynn Carlquist, Stephanie Mickelsen, Mike Telford, Roger Blass, Brent Bowen, Kresta Davis, Randy Brown, Jeff Mansfield, James Cefalo (IDWR), Blake Jordan (IDWR).

Attending by Video: Ellis Gooch, Tim Deeg, Mike Williams, Karen Henderson.

The committee reviewed minutes from the December 5, 2023, meeting.

Brian Olmstead, Idaho Water Resource Board member and former manager for Twin Falls Canal Company, presented an overview of the Comprehensive Aquifer Management Planning (CAMP) process. The CAMP committee met regularly between 2007 and 2009. CAMP was a planning framework and was not intended to serve as a ground water management plan. The CAMP committee set a target to change the ESPA water budget by 600,000 acre-feet. This change was to be implemented incrementally, with a change of 300,000 acre-feet per year in the first ten years.

The IWRB has moved forward with its portion of CAMP, increasing managed recharge significantly since 2009. As of 2019, IWRB had increased the average annual recharge capacity in the Upper Snake River Basin to 250,000 acre-feet. CAMP was adopted but was not fully funded. Some components, such as soft conversions, were only partially implemented. Other demand reduction goals were not implemented at all. 60% of the funding for CAMP was to come from the water users. The funding mechanism was never adopted or implemented.

Brian also provided an overview of the 2015 Agreement between IGWA and SWC. He said a successful management plan will be based on fairness and equity. The committee must find a way to keep acres in production but reduce the overall demand on the aquifer.

Committee members discussed agenda items for the next meeting and adjourned. The next meeting (video only) was set for Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 2 pm. The next in-person meeting will be Monday, January 29, 2024, at 1 pm.