

Abbreviated Meeting Notes

Water District 01

Upper Snake River Advisory Committee Meeting, February 27, 2014

Pocatello Airport

Notes: This meeting was held directly following the Committee of Nine's (Co9) United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) Reservoir & River Coordination Committee meeting, which was chaired by Stan Hawkins, and started at 9:00 AM. The USBR made a joint presentation titled Upper Snake River Water Operations 2014, to members of both the Co9's Reclamation Reservoir & River Coordination Committee and the Idaho Water Resource Board's (IWRB) Upper Snake River Advisory Committee (USRAC). The presentation included the following topics: (1) Upper Snake operations so far in 2014; (2) A Brief History: 1200 CFS in November; (3) [Water Supply] Projections: What Comes Next?; and (4) Power: What's the Impact. Although only topic three was specifically presented to the USRAC, all of the topics are relevant as they deal in some way with the operations of the Upper Snake River. Therefore, I have included a copy of the Bureau's entire presentation as an attachment to these meeting notes.

Following the completion of the USBR's presentation, the Co9's Reclamation Reservoir River Coordination Committee adjourned and the IWRB's Upper Snake River Advisory Committee meeting officially convened.

Finally, I would like to thank Roland Springer with the USBR, for graciously allowing us to share their conference room reservation at the Pocatello Airport.

12:15 PM – Introductions were made and an attendance list was circulated. The following people were in attendance:

Mike Beus (USBR)	Chris Pratt (RDC)
Ted Day (USBR)	Mat Weaver (IWRB)
John Hildrete (USBR)	Tony Olenichak (WD01)
Roland Springer (USBR)	Lyle Swank (WD01)
Brian Olmstead (TFCC)	Dan Temple (A&B)
Alan Hansten (NSCC)	Walt Mullins (Milner ID)
Lynn Harmon (AFRD2)	Julie Sievers (Milner ID)
Bert Stevenson (IWRB)	Harold Mohlman (A&B)

12:16 PM – Mat Weaver with the Idaho Department of Water Resource (IDWR or Department) outlined the agenda, which included:

- Introduction and Attendance
- Water Supply Update – Mike Beus (presented prior to the official convening of the IWRB meeting)
- WD01 Briefing – Lyle Swank
- New Business

11:41 AM – Mike Beus with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR or Bureau) gave a presentation on the state of the reservoirs and the water supply. Mike started by contrasting the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) snow water equivalent (SWE) and total precipitation SnoTel data for the Snake Basin Above Palisades as reported on January 30 (99% and 89% of normal respectively) and February 26 (136% and 116% of normal respectively). Mike made a case study of the Lewis Lake Divide SnoTel site pointing out that the site gained 11.5 inches between 1/30 and 2/26, which is 209% of normal for this four week period. Mike opined that it would be hard to imagine that the snowpack would be below normal at the end the season, indicating the April forecast will likely be between 110% and 130% of normal. Mike presented four analog years for the April-July Unregulated Flow at Heise, as possible indicators of where we might be headed this year, they included 1999, 2009, 2008, and 1989. In two of the four example years, 1999 and 2009, the reservoir system physically filled and the Bureau enacted flood control operations. In the other two years Jackson and Palisades reservoirs filled, American Fall Reservoir (AFR) did not fill, and no flood control operations were necessary. Mike presented graphs depicting Snake River Flows near Heise, Lewis Lake Divide SnoTel data, Togwotee Pass SnoTel data, Blind Bull Summit SnoTel data, Jackson Lake reservoir content, Palisades reservoir content, and American Falls reservoir content.

- Allan Kelsch asked questions regarding the last to fill status of the Palisades Reservoir power head space.

12:18 PM – Lyle Swank, Watermaster of Water District 01 (WD01), gave a brief recap of upper Snake River water supply conditions from his perspective. He started by reviewing SnoTel data for the Henry's Fork/Teton basins, Snake Basin Above Palisades basin, Willow/Blackfoot/Portneuf basins, and Snake Above American Falls basin. He indicated that in deriving the Basin Index numbers the SnoTel stations were weighted by a number of factors and that not all stations are equally meaningful. Lyle initiated a discussion on potential Jackson Lake operations that might be a departure from normal operations, but would help fill the reservoir. Lyle concluded by pointing out the record low, or near record low, reach gains currently occurring in the Snake River above the AFR. Lyle's handout material (four pages) is included with these notes.

~12:30 PM – Mat Weaver called for any new or additional business.

1. Brian Olmstead started a discussion on spring recharge operations, indicating that spring recharge operations would begin in the Milner-Gooding canal the following week. It was planned to start slowly and ramp up to 150-200 cfs to test the ability of the MP31 site to handle a sustained diversion of water. Brian also indicated that there was an opportunity to recharge through Murtaugh Lake and that there would be about 25 cfs diverted down the main South Side Canal at Milner to Murtaugh Lake.

~12:50 PM – The group discussed the scheduling of the next committee meeting. It was decided to schedule the next meeting for the first part of April and that a meeting time would be coordinated via email. It was suggested that when possible, future meeting should be planned in coordination with

other meetings, such as the C09's USBR Reservoir & River Coordination Committee meeting, to facilitate efficiencies in travel and to minimize potential calendar conflicts.