

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

Bruneau Emergency Center
1:00PM - January 13, 2022

WELCOME

Meeting came to order at 1:03pm at the Bruneau Emergency Center – 32531 Belle Avenue, Bruneau, ID

INTRODUCTIONS AND ATTENDANCE

Committee Attendance: Roy Mink*, Sid Erwin, Bill White, Billy Wolfe, Kent Frisch

Public Attendees: Byron Jones*, Mark & Celia Draper, Erick Peterson, Justin Deakin, Robert Draper

Soil & Water Conservation Commission: Joe Peterson*

IDWR: Rob Whitney, Erik Boe*, Laura McSherry*, Kellie Smith*

NRCS Idaho: Connie Tharp, Maureen Pepper*

WaterSMART - Bureau of Reclamation: Melissa Jayo

*Attended via Zoom

OLD BUSINESS

Members briefly reviewed GBGWMA well inventory.

WaterSMART GRANTS – FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES (Melissa Jayo)

Melissa Jayo, the WaterSMART Coordinator from the Middle and Upper Snake River field office at the Bureau of Reclamation, gave a PowerPoint presentation on funding opportunities and application requirements through the program.

- Overview
 - *Grant Information & Applications*
 - Program contact: Melissa Jayo – (208)-383-2283 or mjayoguerricagoitia@usbr.gov
 - Program details: <https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/>
 - Program applications: <https://www.grants.gov/>
- Recommended WaterSMART Grant Option
 - *Cooperative Watershed Management Program I (CWMP I)*
 - Provides funding for Watershed Group Development, Watershed Restoration Planning, and Watershed Management Project Design.
 - Phase I activities include group development of Bylaws, mission statement, stakeholder outreach, and plan or design.
 - Awarded \$50,000/year for up to 2 years with no non-Federal cost-share match required.
 - Funding addresses critical water supply needs, water quality concerns, environmental concern, consumer demand, and water dispute prevention.
- Timeline for WaterSMART Grants
 - *Application to Signed Agreement*
 - Approximately a year for selection to signed agreement.
 - Contact Melissa to assist with general application development in areas such as level of compliance, cost, and completion time.

- Open Funding Opportunities
 - *WaterSMART Traveling Workshops*
 - Full day workshops are hosted by the public.
 - Visit and discuss how to write a successful application.
 - Learn how to interpret the Notice of Funding announcements.
 - Build the project plan, including budgeting and timeline.
 - Draft letters of support from county commissioners, local landowners, etc.

AQUIFER RECHARGE DISCUSSION

- Roy Mink’s property has an open ditch canal that can be used for a feasibility study with possible funding from the Bruneau River Soil and Water Conservation District.
- At the Bruneau River SWCD meeting on January 12, attendees discussed potential recharge sites, the shallow aquifer, and methods to increase hydraulic head.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Committee members request further information on water right transfers, water supply bank transactions, irrigation supplementation, etc.
- The leaky well on the Draper property was discussed at length. Committee members weighed funding options and emphasized urgent repair need. Aid in artisan well repairs is included in Idaho state code. Erik Boe and Rob Whitney will bring the matter to the State’s attention. State COVID funding to repair the well is unknown.

NEXT MEETING

Topics for Discussions

Prioritization of funding objections and water district formation

MARCH MEETING

Tentative Topics for Discussions

Groundwater management plan

ACTION ITEMS

IDWR

- Mike to present on aquifer characteristics and monitoring network expansion.
- Nick to present water right information and GWMA condition options.

Next GBGWMA Meeting:

1:00PM - February 16, 2022, Bruneau Emergency Center