



IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

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Patrick McMahon
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MINUTES MEETING NO. 9-25

Hilton Garden Inn
South Fork River Room
700 Lindsay Blvd.
IDAHO FALLS

July 24, 2025
Work Session

Agenda Item No. 1: Roll Call

Chairman Raybould called the work session meeting to order at 8:32 AM (MT) in Idaho Falls, Idaho. The meeting was livestreamed on the Board's YouTube Channel online.

Board members present were Al Barker, Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, Marcus Gibbs (online), Patrick McMahon, Brian Olmstead, Dean Stevenson, Dale Van Stone, and Chairman Jeff Raybould.

IDWR staff members present were: Brian Patton, Wesley Hipke, Matt Anders, Cooper Fritz, and Jennifer Strange. Online were Mary Condon, Caitlyn Swanson, and Mathew Weaver.

Guests present were: Jay Barlogi, Paul Arrington, Steve Stuebner, Gail Martin, Brian Murdock, Michael Comeskey, Lyle Swank, Jason Brown, Adam Young, Alan Jackson, Brad Buttars, and John Williams. Online were: Ann Yribar, Brianna Pitcock, Chris Keith, Jonathan Jennings, and Ryan Alcorn.

Agenda Item No. 2: Shoshone Bannock Water Bank Comments

Mary Condon discussed the Shoshone Bannock Tribal Water Supply Bank rules. Written comments from Brett Bovee that addressed three sections of the rules were presented. The tribes proposed the ability to evaluate rental agreements longer than five years without specific approval from IWRB.

Gail Martin, Interim Water Resources Director for the Shoshone Bannock tribes, further discussed the requested changes to the rules. There was some discussion about long-term rentals. Chairman Raybould stated that the comments would be carefully reviewed, and that the Water Supply Bank committee should review the comments.

Agenda Item No. 3: Bear River Basin Cloud Seeding Proposal from Utah

Jonathan Jennings with the Utah Division of Water Resources provided an overview of the Bear River Basin cloud seeding proposal. He discussed the feasibility and design study by the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), which identified the Bear River Basin as a prime area for cloud seeding. The proposal included full and partial build-out options for the program.

Caitlyn Swanson discussed options for the IWRB to invest in and collaborate with Utah. There was discussion on the potential for collaboration with Idaho Power and the impact of the project on water users in both Idaho and Utah.

Agenda Item No. 4: Anderson Ranch Dam Raise Update

Ryan Alcorn from Bureau of Reclamation introduced Chris Keith. He highlighted recent staff losses and their impact on the project schedule. He discussed the status of the project. Mr. Alcorn mentioned the team was working to coordinate efforts and ensure compliance with environmental regulations. Ms. Cole-Hansen asked if an updated cost estimate would be available later in the year as the 100% rim design and 90% dam design milestones are reached.

Agenda Item No. 5: Twin Falls Canal Company—Operational Efficiency Project Proposal

Jay Barlogi with the Twin Falls Canal Company presented a project related to canal lining. He highlighted the benefits of the project, including reduced water loss and improved water management. Mr. Stevenson asked about the estimated water loss for the canal. Five to 25 CFS was estimated.

Agenda Item No. 6: Ririe Rule Curve Study Update

Lyle Swank provided an update on the Ririe Reservoir project. Challenges due to turnover among project managers, gate operation needs, and project phases were discussed.

Agenda Item No. 7: ESPA Recharge Infrastructure Update

Matt Anders provided an update on the ESPA recharge program, including the number of projects approved and the total investment. He discussed current and new projects. He emphasized the challenges of balancing recharge efforts and pumping limits.

Agenda Item No. 8: Bingham Ground Water District Update

Alan Jackson, with Bingham Ground Water District, highlighted the implementation of the 2024 Mitigation Plan, including pumping limits and wet water mitigation obligations. The impact of groundwater pumping on water levels and the need for real-time monitoring was discussed. He emphasized the development of new recharge sites and the importance of telemetry for water management.

Agenda Item No. 9: Bonneville-Jefferson Ground Water District Field Trip Presentation

Brad Buttars, with Bonneville-Jefferson Ground Water District, emphasized the importance of proper mitigation and recharge to stabilize the aquifer and improve reach gains. He mentioned the efforts of the ground water district related to recharge wells. He outlined the field trip agenda.

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

There were no other items for discussion.

Agenda Item No. 11: Adjourn

Mr. Stevenson moved to adjourn. Mr. McMahon seconded. Voice vote. All in favor. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM.

The board broke for lunch at noon. Then the group departed for a field trip to select sites within the Bonneville-Jefferson Ground Water District.

July 25, 2025
Board Meeting No. 9-25

At 8:34 AM (MT) Chairman Raybould called the meeting to order in Idaho Falls, Idaho. The meeting was livestreamed on the Board's YouTube Channel.

Agenda Item No. 1: Roll Call

Board Members Present

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

Staff Members Present

Brian Patton	Wesley Hipke	Neeley Miller
Jennifer Strange	Matt Anders	

Staff Members Present Online

Cynthia Bridge Clark	Justin Ferguson	Neal Farmer
	Caitlyn Swansons	Mathew Weaver

Guests Present

Mayor Rebecca Casper	Jay Barlogi	Jeff Bowman
January Bowman	Robert Annalora	Wyatt Annalora
Joseph Jeffs	John Williams	Brad Butters
Michael Comeskey	Jody Fischer	Darin Langerud
Kala Golden	Brian Murdock	Bob Turner
Payton Hampton	Darrel Ker	Jake Burtenshaw

Guests Online

Ryan Gailey	Ann Yribar	Gary Haderlie
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Agenda Item No. 2: Agenda and Approval of Minutes 7-25 and 8-25

The agenda and minutes for meetings 7-25 and 8-25 were available for approval. Mr. Barker moved to amend the order of the agenda by moving agenda item 8, Surface Water Operational Efficiencies Program Awards, to happen before agenda item 3, Public Comment. Mr. Van Stone seconded. Voice vote. All in favor. The motion carried.

Mr. Stevenson moved to accept the minutes for meetings 7-25 and 8-25. Mr. Barker seconded. Voice vote. All in favor. The motion carried.

Agenda Item No. 8: Surface Water Operational Efficiencies Program Awards

Justin Ferguson provided an overview of the program, highlighting the discretionary funding limit and application requirements.

Agenda Item No. 8a: Surface Water Operational Efficiencies Program Awards: American Falls Reservoir District #2

Neal Farmer presented the American Falls Reservoir District 2 funding request to support a canal operational efficiency study, with the goal of identifying water conservation and system efficiency improvements. He walked through a draft resolution that would approve up to \$991,600 that had been recommended at a recent Joint Aquifer Stabilization and Finance Committee meeting. He mentioned a typo on line 25.

Mr. Mc Mahon moved to adopt the resolution with the edit. Mr. Olmstead 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.

Agenda Item No. 8b: Surface Water Operational Efficiencies Program Awards: Twin Falls Canal Company

Justin Ferguson highlighted the Twin Falls Canal Company request for funding up to \$26,340,915 in annual installments as listed by the draft resolution.

Mr. Stevenson moved to adopt the resolution. 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.

Agenda Item No. 3: Public Comment

Jeff Bowman of Pocatello made comments requesting a review of the South Fork River Basin Plan to allow for more dredge mining. Brian Patton recommended that the Planning Committee should look at the issue.

John Williams provided updates on Bonneville Power Administration.

Jody Fischer, VP of Flight Operations for Weather Modification International (WMI), discussed safety and effectiveness of cloud seeding operations.

Darin Langerud, Director of Meteorology at WMI, addressed federal legislation threatening the weather modification industry and the importance of transparency.

Kala Golden, with WMI, emphasized the need for proven technology in operational cloud seeding projects.

Brian Murdock advocated for the Progressive Canal recharge projects.

Darrel Ker from Enterprize Canal defended that entity's commitment to environmental stewardship and transparency related to recharge.

Jake Burtenshaw shared his thoughts on flood irrigation, recharge, and a proposed project on the Harrison Canal that had been tabled in an earlier meeting.

Mayor Rebecca Casper welcomed the board to the City of Idaho Falls and shared thoughts on how the board has changed over the years. She discussed measures the city has taken to conserve and manage water and shared challenges ahead.

Agenda Item No. 4: Financial Report

Neeley Miller provided the Board's financial report. The accounts as of May 31, 2025, were: Secondary Aquifer Fund: cash balance \$39,739,492, committed \$30,349,539, and uncommitted balance \$9,389,952; Revolving Development Account: cash balance \$37,787,374, committed balance \$26,587,983, loan principal outstanding \$20,676,895, and uncommitted balance \$11,199,391; and Water Management Account: cash balance \$319,384,307, total committed funds \$303,008,469, and uncommitted funds \$16,375,838.

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 \$127,143,120; remaining committed balance \$132,633,967.

Cynthia Bridge Clark reviewed the board's allocation of funds in the Water Management Account and the new \$30 million appropriation. The board discussed the need for tracking and managing funding allocation for the ESPA Sustainability Projects and other initiatives.

Agenda Item No. 5: Bear River Basin Cloud Seeding Proposal from Utah

Caitlyn Swanson presented the Bear River Basin cloud seeding pilot project proposal from Utah. Staff recommended option two, which would incorporate all components of option one except new ground-based generators.

Mr. Gibbs moved to adopt the resolution to fund option 2 up to \$950,000. 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.

Agenda Item No. 6a: ESPA Recharge Program: Conveyance Fees / Structure

Matt Anders discussed the history of conveyance fees and the need for updates. Recommendations from the Joint Aquifer Stabilization and Finance committee included a flat conveyance fee of \$7.50 per acre foot, contracts up to 5 year terms, and an annual limit for conveyance fees.

Ms. Cole-Hansen moved to adopt the resolution. Mr. Van Stone 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.

Agenda Item No. 6b: ESPA Recharge Program: Projects

Matt Anders stated that the Aquifer Stabilization committee recommended two of five projects for funding consideration. He shared a comparative summary chart of the projects.

Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution to fund the Aberdeen Springfield Canal Company recharge well project in an amount up to \$535,000. 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.

Mr. Olmstead moved to adopt the resolution to fund the Burgess Canal Company's recharge complex project in an amount up to \$2,250,000. Mr. Stevenson 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.

Agenda Item No. 7: Flood Management Grant Awards

Neeley Miller presented the Flood Management Grant awards. Eight applications have been evaluated and the Finance committee recommended them to the full board.

Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution to award flood management grants as listed in the attachment in the amount of \$460,646. Mr. Van Stone 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.

Agenda Item No. 9: Regional Manager's Report

James Cefalo provided a brief overview of the Eastern Region's activities. He provided a presentation on IDWR contested cases. He explained the different types of contested cases, the process for filing protests, and the Rules of Procedure for contested cases, including the informal and formal settlement conferences. He provided an update on the current case load in eastern Idaho.

Agenda Item No. 10: Director's Report

Director Weaver provided an update on the current delivery call and curtailment efforts on the ESPA. He emphasized the department's focus on water administration and enforcement. He shared the status of the UIC Program and recharge well permitting. He announced a four-month strategic plan effort to evaluate the merger of Idaho Department of Water Resources and the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Board members were invited to participate in the strategic planning efforts, including in-person interviews, responding to surveys, and participating in the one-day workshop.


Agenda Item No. 11: Non-Action Items for Discussion

There were no other items for discussion.

Agenda Item No. 12: Next Meeting and Adjourn

Mr. Patton stated the next regular meetings would be September 11-12, 2025, in Twin Falls. Mr. Van Stone moved to adjourn. Mr. Stevenson seconded. Voice vote. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM (MT).

Respectfully submitted this 12th day of September 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. F. Stevenson", written over a horizontal line.

Dean Stevenson, *Secretary*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Strange", written over a horizontal line.

Jennifer Strange, *Administrative Assistant II*