



# IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

## MINUTES

### WATER STORAGE PROJECTS COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 1-25

**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

Water Center  
Conference Rooms 602 C&D  
322 E. Front St.  
BOISE

January 31, 2025

**Committee Members:** Chair Brian Olmstead, Jeff Raybould, Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, Marc Gibbs, and Al Barker.

#### **Agenda Item No. 1: Introductions & Attendance**

Chairman Olmstead called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM (MT) in Boise and remote participants joined via Zoom. The meeting was livestreamed to the board's YouTube channel. Committee members present were Chair Brian Olmstead, Al Barker, Jo Ann Cole-Hansen (online), Marc Gibbs (online), Jeff Raybould (online). Other board members present were Pat McMahon (online) and Dale Van Stone (online).

IDWR staff members present were Brian Patton, Cynthia Bridge Clark, Justin Ferguson, Neeley Miller, Blake Burkard, and Jennifer Strange.

Guests present were Dan Steenson, Bill Heyer, Dylan Lawrence, Chris Keith, Steve Stuebner, and Mike Schubert. Online was Ann Yribar.

#### **Agenda Item No. 2: Anderson Ranch Dam Raise New Storage Allocation Discussion**

Cynthia Bridge Clark introduced the topic of the Anderson Ranch Dam Raise. She stated the project aims to increase the dam's elevation by six feet, providing an additional 29,000 acre feet of storage.

Justin Ferguson began his presentation on proposed allocation methods, pricing framework, and public outreach for the project.

Chris Keith answered Al Barker's question about the project timeline. He confirmed that the project is moving along with the 90% design expected by

summer 2025. Construction is anticipated to start early to mid-2027. Jeff Raybould clarified that there had been set-backs with the completion dates.

Justin Ferguson presented three proposed allocation plans: direct sale, auction sale, and a combination of both. There were concerns about public contracting requirements and restrictions related to ARPA funds. Meghan Carter with AG's office provided initial guidance. She stated that the proposals could happen so long as the process is public and clearly determined. There were concerns with a restriction related to sale of real property. There was discussion that more time would be needed to digest the proposed sales methods and to consider the impact of mitigation costs. Public comments and feedback were encouraged. An email was shared for comments: [AndersonRanch@idwr.idaho.gov](mailto:AndersonRanch@idwr.idaho.gov).

There were no actions taken by the committee.

**Agenda Item No. 3: Other Items**

No other items were discussed.

**Agenda Item No. 4: Adjourn**

Mr. Barker moved to adjourn. Mr. Raybould seconded. Voice vote: all ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Strange, Administrative Assistant to the Board.