

Abbreviated Meeting Notes 7-15
Water District 01
Upper Snake River Advisory Meeting, October 23rd, 2015

Notes: This meeting was held jointly in the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) Eastern Regional Office and State Office, with participants free to join either location to participate in person. There was also an option to connect into the meeting remotely via conference call and GoToMeeting.

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

Roger Chase (IWRB)	Jon Bowling (IPCO)
Peter Van Der Meulen (IWRB)	Alan Hansten (NSCC)
Bert Stevenson (IWRB)	Brian Olmstead (TFCC)
Mike Webster	Dale Swenson (FMID)
Brian Patton (IDWR)	Darrel Ker (ECC)
Mat Weaver (IDWR)	Keith Salsberry (RCC)
Wesley Hipke (IDWR)	Mark Barrie (FFCC)
Neal Farmer (IDWR)	Steve Howser (ASCC)
Dan Stanaway (IDWR)	Steve Nielson (SRVID)
Mike Beus (USBR)	Lynn Tominaga (IGWA)
John Hildreth (USBR)	Peter Anderson (TU)
Lyle Swank (WD01)	Marie Kellner (ICL)
Tony Olenichak (WD01)	

2. **Mike Beus, with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR):**

Mike Beus (MB) reported, as of October 22nd the reservoir system was at 29% of capacity. Ririe would be at 40,000 acre-feet (af) by November 1st. Island Park Reservoir was at its winter discharge level (80 cfs) and at 37% of its capacity. American Falls Reservoir had been filling for about one week whereas Palisades Reservoir had only been filling for a few days. Jackson Lake was steady at 65% of capacity and flows would be ramped down to winter flows by November 1st. All in all the distribution was good in the reservoir system so in good shape for any potential flooding.

The total storage in the Upper Snake system was much lower than the average or last year. The plan is to go to minimum flows out of American Falls Reservoir given the current status. The Milner flows were under the minimum of record and the flow out of Minidoka was reduced to 500 cfs on the morning of October 23rd, starting the winter flows early. At Palisades Reservoir 1,400 cfs was recorded at the streamgage near Irwin on October 22nd. The plan was to reduce to 900 cfs, however, they were asked to pass more water through for recharge so a higher rate would be maintained at least until the end of October.

Darrel Ker mentioned that Enterprize Canal started diverting for recharge the morning of the 23rd and Farmers Friend Canal was planning to turn on the following day (Oct 24th).

Mat Weaver asked if the 500 cfs would draft down Minidoka or keep the stage constant. Mike B. responded that this was the 1st year with the new spill way and they would keep enough in the reservoir to deliver 500 cfs.

Concerning the weather pattern Mike B. reported that El Nino conditions are predicted to continue through the winter. However, currently this El Nino is not typical with the Sea Surface Temperature

(SST) near Indonesia being below average and warmer water around Alaska. Due to these anomalies forecasters are uncertain if this El Nino will act like a normal El Nino. The last 90 days show that precipitation was normal to slightly above average, whereas the temperature was warmer than normal. The three-month outlook predicts normal precipitation and a warmer than normal winter.

Darrel K. asked how much water was the USBR expecting to release from Ririe Reservoir and would the water out of Lake Walcott need to be released. Mike B. responded that at Ririe and Walcott the plan was to keep them neutral depending on physical operations.

3. **Lyle Swank, Water District 01 Water Master:**

Lyle Swank showed that Water District 01 (WD 01) accounting showed similar results to USBR's teacup diagram with slightly different numbers for total fill (WD 01 = 31% vs USBR 29%). Critical discharges are at Island Park, Heise, Lorenzo, and near Blackfoot. This year is the lowest flow into Island Park from Henrys Lake.

On the Snake River South Fork, flows are being reduced due to the project on the Great Feeder headgates. Farmers Friend Canal turned out Saturday (17th) for recharge of storage water and to reduce river flows for the Great Feeder project.

4. **Jon Bowling, Idaho Power:**

Jon Bowling gave a brief update, concerning 8,500 cfs release from Brownlee Reservoir for Chinook runs. The plan is to refill 275,000 acre-feet at Brownlee Reservoir. Idaho Power's forecast for Milner is predicting 100 cfs and the Swan Falls flows look fine concerning the minimums.

5. **Wesley Hipke, IDWR – IWRB Managed Recharge Program**

Wesley Hipke provided projections for IWRB managed recharge for the 2015/2016 season in the Lower Valley of the ESPA, October 23rd through the start of the irrigation season (end of March). On the Milner-Gooding Canal, an infrastructure improvement project at the MP 28 Hydro Plant will delay conveying recharge until December. When the MP28 Hydro Plant project is complete IWRB recharge water will be delivered to the MP 31 recharge site. The Shoshone Recharge Site on the Milner-Gooding Canal will not be used this recharge season due to a construction project on the concrete flume portion of the canal between MP 31 and the Shoshone site. The North Side Canal is planning to start IWRB managed recharge on Oct. 23rd and continue through November or freezing temperatures. North Side plans to resume recharge in the spring when freezing will not be a concern. Twin Falls Canal plans to begin recharge on Oct. 26th and continue until the start of the irrigation season next spring. Southwest Irrigation District is planning to conduct IWRB recharge towards the end of Oct. after completing maintenance work on their system. With the current information over 88,000 af is projected to be recharged in the Lower Valley this recharge season.

In the Upper Valley of the ESPA, the IWRB is working on projects that will exist in increasing the recharge capacity when the IWRB water right is in priority. The IWRB has approved funding for projects at Egin Lakes, the Great Feeder Canal, Snake River Irrigation District, and Jensen Grove.

Darrel Ker asked where the water was coming from for the recharge in the Lower Valley. Brian Patton explained that the water used for IWRB managed recharge in the Lower Valley takes advantage of water that was spilled past Minidoka and would otherwise leave the Eastern Snake River reservoir system.

Brian Olmstead asked if water (storage water) for pilot recharge had to be recharged by Nov. 1st. He was hoping to recharge 16,000 af. Lyle Swank said there were two things to keep in mind, the first being the limitations associated with storage in the reservoir system. The second point was that

after Nov 1st would be a different accounting year concerning storage. Therefore, if storage water was recharged after Nov 1st that right would be last to fill in 2017. Assignments have grown hard to track real limitations so injury to a third party didn't occur.

6. **Dan Stanaway, IDWR – Swan Falls Update:**

The readings at the gage below Swan Falls (Snake River NR Murphy) since the start of the irrigation season have followed closely to the minimum record (1981-2014). Even though the current 3-day average is close to the minimum of record it appears that it will be above the minimum Swan Falls flow requirements. Compared to 2014 the 2015 measurement followed relatively closely until the latter part of September. At that time the 2015 averaged daily flows started tracking lower.

7. **New Business:**

The group discussed the timing for the next meeting. It was decided to set the next meeting would be January 13th at 1:30.