



# IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

## MEETING MINUTES 7-15

September 17, 2015

### Workshop Meeting on Efforts to Resolve Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Issues

University of Idaho Aquaculture Research Institute/  
Hagerman Fish Culture Experiment Station  
3059F National Fish Hatchery Rd  
Hagerman, ID 83332

**C.L. "Butch" Otter**  
Governor

**Roger W. Chase**  
Chairman  
Pocatello  
District 4

**Jeff Raybould**  
Vice-Chairman  
St. Anthony  
At Large

**Vince Alberdi**  
Secretary  
Kimberly  
At Large

**Peter Van Der Meulen**  
Hailey  
At Large

**Charles "Chuck"  
Cuddy**  
Orofino  
At Large

**Albert Barker**  
Boise  
District 2

**John "Bert" Stevenson**  
Rupert  
District 3

**Dale Van Stone**  
Hope  
District 1

Chairman Roger Chase called the meeting to order at approximately 8:30 am. Mr. Albert Barker was absent. All other Board members were present.

During the Workshop the following items were discussed:

- Introductory Remarks by Speaker Scott Bedke, Senator Steve Bair, Chairman Roger Chase
- Aquifer Decline Background by Mathew Weaver, IDWR Deputy Director
- Surface Water Coalition Settlement Overview by Speaker Scott Bedke
- IWRB Managed Recharge Program by Brian Patton, IDWR Planning Bureau Chief
- Proposed Hagerman Valley Settlement by Clive Strong, Deputy Attorney General
- Aquifer and Springflow/reach gain modeled response to recharge and settlement actions by Michael McVay, IDWR Technical Hydrogeologist
- Wrap-Up by Speaker Scott Bedke and Senator Steve Bair

No action was taken by the Board during the Workshop.

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September 18, 2015

### IWRB Meeting

Hampton Inn  
Canyon Room  
1658 Fillmore Street, Twin Falls, ID 83301

At 8:30 am the Chairman called the meeting to order. Mr. Chuck Cuddy was absent. All other Board members were present.

### Agenda Item No. 1, Roll Call

#### *Board Members Present*

Roger Chase, Chairman  
Vince Alberdi, Secretary  
Bert Stevenson  
Dale Van Stone

Jeff Raybould, Vice-Chairman  
Pete Van Der Meulen  
Albert Barker

### *Staff Members Present*

Gary Spackman, IDWR Director  
Cynthia Bridge Clark, Section Manager  
Neeley Miller, Senior Planner  
Mandi Pearson, Administrative Assistant

Brian Patton, Bureau Chief  
Wesley Hipke, Recharge Project Manager  
Remington Buyer, Water Supply Bank Coordinator

### *Guests Present*

Jake Robertson, Pivotrac Monitoring  
Bret McKenzie, Water User  
Hal Anderson, Idaho Water Engineering  
Jon Bowling, Idaho Power  
Sarah Higar, Idaho Power  
Teresa Molitor, Great Feeder Canal Co  
John J. Williams, Bonneville Power Co  
Peter Anderson, Trout Unlimited

Douglas R. Jones, Idaho Water Engineering  
Kathy McKenzie, Water User  
Walt Poole, Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game  
Nic Behrend, American Falls/Aberdeen Ground Water Dist  
Lynn Tominaga, Idaho Ground Water Association  
Keith Esplin, Recharge Development Corp  
Representative Lance Clow, Idaho Legislature  
Pat McMahon, Sun Valley Water & Sewer Dist

### **Agenda Item No. 2, Agenda and Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Patton noted the amended agenda. Mr. Barker requested that the word “it’s” under the Last Chance Canal Company Loan Request in Minutes 6-15 be corrected to “its” on page 3 and page 6. Mr. Barker moved to approve Minutes 6-15 with the noted changes. Mr. Van Der Meulen seconded the motion. Voice Vote. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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

Chairman Chase opened the meeting for Public Comment. Mr. Doug Jones addressed the Board regarding the Cat Creek Generation Station. Cat Creek Energy is proposing a pump-back hydropower project combined with a wind farm and solar operation northeast of Mountain Home. Mr. Jones discussed the benefits of the project. There was discussion among the parties regarding water rights, Cat Creek Energy, the wind power, transmission lines, and hydro-generation schedule.

Mr. Keith Esplin, representing the Recharge Development Corporation, addressed the Board. He discussed his background in agriculture and canal companies and informed the Board of a recharge opportunity with Aberdeen-Springfield Canal to meet mitigation needs. There was discussion among the parties regarding the recharge water right.

Mr. Nic Behrend of the American Falls/Aberdeen Ground Water District addressed the Board and expressed that he was in favor of approving the recharge water right for Aberdeen-Springfield Canal. There was discussion among the parties regarding mitigation requirements, the project timeline, Board involvement, and private/public cooperation.

Mr. John Williams of the Bonneville Power Administration provided an update to the Board on the Columbia River Treaty, the Fish Accords, and the timely annual US Treasury payment. There was discussion among the parties regarding the State Department negotiator for the Columbia River Treaty and Water Transactions Program funding related to the Fish Accords.

### **Agenda Item No. 4, Financial Status Update**

Mr. Patton provided an update on the Board’s financial status. As of August 1<sup>st</sup>, the Board has total committed but not disbursed funds of about \$36.5 million, total loan principal outstanding of approximately \$20 million, and total uncommitted funds of approximately \$2 million. The total estimated uncommitted funds over the next 12 months amounts to \$8.5 million. Mr. Patton discussed potential

loans, including Ground Water Districts (GWD) on the Eastern Snake Plain and the Raft River Ground Water District.

There was discussion among the parties regarding the structuring of bonds and timelines for the Ground Water Districts loans.

#### **Agenda Item No. 5, Groundwater Conservation Grants**

Mr. Neeley Miller discussed the development of a ground water conservation grant to provide financial assistance to municipalities and other eligible entities interested in pursuing ground water conservation projects. The IWRB Water Resource Planning Committee and Finance Committees have reviewed the grant criteria and budget. There was discussion among the parties regarding private corporations eligible for a grant, ranking based on water savings and need, the opportunity to revise the criteria after one year, and recharge.

Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution in the matter of the Groundwater Conservation Grants. Mr. Raybould seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Cuddy: Absent; Mr. Alberdi: Aye; Mr. Stevenson: Aye; Mr. Raybould: Aye; Mr. Van Der Meulen: Aye; Mr. Van Stone: Aye; Mr. Barker: Aye; Chairman Chase: Aye. Motion passed.

#### **Agenda Item No. 6, Eastern Snake Plain Ground Water Districts Loan**

Mr. Brian Patton discussed the interim loan request from the 10 Ground Water Districts (Districts) on the Eastern Snake Plain for \$6 million to pay for the recently constructed Rangen-Magic Springs Pipeline and the purchase of the Aqualife Hatchery from the IWRB. The IWRB Financial Programs Committee met and recommended approval of an interim loan of \$4 million and a promissory note between the IWRB and Districts for the Aqualife Hatchery rather than an interim loan.

There was discussion among the parties regarding the Aqua Life purchase and timeline for the loan repayment. Mr. Stevenson disclosed that he holds property within the district, but does not have any advantage over another district, and intends to vote. There was no objection among the Board members. Mr. Raybould suggested the addition of the words “as soon as the long-term financing is in place, but” in the resolution under the 8<sup>th</sup> “whereas” clause.

Mr. Raybould moved to adopt the resolution approving the loan with the noted change. Mr. Alberdi seconded the motion. Mr. Raybould disclosed that Fremont-Madison Irrigation District is listed, but will not be a part of the interim loan.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Cuddy: Absent; Mr. Alberdi: Aye; Mr. Stevenson: Aye; Mr. Raybould: Aye; Mr. Van Der Meulen: Aye; Mr. Van Stone: Aye; Mr. Barker: Abstain; Chairman Chase: Aye. Motion passed.

#### **Agenda Item No. 7, Water Supply Bank**

Mr. Remington Buyer provided a summary of the recent Water Supply Bank Committee meeting in August. The items discussed by the Committee include indefinite leases, selection of a contractor to develop software for the Water Supply Bank, review of the Wood River Valley interim ground water rental policy and call for renewal, prioritization or rental requests by Ground Water Districts during 2016, and adjustments proposed to current rental administrative procedures. There was discussion among the parties regarding rental rates and workload issues.

Mr. Buyer discussed renewal of the Water Supply Bank Interim Ground Water Rental Policy for the Wood River Valley. He reviewed the impacts of the interim ground water rental policy in 2015. Staff is seeking a reauthorization of the interim policy for an additional year with the following changes: providing a decision-matrix to explain the evaluation process for ground water rental requests, confirming if, when and how mitigation may be required through evaluation of ground water modeling, and allowing for multiple year rentals under the interim policy.

There was discussion among the parties regarding rental rate determination, the zone concept on surface water, private leases, multi-year contracts, and a timeline for completion of the model.

Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution approving the renewal of an Interim Ground Water Rental Policy for the Wood River Valley. Mr. Van Der Meulen seconded the motion. Voice Vote. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **Agenda Item No. 8, Cloud Seeding Program Updates and Future Activities**

Ms. Cynthia Bridge Clark discussed the Cooperative Cloud Seeding Program. Idaho Power Company has proposed to initiate a one-year pilot program for aircraft cloud seeding operations in the Upper Snake River Basin. The estimated expenses to implement the Aircraft Pilot Project for one year are approximately \$485,000. The Aquifer Stabilization Committee recommended Board participation not to exceed \$200,000 to assist with expenses associated with project operation.

There was discussion among the parties regarding financial participation by water users in the Upper Snake, the continuance and expansion of ground-based programs, and a recent history of cloud seeding in Idaho. Board members discussed the importance of participation by water users in the Upper Snake to ensure the longevity and success of the program.

Mr. Raybould moved to adopt the resolution to approve funds for the one-year Aircraft Pilot Project through the Cooperative Cloud Seeding Program. Mr. Van Der Meulen seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Cuddy: Absent; Mr. Alberdi: Aye; Mr. Stevenson: Aye; Mr. Raybould: Aye; Mr. Van Der Meulen: Aye; Mr. Van Stone: Aye; Mr. Barker: Aye; Chairman Chase: Aye. Motion passed.

### **Agenda Item No. 9, ESPA Recharge**

Mr. Wesley Hipke discussed the status of the ESPA Managed Recharge Program. At the recent Aquifer Stabilization Committee, committee members expressed the importance of ensuring that the projects provide value for the program. More data will be collected on the current proposed projects to ensure they align with the Board's goals. Mr. Lynn Tominaga discussed current recharge efforts by Eastern Snake Plain Ground Water Districts, along with water quality monitoring issues. There was discussion among the parties regarding which canals are involved, measuring devices, the Groundwater Conservation Grant, and collaboration needed to create a water quality policy related to recharge.

Mr. Hipke discussed the Great Feeder Canal Company recharge infrastructure funding. This funding is designated for replacement of the diversion structure head gates. This project will increase capacity to divert water for managed recharge.

Mr. Raybould moved to adopt the resolution to approve funds for recharge infrastructure improvements for the Great Feeder Canal Company. Mr. Van Stone seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Cuddy: Absent; Mr. Alberdi: Aye; Mr. Stevenson: Aye; Mr. Raybould: Aye; Mr. Van Der Meulen: Aye; Mr. Van Stone: Aye; Mr. Barker: Aye; Chairman Chase: Aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Hipke discussed the Snake River Valley Irrigation Dist Monson Site. The funding will provide for monitoring equipment.

Mr. Alberdi moved to adopt the resolution to approve funds for recharge infrastructure improvements for the Snake River Valley Irrigation District Monson Site. Mr. Van Stone seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Cuddy: Absent; Mr. Alberdi: Aye; Mr. Stevenson: Aye; Mr. Raybould: Aye; Mr. Van Der Meulen: Aye; Mr. Van Stone: Aye; Mr. Barker: Aye; Chairman Chase: Aye. Motion passed.

**Agenda Item No. 10, MHAFB Water Supply Project**

Ms. Cynthia Bridge Clark provided a status report on the Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAFB) Water Supply Project (Project). The Project involves efforts by the State of Idaho to assist the Military in developing a sustainable water supply to the MHAFB. The water will be diverted out of the C.J. Strike Reservoir and delivered to the MHAFB to offset existing groundwater pumping. In July, the MHAFB noticed the intent to enter into a sole source water utility service agreement with the IWRB on the Federal Business Opportunities webpage. In August, staff issued the notice to proceed on the technical report detailing the project concept to assist both parties with their planning efforts. The report has an expected completion date of February 26, 2016 and will include a cost estimate and preliminary sizing and concept development of the water delivery and treatment systems. Staff will continue to coordinate with the MHAFB staff to monitor project planning activities required by the MHAFB. The IWRB has received letters indicating City of Mountain Home and Elmore County interest and desire to participate in the project. Staff will prepare response letters on behalf of the Board. There was discussion among the parties regarding the project timeline, the water source and additional supply, and water treatment.

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

Director Spackman discussed the Priest Lake water levels and public response to Department actions regarding the lake level. According to statute, the Department will maintain lake levels regardless of impact to river flows. Currently, river flows are able to be maintained at 60 cfs. Director Spackman discussed staff participation in a zero-based budgeting process. The budget allows for 5 additional positions, including a Hydrogeologist position, water rights staff, and monitoring staff. Director Spackman also discussed the need for a new tenant in the Idaho Water Center and issues surrounding tenant improvements.

**Agenda Item No. 12, Other Non-Action Items for Discussion**

Chairman Chase and Mr. Raybould expressed appreciation for staff’s efforts.

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

The next Board meeting is currently scheduled for November 16-17, 2015 which corresponds with the IWUA seminar scheduled for the same week. A Board meeting is also scheduled for January 21-22 in correspondence with the IWUA conference. A teleconference meeting may need to be scheduled in October. Mr. Barker made a motion to Adjourn, and Mr. Raybould seconded the motion. Voice Vote. All were in favor. Motion Carried.

The IWRB Meeting 7-15 adjourned at approximately 12:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of November, 2015.

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Vince Alberdi, Secretary

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Mandi Pearson, Administrative Assistant II

Board Actions:

1. Mr. Barker moved to approve Minutes 6-15 with the noted changes. Mr. Van Der Meulen seconded the motion. Voice Vote. All were in favor. Motion carried.
2. Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution in the matter of the Groundwater Conservation Grants. Mr. Raybould seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote. 7 Ayes, 1 Absent. Motion passed.
3. Mr. Raybould moved to adopt the resolution approving the Eastern Snake Plain Ground Water Districts loan with the addition of the words “as soon as the long-term financing is in place, but” in the resolution under the 8<sup>th</sup> “whereas” clause. Mr. Alberdi seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote. 6 Ayes, 1 Abstain, 1 Absent. Motion passed.
4. Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution approving the renewal of an Interim Ground Water Rental Policy for the Wood River Valley. Mr. Van Der Meulen seconded the motion. Voice Vote. All were in favor. Motion carried.
5. Mr. Raybould moved to adopt the resolution to approve funds for the one-year Aircraft Pilot Project through the Cooperative Cloud Seeding Program. Mr. Van Der Meulen seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote. 6 Ayes, 1 Absent. Motion passed.
6. Mr. Raybould moved to adopt the resolution to approve funds for recharge infrastructure improvements for the Great Feeder Canal Company. Mr. Van Stone seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote. 6 Ayes, 1 Absent. Motion passed.
7. Mr. Alberdi moved to adopt the resolution to approve funds for recharge infrastructure improvements for the Snake River Valley Irrigation District Monson Site. Mr. Van Stone seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote. 6 Ayes, 1 Absent. Motion passed.