MINUTES OF MEETING 8-10

July 23, 2010
Boise, Idaho

Chairman Uhling called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and asked for roll call.

Agenda Item No. 1, Roll Call

Board Members Present

Terry Uhling, Chairman, Vince Alberdi
Gary Chamberlain, Roger Chase
Chuck Cuddy, Bob Graham
Jerry Rigby, Absent, Leonard Beck

Staff Members Present

Brian Patton, Bureau Chief, Cynthia Bridge Clark, Engineer
Patsy McGourty, Admin. Asst. II, Dan Nelson, Hydrologist
Aaron Marshall, Water Rights Agent, Bill Quinn, Engineer
Tom Neace, Section Manager

Guests Present

Shelley Davis, Barker Rosholt, Jon Bowling, Idaho Power Company
Matt Howard, Bureau of Reclamation, Robert Tate, City of Dover
Garrick Baxter and John Homan, Deputies Attorney General
Kevin Lewis, Idaho Rivers United, Walt Poole, Dept. of Fish and Game
Kevin Lakey, Water District 37, Scott King, SPF Water Engineering
Keri York, Wood River Land Trust, Laura Barber, Idaho Rivers United

Agenda Item No. 2, Agenda and Approval of Minutes 7-10

Mr. Patton stated that there were no changes to the agenda.

Mr. Chamberlain moved to approve the minutes and Mr. Chase seconded. All were
in favor and the Minutes for meeting 7-10 were approved. The Chairman called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

**Agenda Item No. 3, Public Comment**

Ms. Laura Barber, Idaho Rivers United, provided copies of a paper written by Jeffrey C. Fereday entitled, “Rural Water Use in an Urbanizing Environment.” She discussed the key points in the paper and stated that Idaho Rivers United did not support everything in the document.

Ms. Kari York, Wood River Land Trust, addressed the Board. She discussed her organization and its support of minimum stream flows in the Wood River Basin. She detailed methods that the Wood River Land Trust has used to enhance the river for the users. She stated that the minimum stream flow water rights held by the state are critical to maintaining the function of the river for the beneficial use of everyone. She noted that the Wood River Valley has the highest water uses per capita in the nation. Fish and Wildlife habitat is of critical importance, she said. In 2003 the Department of Fish and Game issued a report that stated this region brought in $17 million dollars for recreational fishing. She expressed support for the Board’s minimum stream flow rights.

Mr. Chamberlain asked where she obtained her data about the highest water uses per capita in the nation. She responded that she got that information from Wendy Pavic, a consultant in the area. The Chairman asked Mr. Patton to verify this data for staff.

Mr. Kevin Lewis, Idaho Rivers United, also expressed support for the Board’s Wood River Basin minimum stream flows. These water rights reflect the public interest and are very important to the area, he said. He thanked the Board.

**Agenda Item 4, IWRB Hydropower Status Report**

Mr. Dan Nelson, staff Hydrologist, presented this report. He stated this is the final fiscal year 2010 report. Since July 1, 2009 Dworshak has produced $213,000 in revenues over expenses. $97,000 has been added to the Repair/Replacement Fund. Reserve funds total $1,196,778.

Mr. Nelson reported that the Pristine Springs revenues are $45,589 which has been placed in the Repair/Replacement Fund for a total of $666,622.

Mr. Graham asked if the same contractor was still employed at Dworshak and Mr. Patton responded yes. The contract was renewed a year ago for another five years with the same conditions.

Mr. Beck asked about the FERC payments being held in reserve. Mr. Patton stated that several years ago when the license was issued, staff interpreted that more was owed than what FERC was invoicing the department for at about $1,000 per year. Many letters were sent to communicate with them; however, no reply was received. Monthly payments are now being taken out of the additional money that was set aside for the invoices.

**Agenda Item No. 5, IWRB Financial Program**
a. **Status Report**

Mr. Patton stated that some figures have been itemized for committed but not disbursed funds under the Revolving Development Account as the Board had requested. Mr. Alberdi expressed appreciation for this clearer report.

Mr. Patton stated that just under $11.6 million is committed but not disbursed. Total loan principle outstanding is just under $20.2 million. The total uncommitted balance is at just under $1.4 million as of July 1st. The Chairman asked how the total principle outstanding compared historically. Since there is a large loan outstanding for Pristine Springs that actually leaves about $10 million outstanding. The growth of the program has been rapid and benefits the state greatly, Mr. Patton said. The Chairman asked for a bar chart for the next meeting showing the growth of the loan program to demonstrate to the public the success of this program. Mr. Patton stated there have been no defaults.

Mr. Patton discussed the Bear River bond pool that is back on track and moving forward. Staff and Mr. Wrigley are working steadily with the banks and the companies involved. After the construction of the projects, the bonds would be issued. Mr. Patton stated that construction will be this fall and the financing may occur in mid winter.

Mr. Patton stated the loan application for Jughandle Estates was put on hold to allow for the formation of a local improvement district. Staff is hoping to combine this with the Bear River bond issuance. This would make the total Bear River pool about $3.5 million.

Mr. Patton stated that the Southwest Irrigation District loan request is still being worked on by Mr. Wrigley. There seems to be some disagreement on how to repay the project by the parties.

b. **Loan Requests – City of Dover**

Mr. Dan Nelson presented the loan request for the City of Dover for $194,063 to improve the water intake system from Lake Pend Oreille. The city is located southwest of Sandpoint, Idaho on the shore of Lake Pend Oreille drawing water through their water treatment plant. The city supplies water to 190 residential units, 4 commercial units, and 1 industrial unit. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operates Albeni Falls Dam which controls the lake levels for Lake Pend Oreille during certain times of the year. This year the levels will be reduced to four feet which will cause the city's pumping system to not function properly.

Mr. Nelson discussed the city billing system and the cost for customers’ water. For this loan the Board will hold the water rights, equipment, diversion structures and common land as security. Mr. Nelson had spoken to the Albeni Falls Dam manager to discuss the operation of the dam. The USGS measuring device at Trestle Creek is used to monitor the lake levels based on mean sea level. Mr. Nelson detailed the lake levels and noted that the lake is downstream from the gage. Mr. Nelson discussed historic lake levels and the agreements for Kokanee Salmon minimum lake levels. Lake levels can be reduced according to this agreement with the Department of Fish and Game to clean the lake bed. These lower lake levels have created a pumping problem for the City of Dover. Staff recommends the loan request of $194,063. Mr. Nelson introduced Mr. Robert Tate, the City Engineer, to address the Board.
Mr. Robert Tate, City of Dover, stood for Board questions and explained the water system inadequacies including a growing city population. In order to meet the increased demands and accommodate lower lake levels, larger pumps at lower levels are needed. Mr. Graham asked if the city thinks the lake levels will continue to get lower. Mr. Tate stated they did. Financing was discussed. Questions were asked regarding pumping equipment.

Mr. Chamberlain moved that the resolution authorizing a loan to the City of Dover not to exceed $194,063 at 6% interest with a ten-year repayment term be approved. Mr. Graham seconded. The Chairman called for a roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Cuddy: Aye; Mr. Alberdi: Aye; Mr. Chase: Aye; Mr. Beck: Aye; Mr. Chamberlain: Aye; Mr. Graham: Aye; Mr. Rigby: Absent; Chairman Uhling: Aye. Motion Passed. 7 Ayes; 1 Absent.

c. Aquifer Recharge Program Update

Mr. Bill Quinn, staff Engineer, discussed the early season ESPA Managed Recharge Program. In May and June cool wet weather conditions caused the Board’s recharge water right to return to priority between June 5 and June 25. This increased the acres recharged to 59,208 acre feet at a cost of $177,624. He discussed the various canal companies who participated. He noted that Aberdeen-Springfield Canal Company recharged 2,660 acre feet at the Hilton spill site and American Falls Reservoir District No. 2 recharged 298 acre feet at the Milepost 31 site for the first time. Fremont Madison Irrigation District recharged 434 acre feet at the Egin Lakes site. The final distribution is 94% recharged above and 6% below American Falls. Mr. Quinn stated that staff will encourage canal companies below American Falls to continue recharging to balance out the amounts. Staff is preparing for a late season recharge but the amount is unpredictable at this time.

Mr. Quinn passed out a map requested by Mr. Alberdi showing the areas of greatest retention for recharge water returned to the river. He discussed the amounts retained in the aquifer versus how much is returned to the river. The Chairman restated that at Milepost 31, 40% recharged in five years will return to the river and 60% will stay in the aquifer. The Chairman asked after five years 60% of the amount returned to the aquifer would remain in the aquifer. Mr. Quinn responded that is correct. Mr. Alberdi thanked Mr. Quinn for the map on behalf of the Board. This gives some tangible results to the recharge efforts, he said.

Mr. Beck asked if Southwest Irrigation Company had monitoring facilities to look at their aquifer levels. Mr. Quinn responded that the Southwest Irrigation program is monitored for their water right permit. Mr. Tom Neace, Manager from the Injection Well Section, responded that there are well monitoring requirements for Southwest Irrigation Company mostly for water quality. There should be a variety of data available. Mr. Patton responded that the aquifer changes characteristics in the Southwest Irrigation area and the return time is much larger for recharge.

The Chairman asked if Table 2 of the recharge information could be transformed into a color chart so the Board could determine quickly how much water is returned by percentage for 5 and 10 years. Totals could reveal how much recharge will be retained in the river and the aquifer for 10 years. The
Chairman noted that the amount recharged above and below American Falls is dependent on the year. The goal is 60-40% even though this year it was 94-6%. Mr. Alberdi agreed that striving for a balance was the goal of the ESPA CAMP.

Mr. Quinn responded that staff could keep a cumulative total with distribution percentages. The ESPA CAMP goal was 60-40% with 10% coming from the Wood River area below American Falls. Mr. Patton stated that Wood River was part of the 50% below although there hasn’t been any for the last few years. There was discussion about historical water years.

Mr. Chase asked if it was a realistic goal to achieve the 60-40%. He stated that it seems users above have more water to distribute. Mr. Alberdi responded that it depends on the porosity of the soils and the ability of canal companies to recharge.

The meeting took a short break.

Agenda Item No. 6, Planning Activities

a. ESPA CAMP

Mr. Rich Rigby provided the Board an update. He discussed the beginning of the ESPA CAMP Implementation Committee and its goal that all users be participants. The friction point, he said, is incidental recharge and the legislation which states, “The benefits of incidental recharge will be recognized.” Some parties like incidental recharge and others are totally opposed. Emotions are strong, he stated, and positions are set which is influencing the funding discussion. The Funding Working Group will be meeting soon to discuss three options: 1) Mandatory Participation with opt-out provisions; 2) A water conservation district established by the Legislature which would create a framework for funding; and 3) A Joint Powers Agreement to fund mutually beneficial projects. Many entities are not irrigation districts, but private entities he stated.

Mr. Rigby stated that the Implementation Committee submitted the 2010 projects to the Board. Their goal was that all participants need to benefit spreading projects through the entire aquifer. This issue needs to be addressed. Staff is looking at state laws and projects for the Board’s approval.

The Chairman stated that as the Board considers these projects any additional information for the Board should be supplied as soon as possible. Mr. Rigby stated the Implementation Committee’s work is done and it’s up to staff to gather additional information. The Chairman stated that more information will come from the Attorney General for the Funding Working Group. In the future, re-engaging the Technical Working Group could provide more information for each project. The Chairman added that the Board compliments everyone who has worked on the camp process and asked Mr. Rigby to let the Implementation Committee know.

Mr. Beck asked if any one project rises to the top after their evaluation and if the Funding Work Group was leaning towards any project. Mr. Rigby responded that they are leaning towards the second option, the conservation district. There was discussion about the upcoming state election and the ESPA CAMP funding. Mr. Rigby noted that there are other legal funding questions for irrigation districts.
The Chairman stated if there are any timeframe issues associated with approving these projects to let the Board know. Mr. Rigby stated they will be working as fast as they can to overcome hurdles.

b. **Rathdrum Prairie CAMP**

Mr. Patton discussed the status of this effort for Ms. Harrington who was absent. The water demand study projects that by 2060 the water demand will be 99,000 to 161,000 acre feet depending on growth projections in the Rathdrum Prairie. The climate change study revealed that northern Idaho may actually get wetter. Mr. Patton stated that Kevin Lewis, Idaho Rivers United, had submitted his resignation based on time constraints. Mr. Graham stated that the Rathdrum Advisory Committee met last Monday and discussed a replacement for Mr. Lewis. Everyone agreed it was too late to put a new member on this committee. There will be only three more meetings before the plan is drafted. Mr. Isaacson, a resource committee member, felt he could represent conservation groups at this point.

c. **Treasure Valley CAMP**

Mr. Patton summarized this ongoing effort which has 41 members on the Advisory Committee. Mr. Patton discussed ongoing studies including climate change analysis. The Lower Boise Interim Feasibility Study results will become an integral part of this plan, he said. A copy of an editorial from The Idaho Statesman was included for Board members along with a list of Advisory Committee Members.

The Chairman asked if an evaluation of conservation per capita was available for the Treasure Valley. Mr. Patton responded that certain agencies like water companies will be providing that information and staff will incorporate this information into the plan.

d. **State Water Plan Update**

Mr. Patton discussed the progress of the State Water Plan Subcommittee. Mr. Patton outlined the concept of the Snake River policies which include separating the four reaches. The subcommittee has reviewed the first two policies for Above Milner Dam and Milner Dam to Murphy Gage reaches. At their next meeting on August 24th they will review the policies for the Murphy Gage to Weiser and Below Weiser reaches.

**Agenda Item No. 7, Water Storage Studies**

Ms. Cynthia Clark summarized the ongoing storage studies. A reference map was included showing the project boundaries and locations of each of the studies.

Ms. Clark stated that Ms. Ellen Berggren had provided an update on the Lower Boise Interim Feasibility study at the work session. This is the first phase of a full feasibility study to address water resource and flood protection, she said. The twelve locations have been reduced to three sites: Arrowrock Dam raise, Twin Springs and Alexander Flats. She highlighted the Water Storage Screening Analysis report which was included in the Board materials. Public meetings were held to obtain comments from the public the end of June. These comments are being gathered by the Corps of Engineers until July 31st. At these meetings there was discussion about how information from the
Corps’ feasibility study will be included in the Treasure Valley CAMP. Ms. Clark discussed funding and budgets. Funding after August is dependent on congressional appropriations, she said.

The Chairman asked about the Dunnegan Creek site and whether it would be mentioned in the final report. Ms. Clark responded that yes, the final report would include the final sites including the ranking for Dunnegan Creek. The Chairman encouraged Ms. Clark to bring that to the Board’s attention at the appropriate time due to resource issues.

Ms. Clark summarized the Henrys Fork Special Study which will include future water supply needs in the Upper Snake River Basin. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has been evaluating previous studies to integrate information into the new study. The Henrys’s Fork Watershed Council has discussed the studies and toured the area with Dr. Rob Van Kirk from Humboldt University who is also doing a study to develop a model of the area. Representatives from Idaho’s congressional offices were in attendance. Additional funding is being sought through the Secure Water Act-Water SMART Basin Study Program for the Henrys Fork Study, she said.

Mr. Graham asked how Humboldt State got involved in this study. Ms. Clark responded that Dr. Van Kirk was a resident and employee in Idaho who is now a professor at Humboldt University. He has received a grant for his study.

Ms. Clark discussed the Weiser-Gallow Project also known as the Weiser-Galloway Gap Analysis, Economic Evaluation and Risk-Based Cost Analysis Project. The project will reexamine specific components of the previously identified Galloway Dam and Reservoir site based on current conditions. Ms. Clark discussed the funding for the project including $100,000 which has been committed by the Board. The study is expected to be completed by March 1, 2011. The study will also update economic benefits associated with new potential project purposes and develop a risk-based cost and schedule analysis for future planning, design and construction.

Ms. Clark summarized the Minidoka Dam Raise Special Study which has been completed. She discussed the budgets and stated that $123,000 will be returned to the state. Currently, staff are not working on this project since there is no budget for furthering this effort.

**Agenda Item No. 8, Water Supply Bank Rules Revision**

Mr. Aaron Marshall, staff Water Right Agent, stated that the Water Supply Bank Subcommittee is proposing a change to the rental fee percentage retained by the department from 10 to 25% and the creation of a new lease application filing fee of $250 per water right. These additional funds will provide two full time employees to operate the Board’s Water Supply Bank program and will support increased use of the bank. A resolution is proposed today for the Board’s approval. Chairman Chamberlain (acting as Chairman while Mr. Uhling was out) asked if any negative response had been received and Mr. Marshall responded none.

Mr. Beck moved that the resolution authorizing the Director of the Department of Water Resources to initiate the rule amending process for the Water Supply Bank be approved. Mr. Chase seconded. The Chairman called for a roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote:
Mr. Cuddy: Aye; Mr. Alberdi: Aye; Mr. Chase: Aye; Mr. Beck: Aye; Mr. Chamberlain: Aye; Mr. Graham: Aye; Mr. Rigby: Absent; Chairman Uhling: Absent. Motion Passed. 6 Ayes; 2 Absent.

**Agenda Item No. 9, Well Drillers Licensing Rules**

Mr. Tom Neace, Manager, Resource Protection Bureau, discussed the proposed rule changes. Public meetings had been held to get comments about revising the Well Driller Licensing Rules which were promulgated in 2000. The new revisions would bring consistency with the newly promulgated Well Construction Standards and the Idaho Code. Proposed changes in addition to compliance with Well Driller Licensing Rules include modification of the number of continuing education credits required for each licensing period. The department recommends approval of these proposed changes. Mr. Roger Batt is fully in favor of all these changes.

Mr. Alberdi moved that the resolution authorizing the Director to publish the proposed revised Well Driller Licensing Rules and to appoint a hearing officer to conduct appropriate hearings be approved. Mr. Cuddy seconded. The Chairman called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

Chairman Uhling returned to the meeting.

**Agenda Item No. 10, Wood River (Legacy) Basin Enhancement Water Supply Bank By-Laws**

Mr. Patton stated that Water District 37/37M Advisory Committee had requested a change in their procedures to move the delivery location for donated water in the District 45 Canal to ensure delivery into the headwaters of Silver Creek. Mr. Kevin Lakey was present to address the Board.

Mr. Kevin Lakey, water master, discussed the need for the change to the delivery location explaining the details. The change is consistent with the authorizing legislation. All parties involved are in support, he stated.

Mr. Chamberlain asked how much participation was being given by the landowners in the area. Mr. Lakey stated that there were 10-12 donors but there were objections from canal companies. The intent of the water users was to protect their water from forfeiture, but the irrigation districts did not want that to happen. Of the 10-12, two were accepted into the bank. There are approximately 10-15 inches of water being used, he said.

Mr. Chamberlain moved that the resolution waiving the April 1 submission date for the Wood River Water Supply Bank By-Laws and authorizing the point of delivery in the District 45 Canal for donated water will be at the spillway out of the Silver Creek Ranch irrigation ponds be approved. Mr. Beck seconded. The Chairman called for a voice vote and all were in favor.

**Agenda Item No. 11, Director’s Report**

Mr. Patton advised that Interim Director Spackman was on vacation. However, several staff were available to present items on behalf of Director Spackman. Mr. Garrick Baxter, Deputy Attorney General, addressed the Board and discussed the Blue Lakes and Clear Springs call with the department. Part of this call proceeding was remanded back to the department for further evaluation by the judge to
determine seasonal variability in regard to damages to these water rights he said. The department issued an order stating that seasonal variability had not affected the injured water rights. This results in an additional 54,000 acres for curtailment which will begin in 2011. A mitigation plan has been ordered to prevent curtailment. Parties have 45 days to file petitions for reconsideration. Mr. Baxter expects this issue to continue on in the courts. Mr. Baxter explained the curtailment order in detail. The Chairman asked if that was about 350,000 acre feet. Mr. Baxter stated the order is available on the department’s web site along with a map.

Mr. Alberdi asked what date was established for the curtailment order. Mr. Baxter responded everyone junior to September 15, 1955.

Mr. Baxter discussed the issuance of two other administrative orders in other call matters regarding methodology for curtailment. Judge Wildman will hear all matters appealed from the department, he said.

Mr. Patton introduced Aaron Marshall to discuss the Water Bank backlog. Mr. Marshall stated that the Director considers the backlog a priority and has recently reassigned four department employees to work on the Water Supply Bank backlog. Over the past four weeks the rental applications backlog has been reduced by 12% and productivity is expected to increase. The goal is to eliminate the backlog by December 31, 2010. Additionally, GIS staff has developed a tool to identify leased water rights in the bank available for rentals. This should also increase efficiency.

Mr. Hal Anderson asked if this tool would be available to the public. Mr. Marshall responded that it should eventually be released to the public.

Mr. Patton introduced Deputy Attorney General John Homan to discuss the rental space available within the department. The Office of Energy Resources moved out creating about 10,000 square feet resulting in a loss of $202,000 in annual revenue to pay the lease for the Idaho Water Center. New tenants must be state or local tenants, he said. Mr. Homan noted the square footage rate for the Water Center is over the current market value. In the past, Idaho State University had rented space on the second floor with the University of Idaho but now they can lease 2100 square feet of space from the department $44,000 annually. Relocating the Western Region office is still an option being considered. The landlord at their office was notified they may be leaving and wanted to renegotiate a new lease which would result in additional savings to the department.

Mr. Homan stated the department has also spoken with Boise State University and Ada County to lease space. The department has met and toured the space with the Idaho Criminal Appellate Public Defender’s office. The State Law Library is looking to move and has a long-term plan to move into the old Ada County Courthouse. A temporary lease for about 8,020 square feet is possible and looking favorable since their current rate is too high for them. Mr. Homan stated that having the law library in the Water Center would be advantageous for their new law school students. Also, the University of Idaho may need the space in the future. Mr. Homan answered Board questions.

**Agenda Item No. 12, Other Items Board Members May Wish to Present**

Mr. Chamberlain asked Mr. Lewis if the presentation made by Laura Barber was from Boise State University and Mr. Lewis responded that it was. Mr. Chamberlain found it to be interesting reading.
Ms. McGourty announced that this was her last Board meeting since she is retiring September 15th. She expressed thanks to the Board for warm working relationships and a good education in Idaho water. She also stated that she hoped she had made a valuable contribution. On behalf of the Board, Chairman Uhling thanked her for her dedication and hard work and suggested a celebration. Ms. McGourty thanked the Board for their nice comments.

**Agenda Item No. 13, Next Meeting and Adjourn**

Mr. Patton stated the next regular meeting is set for September 23 and 24 with a possibility of another meeting in August if necessary for considering ESPA CAMP projects.

Respectfully submitted this __3__ day of __Nov.,__ 2010.

Bob Graham, Secretary

Diana Ball, Administrative Assistant II

Board Actions:

1. Mr. Chamberlain moved to approve the minutes and Mr. Chase seconded. All were in favor and the Minutes for meeting 7-10 were approved. The Chairman called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

2. Mr. Chamberlain moved that the resolution authorizing a loan to the City of Dover not to exceed $194,063 at 6% interest with a ten year repayment term be approved. Mr. Graham seconded. The Chairman called for a roll call vote:

   Roll Call Vote:

   Mr. Cuddy: Aye; Mr. Alberdi: Aye; Mr. Chase: Aye; Mr. Beck: Aye; Mr. Chamberlain: Aye; Mr. Graham: Aye; Mr. Rigby: Absent; Chairman Uhling: Aye. Motion Passed. 7 Ayes; 1 Absent

3. Mr. Beck moved that the resolution authorizing the Director of the Department of Water Resources to initiate the rule amending process for the Water Supply Bank be approved. Mr. Chase seconded. The Chairman called for a roll call vote.
Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Cuddy: Aye; Mr. Alberdi: Aye; Mr. Chase: Aye; Mr. Beck: Aye; Mr. Chamberlain: Aye; Mr. Graham: Aye; Mr. Rigby: Absent; Chairman Uhling: Absent. Motion Passed. 6 Ayes; 2 Absent.

4. Mr. Alberdi moved that the resolution authorizing the Director to publish the proposed revised Well Driller Licensing Rules and to appoint a hearing officer to conduct appropriate hearings be approved. Mr. Cuddy seconded. The Chairman called for a voice vote. All were in favor.

5. Mr. Chamberlain moved that the resolution waiving the April 1 submission date for the Wood River Water Supply Bank By-Laws and authorizing the point of delivery in the District 45 Canal for donated water will be at the spillway out of the Siler Creek Ranch irrigation ponds be approved. Mr. Beck seconded. The Chairman called for a voice vote and all were in favor.