



IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Brad Little
Governor

MINUTES MEETING NO. 7-23

Jeff Raybould
Chairman
St. Anthony
At Large

Sacajawea Interpretive, Cultural, & Educational Center
Main Floor
2700 Main Street
SALMON

Jo Ann Cole-Hansen
Vice Chair
Lewiston
At Large

September 14, 2023
Work Session

Dean Stevenson
Secretary
Paul
District 3

Agenda Item No. 1: Roll Call

Chairman Raybould called the work session meeting to order at 9:01 AM (MT) in Salmon, Idaho. The meeting was livestreamed on the Board's YouTube Channel online. Board members present were Al Barker, Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, Marcus Gibbs, Patrick McMahon, Brian Olmstead, Dean Stevenson, Dale Van Stone, and Chairman Jeff Raybould.

Dale Van Stone
Hope
District 1

IDWR staff members present were: Brian Patton, Cynthia Bridge Clark, Neeley Miller, Wesley Hipke, Amy Cassel, John Loffredo, Steve Stuebner, David Graybill, and Jennifer Strange. Online were: Justin Ferguson and Mathew Weaver.

Albert Barker
Boise
District 2

Guests present were: John Williams, Linda Price, Windy Schoby, Stacey Meyer, Kurt Bird, James Whittaker, Zoe Salada, Steven Johnson, Carl Ellsworth, Kim Caywood, Merrill Beyeler, and Ann Yribar.

Brian Olmstead
Twin Falls
At Large

Agenda Item No. 2: Lemhi Basin Settlement Status Report

Amy Cassel discussed the status of the Lemhi River Basin Settlement Agreement.

Marcus Gibbs
Grace
District 4

Carl Ellsworth spoke about flushing flows and provided an update on the Lemhi Irrigation District.

Patrick McMahon
Sun Valley
At Large

Merrill Beyeler shared appreciation to the board for the settlement agreement work.

Kurt Bird shared his thoughts on the McFarland campground flushing flows. John Loffredo discussed minimum stream flows on Bohannon, Canyon, and Big Timber creeks.

Windy Schoby of Idaho Fish and Game discussed a fish screening program.

David Graybill discussed watermaster issues, measurement orders and computerized accounting system.

Dr. Sarah Tessendorf, with the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), provided information from a cloud seeding feasibility study in the Lemhi River Basin.

Agenda Item No. 3: L-6 Rehabilitation Project

John Loffredo provided the history and purpose of the L-6 rehabilitation project. He shared photos of the diversion, which currently needs repairs. Necessary steps to fund repairs were discussed. No request for funding was made to the board at the time.

Agenda Item No. 4: Upper Salmon Water Transactions

a. Knapp Creek Contract Renewal

John Loffredo discussed a contract renewal for a water transaction on Knapp Creek for 2024-2028.

b. Little Mud Springs Renewal

John Loffredo discussed a contract renewal for a 5-year agreement for a water transaction on Little Mud Springs.

c. Hat Creek Acquisition

John Loffredo presented an acquisition of Hat Creek water right nos. 75-2137, 75-4199, and 75-4200, and a permanent Water Supply Bank lease and rental to minimum streamflow water right no. 75-14189.

d. Big Timber Transaction Proposal

John Loffredo shared an evolving proposal from Mr. James Whittaker on Big Timber. An appraisal would need to be conducted before a final proposal could come before the board.

Agenda Item No. 5: Non-Action Items for Discussion

There were no other items for discussion from the board members.

Agenda Item No. 6: Adjourn

Dean Stevenson moved to adjourn. Jo Ann Cole-Hansen seconded. Voice vote. All in favor. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM.

The board broke for lunch. Following lunch, the board departed for a field trip of points of interest related to the Lemhi River Basin.

September 15, 2023
Board Meeting No. 7-23

At 8:30 AM (MT) Chairman Raybould called the meeting to order in Salmon, Idaho. The meeting was livestreamed on the Board's YouTube Channel online.

Agenda Item No. 1: Roll Call

Board Members Present

Jeff Raybould, Chairman

Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, Vice Chairman

Albert Barker

Marcus Gibbs
Patrick McMahon
Dale Van Stone
Brian Olmstead
Dean Stevenson, Secretary

Staff Members Present

Brian Patton, Executive Officer
Wesley Hipke
Neeley Miller
John Loffredo
Jennifer Strange

Cynthia Bridge Clark
Kala Golden
Amy Cassel
Steve Stuebner

Staff Members Present Online

Mathew Weaver, Director

Justin Ferguson

Guests Present

John Williams

Ann Yribar

Agenda Item No. 2: Agenda and Approval of Minutes 5-23 and 6-23

The agenda and minutes for meetings 5-23 and 6-23 were available for approval. Mr. Stevenson moved to approve the agenda and the minutes for both meetings. Mr. Van Stone seconded. Voice vote. All in favor. The motion carried.

Agenda Item No. 3: Public Comment

John Williams of Bonneville Power Administration provided updates during public comment.

Agenda Item No. 4: Cloud Seeding Bear River Study

Dr. Sarah Tessendorf from NCAR presented the results of a study for cloud seeding in the Bear River basin. Recommendations included a focus on airborne seeding operations, as it has a higher frequency of seeding opportunities and is less limited by flow blocking and inversions. Also, aircraft can reach higher elevations, which will be crucial during climatically warm periods. For ground-based operations, NCAR recommends pursuing higher elevations sites to avoid limitations from inversions and mountain-blocked flow conditions. Generator sites used to conduct this assessment were primarily done above 6500 feet elevation, though there were a couple generators in group C around 5500 feet. Cost estimates were shared.

Agenda Item No. 5: Financial Report

Neeley Miller provided the Board's financial report. The accounts as of June 30, 2023, were: Secondary Aquifer Fund: committed/earmarked but not disbursed \$17,662,665 and uncommitted balance \$14,291,796; Revolving Development Account: committed/earmarked but not disbursed \$35,654,689, loan principal outstanding \$17,157,747, uncommitted balance \$2,395,066, and anticipated loanable funds available next one year \$5,895,066; and Water Management Account: obligated \$111,974,851, and unobligated balance \$183,147,592. Total committed/earmarked but not disbursed \$165,292,206; total loan principal outstanding \$17,157,747; and total uncommitted balance \$199,834,454. ARPA: committed per HB 769 is \$100,000,000; obligated \$18,457,623; unobligated \$7,037,953; and expended is \$74,504,424.

Any financial actions taken during the month of July 2023 were not reflected in the balances, including AIG and RWSPL awards, and ARPA appropriation to the IWRB. Those actions will be reflected in the next Financial Status Report. The obligated balance in the Water Management Account included the \$20M legislative appropriation per HB 285 (FY 2019) for the Anderson Reservoir Enlargement and/or Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Supply Project. The obligated balance also included \$50M for large infrastructure projects per Senate Bill 1121 (FY 2021) for the Anderson Ranch enlargement, Mountain Air Force Base Water Supply Project, ESPA Managed Aquifer Recharge Program, other projects identified by the IWRB.

The Water Management Account unobligated balance included \$75M per HB 769 (FY 2022) to be used for expenditures, loans, or grants for water projects, including studies, to address water sustainability, rehabilitate or improve aging water infrastructure or support flood management. The legislature provided that no more than one-third of these moneys shall be used for grants. At the September 2022 IWRB meeting the IWRB authorized \$12,500,000 in funds for Aging Infrastructure grants (round one). At the January 2023 IWRB meeting the IWRB authorized \$12,500,000 in funds for Aging Infrastructure grants (round two). The Water Management Account unobligated balance also included \$150M per HB 1181 to be used for expenditures, loans, or grants for water projects, including studies to address water sustainability, rehabilitate or improve aging water infrastructure, or support flood management. The legislature indicated that the IWRB may provide up to one-third of these moneys for grants. In FY 2023 \$72,871,406 expended from the ARPA funds for the Anderson Ranch Reservoir Enlargement.

Agenda Item No. 6: Upper Salmon Water Transactions

a. Knapp Creek Contract Renewal

John Loffredo presented a resolution to compensate the Water Right holder for leasing Water Right No. 77-4208 on Knapp Creek to the WSB per Lease Contract No. 1624 for a period of 5 years, from 2024 to 2028 and to pay up to \$250 in lease application fees with funding from the Bonneville Power Administration Columbia Basin Water Transaction Fund in the amount of \$39,272.50.

Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution. Mr. McMahon seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

b. Little Mud Springs Renewal

John Loffredo discussed a resolution to enter into 5- year lease and rental agreements from 2024-2028 for water rights 73-10005, 73-11982, 73- 41 11983, 73-90, 73-11978, 73-11992, 73-11993, 73-11988, 73-11987, and 73-11981 on Little Mud Creek and Pahsimeroi River for delivery to minimum stream flow 73-7045, for an amount not to exceed \$35,918.00 with funding from the Bonneville Power Administration through the Idaho MOA/Fish Accord Water Transaction Program or the Columbia Basin Water

Mr. Van Stone moved to adopt the resolution. Mr. Olmstead seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

c. Hat Creek Acquisition

John Loffredo presented a resolution to acquire and permanently lease and rent Water Right Nos. 75-2137, 75-4199, and 75-4200 on Hat Creek through the Water Supply Bank for delivery to the Water Right no. 75-14189 with funding from the Bonneville Power Administration through the Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program (\$455,223) and the 2008 Idaho Accord/MOA Idaho Water Transaction Fund (\$128,055) for a total amount not to exceed \$583,278.

Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution. Mr. McMahon seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

Agenda Item No. 7: Aging Infrastructure Grants Update

Neeley Miller provided a brief update on the Aging Infrastructure Grants program. He stated there would be a deadline of December 1, 2023 for the next round of grant funding. The Aging Infrastructure Grant Program webpage had been updated, and an interactive map had been developed.

Agenda Item No. 8: Regional Water Sustainability Projects Update

Neeley Miller said that staff would work on terms and conditions for certain projects to be presented at the November meeting. He also mentioned that the deadline for new requests to be added to the priority list would be December 1, 2023.

Steve Stuebner presented updates on public relations for major water infrastructure projects.

Agenda Item No. 9: Loan Program Requests

a. Blaine County Canal Company

Justin Ferguson presented a resolution to approve a loan amendment for Blaine County Canal Company not to exceed \$6,000,000 from the Water Management Account at 2.6% interest with a 15-year repayment term. Ms. Cole-Hansen asked that the resolution reflect that the loan was a bridge loan. Mr. Barker and Chairman Raymond suggested an edit to the resolution that the company be required to pay back the loan once they are reimbursed.

Ms. Cole-Hansen moved to adopt the resolution with the mentioned edits. Mr. Barker seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

b. Weiser Irrigation District

Justin Ferguson presented a resolution to approve a loan for Weiser Irrigation District not to exceed \$126,500 from the Revolving Development Account at 8.25% interest with a 5-year repayment term.

Ms. Cole-Hansen moved to adopt the resolution. Mr. McMahon seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

c. Barber Hydro/Dam Extension

Justin Ferguson presented a resolution to approve the extension of time to act on contract IWRB1033 for an additional 2 years, through March 2025 for Barber Pool Hydro.

Mr. Olmstead moved to adopt the resolution. Mr. Van Stone seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

Agenda Item No. 10: 2024 Proposed Board Meeting Dates

Brian Patton shared a memo which listed potential dates for regular board meetings in 2024. He requested that board members review the dates and provide any feedback prior to our November meetings.

Agenda Item No. 11: Administrative Rules Update

Mathew Weaver provided an update on administrative rules activities. The UIC rules have been postponed. The water appropriation rules were submitted in September for publication.

Agenda Item No. 12: Director's Report

Mathew Weaver provided the director's report. It was his first address to the board as the newly appointed Director of IDWR.


Agenda Item No. 15: Non-Action Items for Discussion

Mr. Olmstead commented that canal lining requests would likely continue and that impacts on local aquifers should be considered.

Agenda Item No. 16: Next Meeting and Adjourn

Mr. Patton stated the next scheduled meetings would be November 16-17, 2023 in Boise. He also shared the field trip would be to Swan Falls Dam. Mr. McMahon moved to adjourn. Mr. Stevenson seconded. Voice vote. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM (MT).

Respectfully submitted this 17th day of November 2023.



Dean Stevenson, *Secretary*



Jennifer Strange, *Administrative Assistant II*