



IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

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Boise
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Brian Olmstead
Twin Falls
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Marcus Gibbs
Grace
District 4

Patrick McMahon
Sun Valley
At Large

MINUTES

MEETING NO. 1-25

Idaho Water Center
Conference Rooms 602 B-D
322 E. Front Street
BOISE

January 17, 2025
Board Meeting No. 1-25

At 8:00 AM (MT) Chairman Raybould called the meeting to order in Boise, Idaho. The meeting was livestreamed on the Board's YouTube Channel upon adjournment of the executive session.

Agenda Item No. 1: Roll Call

Board Members Present

Albert Barker: arrived during executive session
Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, Vice Chairman
Marcus Gibbs
Patrick McMahon
Brian Olmstead
Dean Stevenson, Secretary
Dale Van Stone
Jeff Raybould, Chairman

Staff Members Present

Mathew Weaver, Director	Brian Patton, Executive Manager
Cynthia Bridge Clark	Wesley Hipke
Mike Morrison	Jennifer Strange
Erik Boe	Garrick Baxter
Neal Farmer	Craig Tesch
Matt Anders	Neeley Miller
Justin Ferguson	Kala Golden
<i>Online:</i> Sascha Marston	

Guests Present

Scott Campbell	Douglas R. Jones	Kendra Kaiser
Bryan Horsburgh	Ann Yribar	Steve Stuebner
TJ Budge	Mark Limbaugh	Scott Pugrud

Agenda Item No. 2: Executive Session

At 8:01 AM, Mr. Stevenson moved to resolve into executive session pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206(1) subsection (f) to communicate with legal counsel regarding legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated, and pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206(1) subsection (d) to consider records that are exempt from disclosure. Mr. Van Stone seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Barker, arrived after roll call; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 7 ayes. The motion passed.

Scott Campbell spoke on Coeur d'Alene tribal negotiations. Ann Yribar spoke on water right permit 02-10556 and Agreement not to divert water rights 01-7054, 01-7142, and 01-10609.

Mr. Stevenson moved to resolve out of executive session at 9:08 AM. Mr. Barker seconded. Voice vote. All in favor. The motion carried. The meeting was closed to the public, and no actions were taken during the executive session.

Agenda Item No. 3: Agenda and Approval of Minutes 12-24 and 13-24

The agenda and minutes for meetings 12-24 and 13-24 were available for approval. Mr. Barker made a motion to amend the agenda by rearranging *Item 15. Director's Report* to happen after *Item 4. Public Comment*. Mr. McMahon seconded. Voice vote. All in favor. The motion carried.

Mr. Van Stone moved to approve the amended agenda and approve the minutes for meetings 12-24 and 13-24. Mr. McMahon seconded. Voice vote. All in favor. The motion carried.

Agenda Item No. 4: Public Comment

Douglas Jones provided a briefing on the results of a Forest Service meeting relating to the costs of the Lost Valley Reservoir Project. He suggested that the project would make a presentation to the Payette National Forest Service. The updated squirrel report had been made available and was briefly discussed.

Agenda Item No. 15: Director's Report

Director Weaver made some brief comments to the board.

Agenda Item No. 5: Financial Report

Neeley Miller provided the Board's financial report. The accounts as of November 30, 2024, were: Secondary Aquifer Fund: cash balance \$37,458,161, committed \$33,027,364, and uncommitted balance \$4,430,797; Revolving Development Account: cash balance \$37,634,808, committed balance \$28,927,267, loan principal outstanding and other obligations \$19,807,969, and uncommitted balance \$8,707,541; and Water Management Account: cash balance \$321,835,344, total obligated funds \$307,091,331, and unobligated funds \$14,744,013. Total committed/earmarked/obligated but not disbursed \$369,045,962; total loan principal outstanding \$19,807,969; and total uncommitted/unobligated balance \$27,882,351.

ARPA appropriations: received per HB 769 is \$100,000,000; received per SB 1181 is \$24,497,544; received per SB1411 (2024) \$75,502,456; total received: \$200,00,000. Total obligated \$250,000,000; expended \$109,072,909; committed balance \$150,704,178.

Agenda Item No. 6: Governor's Proposed IDWR Budget for FY2026

Brian Patton discussed the Governor's proposed IDWR budget for FY2026, which included five decision units, a replacement items budget, and employee CEC recommendation. A recommendation of \$30M ongoing funding for water projects was proposed.

Agenda Item No. 7: Federal Affairs Update

Mark Limbaugh provided an update on federal funding and spending plans. He discussed issues and legislative activities. He mentioned some grant opportunities. There was some discussion on administration priorities.

Agenda Item No. 11: Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Managed Recharge Projects

Chairman Raybould requested to amend the agenda to move agenda item 11 to just before item 8. Mr. Barker moved to amend the agenda. Mr. Van Stone seconded. Voice vote: all ayes. The motion carried.

Wesley Hipke provided information for recharge in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer. Total natural flow water recharged for the season was 63,054 acre feet. He discussed the current river conditions. Recharge sites and IWRB recharge capacity projects were highlighted.

Chairman Raybould reminded the board that they had not formally approved the agreement not to divert at Milner for the 2024-2025 season. Ms. Cole-Hansen moved to continue with the agreement not to divert at Milner for the 2024-25 season, up to 250 cfs through February 15, 2025. Mr. Olmstead seconded. Voice vote: all ayes. The motion carried.

TJ Budge spoke to the board on behalf of IGWA related to a letter sent to board members. He expressed concerns about the agreement not to divert. He stated that an open meeting to discuss the agreement would be appreciated. Mr. Olmstead provided some comments. He did not think the agreement would increase curtailment chances for folks under the new SWC-IGWA Mitigation Plan.

Brian Patton spoke on injection well construction and public comments, particularly in Eastern Idaho. A pause on approving funds for any new injection wells and a presentation from IDWR staff on the injection well approval process were both recommended.

Chairman Raybould requested Vice Chair Cole-Hansen to chair the remainder of the meeting as he needed to leave early for another meeting.

Mr. Olmstead moved to pause all development on injection wells whether funded or not by the board for a short period of time to learn more about concerns. Mr. Stevenson seconded. Mr. Barker confirmed that the pause would not pertain to existing injection well studies and evaluations. Voice vote: all ayes. The motion carried.

Chairman Raybould and Director Mat Weaver left the meeting at 10:50 AM.

Agenda Item No. 8: IWRRI Update

Kendra Kaiser provided an update on the Idaho Water Resources Research Institute. She spoke on the strategic plan. The institute will seek on-going funding from the legislature in the amount of \$1.5 million.

Agenda Item No. 9: Anderson Ranch Dam Raise Project Update

Justin Ferguson introduced Bryan Horsburgh with the Bureau of Reclamation. His update included design updates, reinitiation of NEPA, and funding news. The 90% design for the reservoir rim projects was being reviewed, with final designs anticipated by summer 2025. The supplemental draft EIS was expected to be published in the summer, and an additional \$7 million in federal funding had been received.

Agenda Item No. 10: Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Resilience Project

Mike Morrison spoke on the status of the MHAFB Water Resilience Project. Construction was on-schedule and under budget. Staff and the Air Force were working on the gifting package and transfer of ownership. A water rights agreement was in the works. He shared some construction images.

Justin Ferguson discussed a resolution to approve extension of water supply bank lease and rental package for water rights nos. 02-10300A, 02-10330B, and 02-10472 through 2075 (50-year period).

Mr. Barker moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Gibbs seconded. Voice vote: all ayes. The motion carried.

Agenda Item No. 12: Cloud Seeding Program Update

Kala Golden provided an update for the Cloud Seeding Program. She highlighted the webpage, discussed current operations in the different basins, and mentioned operations in Utah.

Agenda Item No. 13: Potential Legislation of Interest

Garrick Baxter discussed several pieces of potential legislation of interest to the board and department.

Agenda Item No. 14: Administrative Rules

Erik Boe provided information on administrative rulemaking efforts. He listed the upcoming presentation schedules.

Agenda Item No. 16: Non-Action Items for Discussion

Mr. Barker commended the folks who had presented at the Idaho Water Users Association.

Agenda Item No. 17: Next Meeting and Adjourn

Mr. Patton stated the next scheduled meetings would be March 20-21, 2025, in Boise. He mentioned there would also be two committee meetings and a special board meeting on January 31st. Mr. Van Stone moved to adjourn. Mr. Stevenson seconded. Voice vote. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:36 AM (MT).

Respectfully submitted this 21st day of March 2025.



Dean Stevenson, *Secretary*



Jennifer Strange, *Administrative Assistant II*