

**Grand View-Bruneau Ground Water Management Area**  
**Advisory Committee - Meeting Minutes**  
Bruneau Emergency Center  
1:00PM - March 16, 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, Kent Frisch, Gene Tindall, Russell Schiermeier, Bill Wolfe, Chris Black

*Public Attendees:* Erick Peterson, Justin Deakin, Mary Mink, Travis McLing, Mark & Celia Draper, Joe Peterson, Lynn Bachman

*IDWR:* Tim Luke, Rob Whitney, Erik Boe, Mike McVay\*, Kellie Smith\*, Laura McSherry

\*Attended via Zoom

**OLD BUSINESS**

Copies of last month's meeting minutes were provided and briefly reviewed. There were no questions or comments.

**GEOHERMAL AQUIFER (Travis McLing, INL)**

Travis McLing, a scientist from Idaho National Laboratory (INL), gave a power point presentation on recent research of geothermal aquifer characteristics on the south side of the Snake River. Based on geothermal aquifer boundaries defined by USGS in the 1970s, data was collected and assessed from previously visited well locations for 5 years. The goal of the study includes using improved technology to increase knowledge, reduce risk, and assess exploitation of the geothermal aquifer activity in southern Idaho from Yellowstone National Park to the Oregon state boundary.

- Research Results
  - *Composition*
    - Overall geochemical analysis confirms heat source from the Yellowstone hotspot. Chemical composition is indistinguishable in each geothermal aquifer boundary.
    - Magnesium and Potassium relationship is chemically equivalent to historic data.
    - Thermal groundwater from Bruneau to Oreana is not primitive and shows interaction.
  - *Correlation*
    - Strong compositional correlation from Grand View-Bruneau to Castle Rock.
    - Thermal groundwater is hotter closer to Yellowstone National Park.

The research shows thermal groundwater in all aquifers are compositionally similar and have some interaction. Data indicates overall decreasing trend in hydraulic head with no recharge from surface water. The research supports further investigation for geothermal exploitation. Publication on the presented research will come available in May.

**REVIEW OF THE BRUNEAU GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (BGWMD) (Sid Erwin, Gene Tindall)**

Sid and Gene led a discussion on the purpose and objectives of the Bruneau Ground Water Management District.

- Overview
  - *History*
    - The BGWMD is a voluntary organization, with Sid designated as chairman, formed in the late 1990s to primarily satisfy Fish & Games objectives. Numeric identifiers for this entity, such as EIN, DUNS, Sans#, are necessary to apply for funding to support well repairs.
  - *Repair Options*
    - Rob appealed to the Board to allow a representative from the BGWMD to present on funding needs. He also contacted a local high temperature driller for estimates on geothermal well repairs. His findings are as follows: new well construction – 150-200k/1000ft, total well decommission – 75-150k, and well head replacement – 50-60k/10ft.

○ *Future Action*

- The committee voted that Sid should represent the group to present the current magnitude of repair needs and initiate discussion to match funding at the IDWR Board meeting on March 31. Mike Draper will support the objectives by attending the meeting and attesting to repair needs. Idaho Chapter 16 County Budget Law does allow IDWR to support artesian well repairs.
- Water efficiency grants and funding from the Infrastructure Bill can provide financial support for efficiency tools and well assessment/repair if applied for.

**USBR GRANT APPLICATIONS**

A discussion and vote were had regarding the USBR grant applications. An application will be constructed for the CWAMP I grant and development will be led by Sid with the assistance and input from committee members and IDWR. Committee members voted on using the Bruneau Soil Conservation District (BSCD) as the required authoritative entity. BSCD has the necessary entity identifiers to apply for 319 grants and will support timely application efforts for a 10% management fee paid upon award next March.

**GBGWMA MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE (Erik Boe, IDWR)**

Current copies of the management plan were provided. The plan is a living document detailing 5-year strategic planning and objectives. Erik will work on creating a final draft, adding any received feedback, by May 31 in preparation for committee consensus at the scheduled June meeting.

**EXPANSION OF THE BGWMD AND THE GBGWMA**

For BGWMD, Chapter 51 statute was reviewed by the IDWR legal team which concluded the Director does not have authority to modify water district boundaries. Idaho code 42-5126 supports expansion already proposed in the GBGWMA plan.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- None given

**NEXT MEETING**

*Topics for Discussions*

June meeting solely focused on ground water management plan (GWMP) committee consensus.

**ACTION ITEMS**

- Sid will present to IDWR Board as BGWMA rep on March 31 to appeal for repair funding.
- Ongoing input on the GWMP will be collected by Erik Boe.
- Erik will email a pdf of the GWMP draft with inputs by May 31.

Next GBGWMA Meeting:

**1:00PM - June 22, 2022, Bruneau Emergency Center**