



# IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

**Brad Little**  
*Governor*

**Jeff Raybould**  
*Chairman*  
St. Anthony  
At Large

**Jo Ann Cole-Hansen**  
*Vice Chair*  
Lewiston  
At Large

**Dean Stevenson**  
*Secretary*  
Paul  
District 3

**Dale Van Stone**  
Hope  
District 1

**Albert Barker**  
Boise  
District 2

**Brian Olmstead**  
Twin Falls  
At Large

**Marcus Gibbs**  
Grace  
District 4

**Patrick McMahon**  
Sun Valley  
At Large

## MINUTES MEETING NO. 5-25

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

March 20, 2025  
**Work Session**

### **Agenda Item No. 1: Roll Call**

Chairman Raybould called the work session meeting to order at 8:30 AM (MT) in Boise, Idaho. The meeting was livestreamed on the Board's YouTube Channel online. Board members present were Al Barker (online), Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, Marcus Gibbs, Patrick McMahon, Brian Olmstead (online), Dean Stevenson, Dale Van Stone, and Chairman Jeff Raybould.

IDWR staff members present were: Brian Patton, Cynthia Bridge Clark, Wesley Hipke, Matt Anders, Ethan Geisler, Craig Tesch, Erik Boe, Mary Condon, Mike Morrison, Kala Golden, Mike McVay, Garrick Baxter, and Jennifer Strange.

Guests present were: Steve Stuebner, Brian Murdock, Paul Arrington, Eric Dodds, Michael Fuss, and Ray Sheppard.

After roll call, Mr. Gibbs moved to amend the agenda to move agenda items 6 and 7 to the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Van Stone seconded. Voice vote. All in favor. The motion carried.

### **Agenda Item No. 6: Dworshak Small Hydro Power Facility**

Mike Morrison provided an update on a generator spill that happened at the Dworshak Small Hydro, near Orofino. He discussed the impacts of the spill and the subsequent cleanup efforts.

### **Agenda Item No. 7: Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Resilience Project Update**

Mike Morrison discussed the construction schedule for the Mountain Home Air Force Base project. He said the Air Force had submitted a gift package for congressional notification and review, with a timeline for handing off the project by July 1.

#### **Agenda Item No. 2a: Rental Pool Procedures Water District 01**

Mary Condon introduced changes to the Upper Snake, Water District 01. Changes included new land purposes, increased rental prices, and adjustments to the assignment pool. The advisory committee for WD 01 adopted the procedures.

#### **Agenda Item No. 2b: Rental Pool Procedures Water District 65**

Mary Condon discussed the rental pool procedures in the Payette River Basin, Water District 65. The changes involved deadlines for private leases and a fillable date for storage assignments. The WD 65 advisory committee adopted the procedures.

#### **Agenda Item No. 3: Aquifer Investigations & Modeling Efforts**

Craig Tesch provided an update on the hydrology section's work on modeling and monitoring. Ongoing basin studies were discussed. The importance of data collection and stakeholder engagement in groundwater modeling was emphasized.

#### **Agenda Item No. 4: Water Supply Update**

Ethan Geisler provided a water supply update. He noted that most of the state was doing well overall, with some moderately dry and abnormally dry conditions in the Eastern Upper Snake and the Panhandle.

#### **Agenda Item No. 5: Cloud Seeding Program Update**

Kala Golden provided an update on the cloud seeding program, mentioning the four authorized programs in Idaho. She highlighted the cloud-seeding webpages for further information for the public. Updates for the liquid propane investigation were provided.

#### **Agenda Item No. 8: Administrative Rules Update**

Erik Boe provided a brief update on the administrative rules and rule-making efforts.

#### **Agenda Item No. 9: Legislation of Interest**

Garrick Baxter discussed various legislative bills of interest.

#### **Agenda Item No. 10: Non-Action Items for Discussion**

Steve Stuebner provided a presentation on the Boise City Canal project.

#### **Agenda Item No. 11: Adjourn**

Mr. McMahon moved to adjourn. Mr. Stevenson seconded. Voice vote. All in favor. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:05 PM.

The group departed for a field trip to the Boise City Canal project in Boise. Following the field trip, the board had lunch.

March 21, 2025  
**Board Meeting No. 5-25**

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 online upon adjournment of the executive session.

### **Agenda Item No. 1: Roll Call**

#### *Board Members Present*

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

#### *Staff Members Present*

Brian Patton, Executive Manager/Dep. Director  
Cynthia Bridge Clark  
Garrick Baxter  
Blake Burkard  
Neeley Miller

Shelley Keen, Deputy Director

Wesley Hipke

Neal Farmer

Nick Miller

Mary Condon

Amy Cassel

Jennifer Strange

Justin Ferguson

Meghan Carter

Mike Morrison

#### *Staff Members Present Online*

#### *Guests Present*

Tom Banducci  
Steve Stuebner  
Chris Ketih  
Neil Shippy

Brian Murdock

Paul Arrington

Brianna Pitcock

Scott Campbell

Ron Shurtleff

Sara Allstot

Pamela Pace

### **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. McMahon seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

Meghan Carter spoke on Priest Lake Dam litigation, Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Resilience Project, and Anderson Ranch Dam Raise. Scott Campbell spoke on Pristine Springs.

Mr. Stevenson moved to resolve out of executive session at 9:26 AM. Mr. Van Stone seconded. Voice vote. All in favor. The motion carried. The executive session was closed to the public, and no actions were taken during the executive session.

### **Agenda Item No. 3: Agenda and Approval of Minutes 1-25, 2-25, 3-25, and 4-25**

The agenda and minutes for meetings 1-25, 2-25, 3-25, and 4-25 were available for approval. There were no changes to the agenda. Ms. Cole-Hansen moved to approve the minutes for meetings 1-25, 2-25, 3-25, and 4-25. Mr. Van Stone seconded. Voice vote. All in favor. The motion carried.

#### **Agenda Item No. 4: Board Elections & Committee Assignments**

Brian Patton conducted the election for chairman. Dean Stevenson nominated Jeff Raybould as chairman. Dale Van Stone seconded. Marc Gibbs moved to cease nominations and to cast a unanimous ballot for Mr. Raybould. Voice vote. All in favor. The motion carried.

Chairman Raybould requested elections for Vice Chair and Secretary. Dale Van Stone moved to elect Jo Ann Cole-Hansen as Vice Chair and Dean Stevenson as Secretary. Marc Gibbs moved to cease nominations and to cast unanimous ballots for the slate of nominations presented. Voice vote. All in favor. The motion carried.

#### **Agenda Item No. 5: Public Comment**

Brian Murdock, a farmer in Blackfoot, requested that the pause in recharge injection wells be lifted.

Sara Allstot from Eagle, Idaho spoke on concerns with the cloud seeding program.

#### **Agenda Item No. 6: Financial Report**

Neeley Miller provided the Board's financial report. The accounts as of January 31, 2025, were: Secondary Aquifer Fund: cash balance \$38,872,537, committed \$32,328,762, and uncommitted balance \$6,543,776; Revolving Development Account: cash balance \$35,806,341, committed balance \$27,752,462, loan principal outstanding and other obligations \$20,855,170, and uncommitted balance \$8,053,879; and Water Management Account: cash balance \$319,686,495, total obligated funds \$308,259,950, and unobligated funds \$11,426,545. Total committed/earmarked/obligated but not disbursed \$368,341,174; total loan principal outstanding \$20,855,170; and total uncommitted/unobligated balance \$26,024,200.

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: \$200,000,000. Total obligated \$250,000,000; expended \$123,858,894; committed balance \$135,918,193.

#### **Agenda Item No. 7: Loan Program Interest Rate**

Justin Ferguson presented a recommendation from the Finance Committee to adjust the loan program interest rate to the 30-year bond rate. The resolution included a minimum interest rate of 2.5% and a maximum of 5.5%. Ms. Cole-Hansen highlighted that the rate would go into effect April 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Stevenson mentioned that rate adjustments would occur quarterly.

Mr. McMahon moved to adopt the resolution to authorize adjustments to loan program conditions. Mr. Van Stone seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Barker, absent; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, absent; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 6 ayes. The motion passed.

#### **Agenda Item No. 8: Anderson Ranch Dam Raise Update**

Chris Keith with the Bureau of Reclamation provided an update. He shared changes with the BOR team. He stated the 90% design review was complete, with 350 comments received and addressed.

#### **Agenda Item No. 9: MHAFB Water Resilience Project**

Meghan Carter highlighted a draft resolution in the matter of the Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Resilience Project.

Mr. Van Stone moved to adopt the resolution to accept proposed stipulations to resolve protests to water right application 2-10556. Mr. Stevenson seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Barker, absent; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, absent; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 6 ayes. The motion passed.

#### **Agenda Item No. 10: Priest Lake Litigation**

Meghan Carter highlighted a resolution to approve funds for outside counsel in the matter of Priest Lake construction litigation.

Mr. Stevenson moved to adopt the resolution with the discussed dollar amount of \$713,000. Mr. Gibbs seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Barker, absent; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, absent; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 6 ayes. The motion passed.

#### **Agenda Item No. 11: Payette Basin Storage Request**

Amy Cassel discussed a resolution in the matter of the Upper Payette River basin storage project to request the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation identify the process to evaluate acquisition of uncontracted storage space in Cascade and Deadwood Reservoirs.

Ron Shurtleff with the Upper Payette Storage Water Association expressed appreciation for consideration of the resolution.

Mr. Gibbs moved to adopt the resolution. Mr. Van Stone seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Barker, absent; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, absent; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 6 ayes. The motion passed.

#### **Agenda Item No. 12: Blackfoot River Equitable Adjustment—Blackfoot River Management Plan**

Brian Patton explained the Blackfoot River Management Plan and the need for the board to sign the plan.

Mr. Gibbs moved to adopt the resolution to approve revisions to the Blackfoot River Water Management Plan. Mr. Stevenson seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Barker, absent; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, absent; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 6 ayes. The motion passed.

#### **Agenda Item No. 13: ESPA Recharge Program**

Wesley Hipke provided an update on the board's recharge program, including current activities and future recharge plans.

Mr. Stevenson moved to lift the pause on recharge injection well funding. Mr. Gibbs seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Barker, absent; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, absent; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 6 ayes. The motion passed.

#### **Agenda Item No. 14: Rental Pool Procedures (WD 01 & WD 65)**

Mary Condon shared resolutions for the procedures along with a memo from Director Weaver expressing his approval.

Mr. Stevenson moved to approve both resolutions for WD 01 and WD 65. Ms. Cole-Hansen seconded. Voice vote. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item No. 15: Flood Management Grant Criteria**

Blake Burkard presented the resolution that the Finance Committee had recommended to adopt updated criteria for the Flood Management Grant Program.

Mr. Van Stone moved to adopt the resolution with the attached amended criteria. Mr. McMahon seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Barker, absent; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, absent; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 6 ayes. The motion passed.

**Agenda Item No. 16a: Loan Program: Barber Pool Hydro Loan Extension**

Justin Ferguson discussed the resolution to extend a loan for Barber Pool Hydro.

Ms. Cole-Hansen moved to adopt the resolution to approve the extension of time to act on loan contract IWRB1033 through December 2027. Mr. Van Stone seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Barker, absent; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, absent; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 6 ayes. The motion passed.

**Agenda Item No. 16b: Loan Program: North Side Canal Company Loan Extension**

Justin Ferguson stated that North Side Canal Company was seeking an extension for their loan.

Mr. Stevenson moved to adopt the resolution to approve the extension of time to act on loan contract IWRB1038 through December 2027. Mr. Olmstead seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Barker, absent; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, absent; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 6 ayes. The motion passed.

**Agenda Item No. 17: Regional Manager Update**

Nick Miller provided an update on the Western Region's activities, including water right application and construction trends.

**Agenda Item No. 18: Director's Report**

Brian Patton mentioned that a group of staff including the Director would be visiting specific basins next week, and he discussed the JFAC budget approval.

**Agenda Item No. 19: Non-Action Items for Discussion**

There were no other items for discussion.

**Agenda Item No. 20: Next Meeting and Adjourn**

Mr. Patton stated the next regular meetings would be May 22-23, 2025, in Moscow. Mr. Van Stone moved to adjourn. Mr. Stevenson seconded. Voice vote. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:01 AM (MT).

Respectfully submitted this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May 2025.



Dean Stevenson, *Secretary*



Jennifer Strange, *Administrative Assistant II*