

Grand View-Bruneau Ground Water Management Area Advisory Committee - Meeting Minutes

Bruneau Emergency Center

1:00PM – April 28, 2021

WELCOME

Meeting came to order at 1:02pm at the Bruneau Emergency Center – 32531 Belle Avenue, Bruneau, ID

INTRODUCTIONS AND ATTENDANCE

Committee Attendance: Sid Erwin, Gene Tindall, Bill White, Roy Mink, Bill Wolfe, Russell Schiermeier*, Kent Frisch

Interested Parties: Sam Ward, Shane Ward, Joe Peterson, Connie Tharp*, Maurine Pepper*

IDWR: Rob Whitney, Erik Boe, Tim Luke*, Nick Miller*, Shilynn Novak, Kellie Smith*

*Attended via Zoom

OLD BUSINESS

- Review previous meeting minutes
 - No changes mentioned during meeting
 - Any suggestions for change or comments can be directed to Erik

DISCUSS COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION (CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN, SECRETARY)

- It is up to the committee to decide if there should be a chair, vice, and secretary
- Pros and cons of committee organization discussion
 - Having specific chair people provides a voice for everyone
 - There is concern about committee losing active members. Having a chairpersons may give voice to those who are unable to be in the meeting.
 - The local community will have someone local to direct their questions and concerns to
 - Having more organization may set up a motion system so the committee knows who agrees on specific points
 - It will show how consensus was determined
 - It provides a way of documenting support for groundwater management plan
 - Having hands to determine who agrees and disagrees
 - The chairpersons can set and enforce a minimum number of committee members needed to vote to approve or disapprove items
 - Could help the committee focus on getting a draft plan to the director by ensuring committee involvement
- The committee may have a chairperson in the future but will not do anything during this meeting due to number of missing committee members.
- General Meeting Involvement
 - If the Committee has contacts that they know would be interested in the meeting, the Committee should pass contact information to Erik so they can join the email list
 - Erik will keep people informed of meetings and will distribute any action item(s) that need a vote prior to the meeting

REVIEW DRAFT OUTLINE OF GBGWMA MANAGEMENT PLAN

- The idea behind current draft is more of a conversation starter and not the Department speaking for committee.
 - Currently in brainstorming stage. Brainstorm what needs to be on the Management Plan

- Before next meeting, reach out to Erik with comments and additions
- *I. Introduction*
 - LTG (low-temperature geothermal) will be dropped and replaced with “aquifer system” so it is more inclusive of the needs for the groundwater management plan.
- *Introduction and Purpose and Authority* sections are placeholders
- *IV. Goals*
 - The Committee agree to add *F. Investigate and review boundaries and determine expansion*
- *V. Water Use Policy*
 - This section is for Committee recommendation on how the Department should assess new appropriations in the GWMA
 - The draft includes general policies that other GWMA have
- *VI. Implementation Strategies*
 - This draft is to open discussions and this section was written as a starting point for discussions
 - Water District was used more as a place-holder until the Committee decided if that is the path they would like to go
 - Next meeting Erik and Tim will present information to the committee that describes in detail the uses for Water Districts, Water Measurement Districts, Groundwater Districts, and Groundwater Management Districts, and other types of entities.
- *VIII. Decommissioning of Wells*
 - IDAPA 37.03.03 was originally printed and should be IDAPA 37.03.09
- A question if Oreana had been included in the GWMA was brought up
 - Mike will put together a report with recommendations for the committee to decide if Oreana should be included
 - Potential parallel activity, but the report will determine if it is connected
- The Committee requested more information about aquifer recharge and if it is an option for their needs
 - Mike will talk about recharge systems/basins at next meeting
- Thoughts and comments about Draft Plan:
 - Committee likes the general draft
 - The draft plan will be left open for discussion and it should be taken home to review. If there are any comments, send them to Erik
 - Everyone can review the original order establishing the Grand View-Bruneau GWMA to gain context of why the GWMA was set up
- Erik will send out the next draft before the next meeting so people can come up with comments/suggestions and discuss them during the meeting

REVIEW CURRENT WATER RIGHT INVENTORY (PAPER RECORD)

- The water rights within the GWMA were filtered and the numbers presented include water rights that irrigate 5.0 acres and greater and other uses that are 0.24 cfs and greater.
 - There are approximately:
 - 150 irrigation wells
 - 26 non-irrigation wells
 - 176 total wells (irrigation of 5.0 acres and greater and other uses 0.24 cfs and greater)
 - Approximately 28,500 acres are irrigated with a total diversion rate of 525 cfs

- In Water District 161, roughly 350 wells were initially on paper until there was a physical count of wells in use and the total dropped to two-thirds of the original number. People tend to use fewer wells than what is on paper.
- Next Steps:
 - A mailing list will be created and letters sent to active water right holders within the GWMA so they are aware of what is going on and have the opportunity to be present to put in additional comments when the surveyor shows up.
 - The Department will not just show up without the water right holder's prior knowledge.
 - Get boots on the ground to verify that all wells are in use.
 - Survey 123 will be used because it gives specifics for what the surveyor should be looking for so everyone collects the same information

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Maurine introduced herself and opened herself up for questions. She is a Water Quality Specialist with NRCS and oversees Connie and is her support
 - They are good contacts to assist with funding
- There is some interest in having someone from Idaho Department of Environmental Quality to present information about potential grants
 - Erik will investigate IDEQ grant money for irrigation and follow-up next meeting

NEXT MEETING

- Water districts and other entities
 - Presented by Erik and Tim
- Aquifer recharge
 - Presented by Mike
- NRCS funding opportunities
 - Presented by Connie and Maurine
- Erik will follow up about potential IDEQ funding

ACTION ITEMS

Committee

- Come up with a meeting date and time that works and let Erik know

IDWR

- Add to Goals section of Draft Plan: *F. Investigate and review boundaries and determine expansion*
- Distribute new draft before next meeting
- Check with IDEQ about funding opportunities

Tentative Meeting Date and Time

1:00PM – Dec 1, 2021

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