

Grand View-Bruneau Ground Water Management Area
Advisory Committee - Meeting Minutes
Bruneau Emergency Center
1:00PM - June 22, 2022

WELCOME

Meeting came to order at 1:05pm 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, Chris Black

Public Attendees: Justin Deakin, Mary Mink, Celia Draper, Byron Jones, Mark Hagerhorst, Maureen Pepper*

IDWR: Tim Luke, Rob Whitney, Erik Boe, Marcelina Williams, Clint Lindow, Laura McSherry

*Attended via Zoom

OLD BUSINESS

Copies of March 16 meeting minutes were provided and briefly reviewed. There were no questions or comments. Sid announced the outcome of the March 31 meeting with the Idaho Water Board which confirmed ID state law requirement of cost sharing to support artesian well repairs.

GBGWMA MANAGEMENT PLAN – REVIEW (ERIK BOE, IDWR)

Copies of the management plan including recent feedback and a strategy timeline example were provided. The plan is a living document detailing 5-year strategic planning and objectives. The following are sections in the Plan addressed by the committee members needing clarification and/or edits:

- Area Hydrogeology
 - *Recent Research*
 - Roy suggested additions that include current data on aquifer characteristics that Travis McLing (INL) presented during the March meeting. Roy will draft a few sentences to add to this section.
- Ground Water Management and Implementation Strategies
 - *A. Ground Water District (GWD) Formation*
 - Committee discussed details of GWD formation during Sid’s presentation later in the meeting.
 - *B. Measurement of Ground Water Diversions*
 - Rob briefly described a typical initial device order. Installation is generally required 6 months after an order has been issued with some exceptions pending grant disbursement. Hydrographers take measurements for GWDs and any legal issues are resolved by IDWR. Statute does not require telemetry. Maureen suggested and will present by the EOY on water quality initiatives that provide funding for devices.
 - *C. Creation of a Water District*
 - Monitoring ground water levels under GWD management will support water budget outputs and overall knowledge.
 - *E. New Appropriations of Ground Water*
 - No recent permits to appropriate water have been approved. With issuance of a moratorium order, pending applications could potentially be denied.
 - *F. Public Water Systems*
 - With other strategies having higher priority, completion of a “Best Practices” document was suggested to extend to 2023-year end.

- *G. Diversion Volume Reductions*
 - Edited practice #6 to aquaculture “efficiency” instead of “use”.
- *H. Ground Water Recharge*
 - Quantification and strategy will require further research.

GBGWMA MANAGEMENT PLAN – DISCUSS APPROVAL (ERIK BOE, IDWR)

Consensus from all 6 committee members present confirmed plan approval. Plan will advance to review by the IDWR Director prior to scheduling a public meeting. After public meeting and input, Director formally approves. Formal plan approval is necessary for grant or funding submittals.

GROUND WATER DISTRICT (GWD) (SID ERWIN)

Sid, Roy, and Mary are drafting a petition requesting the County to designate a GWD with a boundary encompassing 5 divisions; each with individual directors. The petition will include a list of chronological water rights within the area. Sid will solicit supporting public signatures. The committee members hope to address the GWD petition and the GBGWMA Management Plan at a single public meeting by late fall of 2022. A Commissioner hearing will then decide whether to hold an election of the GWD official formation. Community members may opt out of GWD participation upon Board approval.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Sid pointed out that the expanded GWD boundary differs from the GWMA. Rob suggested keeping the initial GWD boundary that includes the entire GBGWMA and consider enlargement later if needed.

NEXT MEETING

Topics for Discussions

- GWD status of petition and signature collection
- GBGWMA Management Plan updates and Director’s input
- Preparation for a public hearing on GWD and GBGWMA Management Plan
- Discuss appropriation of grant funding

ACTION ITEMS

- Erik will make minor edits to the GBGWMA Management Plan.
- Roy will work with Travis McLing (INL) on Area Hydrogeology section content.
- Sid, Mary, and Roy will finish GWD petition. Sid will collect signatures and verify new boundary with input from Mike McVay (IDWR).

Next GBGWMA Meeting:

1:00PM - October 5, 2022, Bruneau Emergency Center