Abbreviated Meeting Notes
Water District 01
Upper Snake River Advisory Meeting, April 11, 2014

Notes: This meeting was held in the Boise, Idaho, Idaho Department of Water Resources conference room. There was also the option to connect into the meeting remotely via conference call and using GoToMeeting. Approximately half of the attendants were in person.

1. **Introductions were made and an attendance list was circulated. The following people were in attendance:**

Liz Cresto (IDWR)
Neal Farmer (IDWR)
Brian Patton (IDWR)
Jon Bowling (IPCO)
Peter Anderson (T.U.)
John Simpson (Barker Rosholt)
Walt Poole (IDFG)
Teresa Molitor (Great Feeder)
Louis Zamora (TFCC)
Gail McGarry (USBR)
Dale Swenson (FMID)
John Hildreth (USBR)
Lynn Tominaga (IGWA)
Harold Mohlmon (A&B)
Randy McMillan (Clear Springs)
Dan Temple (A&B)
Travis Thompson (Barker Rosholt)
Lyle Swank (WD01)
Dan Davidson (MID)
Mike Beus (USBR)

2. **Mike Beus, with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR or Bureau), gave a** presentation on the state of the reservoirs and the predicted runoff forecast. Mike started off by showing the teacup diagram. The reservoirs are currently 58% full. The content at Palisades is lower than it was this same time last year. Currently no flow is passing Milner. Mike discussed the more recent monthly precipitation in comparison to normal. The slow accumulation season had a slow start but ended with 212% of average precipitation in February and 157% of average precipitation in March. Mike reported that the April 1 joint forecast between the Bureau and Army Corps of Engineers for Heise is 4,370 KAF or 135% of average. The most comparable runoff year is 1999. Mike reported that they may not be able to fill all the reservoirs absolutely. He went on to cover various SnoTel sites in comparison of select historical years. The discussion turned to individual reservoir operations. Jackson is lower than most comparable years. The plan is to let it fill and to hold the discharge constant. Palisades is anticipated to have a similar fill pattern as in 1999. Palisades discharge will increase to 7,000 cfs with the possibility of going up to 9,000 cfs. At American Falls, there is no need to make space to capture flood control out of Palisades. Once American Falls is full they will pass inflow. At this point in time, there are many unknowns such as irrigation demand, spring weather, and the timing of the runoff. Reservoir operations are subject to change.

3. **Lyle Swank, Water District 01 Water Master, gave a presentation of the current snowpack at** various SnoTel sites. Sheep Mountain, at 6,500 ft elevation, has started to melt. Other low elevation drainages have also started to melt. There is no snow at the low elevations and lots of snow in the high country. The lower elevations melted off due to the warm March in which the low elevation had rain while the high elevations received snow.

4. **Jon Bowling, Idaho Power, gave an update on Idaho Power operations. He started off by** discussing the plans for Shoshone Falls maintenance. The plan is to install a coffer dam at the Shoshone Falls facility. They need to have minimum flows passing the damn while the coffer dam is installed. The maintenance will commence after flood control. Idaho Power may have to run their Shoshone water prior to the release of the USBR's Upper Snake flow augmentation. The plans are very tentative as much depends on the pattern of the snow melt and the releases past Milner.

5. **Liz Cresto, IDWR, gave an update of the reach gains from above and below Blackfoot. Her** presentation began with a recap of the 2013 gains. The 2013 gains were typically around the 10 to 25 percentiles. The total Blackfoot to Milner gains for the period January – March 2014 are the lowest they have been for the period 1991 – 2014. Liz then showed a graph of the 2014 natural flow at Blackfoot. The natural flow has been low and is around the 10 – 25 percentiles. Travis Thompson, Barker Rosholt, commented on the variability of the daily reach gains and asked whether we think that the variability has increased. Liz Cresto responded that she hasn't done a detailed analysis of the variability but doesn't think the daily variability in reach gains has increased. Lyle also responded that he doesn't have any additional insight to the reach gains but commented the precipitation in 2013 was below normal and could have been a contributing factor.

6. **The discussion shifted to irrigation demand. Lyle Swank reported that many of the canals are** ready to start up. Dry Bed is delayed due to maintenance. Aberdeen turned on earlier than normal. The Henry's Fork and Teton canals are starting up. Warm temperatures can increase the demand and Lyle anticipates that irrigators will need water earlier this season. Dan Davidison of Minidoka reported that they have started diverting water to flush out the canals. Some of the irrigators are diverting water to help with wind erosion. Lois Demoura, TFCC, reported they are taking 1,100 cfs and they will soon start deliveries to farmers.

7. **Neal Farmer, IDWR, gave an update on the spring recharge operations. The total recharge** year-to-date is approximately 11,000 acre-feet. SWID recharged 1,904 acre-feet. Milner-Gooding recharged at Milepost 31 as well as in the canal for a total of 5,301 acre-feet. NSCC recharged 3,564 acre-feet. Ongoing recharge projects include the expansion of the turnout at Milepost 31, Richfield exploratory test well, various injection well sites, and investigating the feasibility of SWID diverting recharge water throughout the winter.

8. **Lyle Swank reported on the projected flow augmentation releases in 2014. The water district** will provide 185,000 acre-feet through the rental pool. Given the snowpack it is anticipated that the powerhead space will fill on paper but we will not know that for sure until mid to late June. The total flow augmentation release is anticipated to be 200,000 acre-feet.

9. **Under new business the group discussed the timing for the next meeting. It was decided to** have the next meeting in mid-May to discuss the runoff, flows past Milner, Idaho Power storage releases, and flow augmentation. No meeting date was set.