



IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

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Dale Van Stone
Hope
District 1

Jo Ann Cole-Hansen
Lewiston
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COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES JOINT AQUIFER STABILIZATION & PLANNING NO. 5-19

Idaho Water Center
Conference Rooms 602 B, C, D
322 East Front Street, 6th Floor
BOISE

October 23, 2019

Chairman Stevenson called the joint committee meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Agenda Item No. 1: Introductions and Attendance

Board Members Present

Bert Stevenson, Chair Aquifer Stabilization Committee
Jeff Raybould, Chair Planning Committee (via phone)
Vince Alberdi, Secretary Albert Barker
Roger Chase Jo Ann Cole-Hansen (via phone)
Pete Van Der Meulen (via phone) Dale Van Stone (via phone)

IDWR Staff Members Present

Gary Spackman, Director Brian Patton, Executive Officer
Cynthia Bridge Clark, Projects Section Manager
Neeley Miller, Senior Planner Jennifer Strange, Admin. Assistant
Wesley Hipke Neal Farmer
Kala Golden Emily Skoro
Sean Vincent Mike McVay
Brian Ragan

Guests Present

Shaun Parkinson Randy MacMillan
Peter Anderson Alex LaBeau
John Simpson Travis Thompson
Kresta Davis-Butts David Blew
Linda Lemmon Chris Bromley
Brian Olmstead Jason Brown
Paul Woods Steve Stuebner Lynn Tominaga

Agenda Item No. 2: ESPA CAMP Progress Report

a. Update on Schedule and ESPA CAMP Targets

Neeley Miller provided a brief background of the events that led to the formation of the Eastern Snake plane aquifer (ESPA) comprehensive aquifer management plan (CAMP); discussed the most recent request from Speaker Bedke to provide the legislature a plan review; and laid out an overview of the topics for the current committee meeting.

He displayed a table that provided the progress towards ESPA CAMP hydrologic targets. He discussed each calculation. Mr. Raybould asked the IGWA numbers. Mr. Miller stated the IGWA numbers are over and above reduction requirements.

b. Cloud Seeding

Kala Golden and Shaun Parkinson provided a presentation related to the joint cloud seeding activities by IDWR and Idaho Power. The presentation included: inception of ESPA CAMP to present; benefits to the water supply; physical program build-out; impact by volume; supporting science; and active program development.

Mr. Chase asked about the confidence related to the numbers and wondered about what a third plane could add to the program. Mr. Parkinson suggested that increases could occur with an expansion of the program. Mr. Alberdi complimented the program and suggested that Upper Snake irrigators could benefit in hearing about this program, and that such buy-in could provide more opportunities. Mr. Barker wanted the benefits analysis. Ms. Golden provided a summary in response.

Agenda Item No. 3: ESPA CAMP Stakeholder Comment

a. Spring Users

Randy MacMillan addressed the board regarding the lower Snake River aquifer recharge district and Clear Springs Foods interests in CAMP efforts. He defined his interests and the impacts that they have been seeing in declining spring flows. He analyzed the ESPA CAMP from the spring users' point of view and included strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

Mr. Barker asked Dr. MacMillan his thoughts on how higher levels of phosphorous are noted at the recharge sites, when it is not coming from the recharge water. Mr. Alberdi asked about flows at Milner. Flow shaping during the warmer months at Milner could be the answer according to D. MacMillan, though he admitted it is experimental. Mr. Chase asked if his group is supportive of the ban on further development. Dr. MacMillan said the spring users are supportive of the ban.

b. Environmental Interests

Peter Anderson with Trout Unlimited shared the environmental interests regarding the ESPA CAMP. He agreed that the water resource aspects of the plan, like recharge, demand reduction, conversions, cloud seeding, etc. are important. But he suggested just as important is the collaborative work accomplished as a result of the plan from the varied stakeholders coming together. He stated that the relationships formed will be just as important moving forward, and urged the board to retain the Implementation Committee.

Mr. Anderson addressed some of Speaker Bedke's questions. He suggested that phase 1 targets had been met; and he thought the board should increase focus on demand reduction.

He thought that all the different programs that have contributed to the ESPA program be included in the accounting of funds, and that the board should take credit for the creation of the environmental resources and technical working groups that came from the settlement of some of the board's recharge water right applications.

Mr. Alberdi asked what current funding sources are available for demand reduction. Mr. Anderson mentioned some of the collaboration that has occurred in the past. There was further discussion regarding the efficacy of the CREP program. Chairman Raybould asked if economic demand has been considered with the suggestions of demand reduction.

c. Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry

Alex LaBeau briefly addressed the board with encouragement to continue the efforts of the ESPA CAMP from the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry's point of view.

Agenda Item No. 4: Background on Implementation Committee as Proposed in the CAMP

Brian Patton presented to the board considerations for the CAMP Implementation Committee. Background on the implementation of the committee was provided and the actions that resulted were discussed. He listed the parties who are interested in re-establishing the committee, and he provided a series of questions for the board to consider.

Agenda Item No. 5 Progress Report Draft 1.0

Neeley Miller presented to the board a 50 page progress report draft. He discussed each topic heading presented in the report. There was discussion about the length of the report. Options with how to proceed were presented. A revision is expected at the next committee meeting.

Agenda Item No. 6 Adjourn

No action was taken by the Board during the committee meeting. Al Barker moved to adjourn. Roger Chase seconded. There was a unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.