



IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

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Brian Olmstead
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Marcus Gibbs
Grace
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Patrick McMahon
Sun Valley
At Large

MINUTES MEETING NO. 10-24

Courtyard - Pocatello
Conference Room
290 Vista Drive
POCATELLO

September 12, 2024
Work Session

Agenda Item No. 1: Roll Call

Chairman Raybould called the work session meeting to order at 9:00 AM (MT) in Pocatello, Idaho. The meeting was livestreamed on the Board's YouTube Channel online. Board members present were Al Barker (online), Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, Marcus Gibbs, Patrick McMahon, Brian Olmstead, Dean Stevenson, Dale Van Stone, and Chairman Jeff Raybould.

IDWR staff members present were: Brian Patton, Cynthia Bridge Clark, Wesley Hipke, Mathew Weaver, John Falk, James Cefalo, and Jennifer Strange. Online were: Mike Morrison and Neeley Miller.

Guests present were: Kresta Davis, John Simpson, Andrea Courtney, Ryan Bliss, Steve Stuebner, Paul Arrington, Cameron Craig, Shelly Schmidt, Eric Bowden, John Williams, Cody Sibbett, and Ann Yribar.

Agenda Item No. 2: Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Resilience Project

Mike Morrison's brief update included a status that the project was on schedule and under budget. He said 11.9 of the 12.4 miles of pipeline were completed. Permits had been obtained, which allowed for construction to proceed. He introduced Shelly Schmidt from the Air Force.

Shelly Schmidt, an architect and engineer added to the Air Force team, emphasized the collaborative nature of the project and its significance in developing water police across the Air Force. She highlighted key deadlines.

Eric Bowden, Chief of Operations and Training at the Air Force Civil Engineering Centers, discussed the water treatment plant design and construction progress. The water treatment plant is expected to be completed by summer 2026, with the pipeline and water tanks ready by May 2025.

Agenda Item No. 3: Regional Manager’s Report

James Cefalo provided an overview of his background and responsibilities within the department. He discussed workload trends and challenges at the Eastern Regional office. He raised concerns about the impact of Russian olive trees on water use and the decline in reach gains within the Snake River.

Agenda Item No. 4: American Falls Dam Facilities

Neeley Miller introduced the field trip to American Falls Dam.

Ryan Bliss from the Bureau of Reclamation provided a detailed history and status of American Falls Dam. He shared challenges and solutions in dam maintenance.

Cynthia Bridge Clark introduced Andrea Courtney with Idaho Power Company.

Andrea Courtney discussed the hydropower license processes.

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

There were no other items for discussion.

Agenda Item No. 6: Adjourn

Mr. Stevenson moved to adjourn. Mr. Van Stone seconded. Voice vote. All in favor. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:26 AM.

The board broke for lunch. Following lunch, the board departed for a field trip to the American Falls Dam facilities.

September 13, 2024
Board Meeting No. 10-24

At 8:30 AM (MT) Chairman Raybould called the meeting to order in Pocatello, Idaho. The meeting was livestreamed on the Board’s YouTube Channel online upon adjournment of the executive session.

Agenda Item No. 1: Roll Call

Board Members Present

- Albert Barker (online)
- Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, Vice Chairman
- Marcus Gibbs
- Patrick McMahon
- Brian Olmstead
- Dean Stevenson, Secretary
- Dale Van Stone
- Jeff Raybould, Chairman

Staff Members Present

- Mathew Weaver, Director
- Cynthia Bridge Clark

- Brian Patton, Executive Manager
- Wesley Hipke

Cooper Fritz

Jennifer Strange

Staff Members Present Online

Mike Morrison
Kala Golden

Justin Ferguson
Neeley Miller

Guests Present

Darrel Ker
Ann Yribar
Hattie Zobott

Ryan Ker
Steve Stuebner
John Williams

Agenda Item No. 2: Executive Session

At 8:32 AM, Mr. Stevenson moved to resolve into executive session pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206(1) subsection (f) to communicate with legal counsel regarding legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated. 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.

Ann Yribar spoke on the topic of MHAFB Project Water Rights.

Mr. Stevenson moved to resolve out of executive session at 8:40 AM. Mr. Olmstead seconded. Voice vote. All in favor. The motion carried. The meeting was closed to the public, and no actions were taken during the executive session.

Agenda Item No. 3: Agenda and Approval of Minutes 8-24 and 9-24

The agenda and minutes for meetings 8-24 and 9-24 were available for approval. There were no changes to the agenda. Mr. Stevenson moved to approve the minutes for meetings 8-24 and 9-24. Mr. Van Stone seconded. Mr. Olmstead requested one edit for the 8-24 minutes. Voice vote. All in favor. The motion carried.

Agenda Item No. 4: Public Comment

John Williams provided updates for Bonneville Power Administration.

Agenda Item No. 5: Financial Report

Neeley Miller provided the Board's financial report. The accounts as of July 31, 2024, were: Secondary Aquifer Fund: cash balance \$38,277,226, committed \$36,102,362, and uncommitted balance \$2,174,863; Revolving Development Account: cash balance \$38,320,241, committed balance \$32,630,213, loan principal outstanding and other obligations \$18,603,981, and uncommitted balance \$5,690,028; and Water Management Account: cash balance \$324,520,377, total obligated funds \$318,693,785, and unobligated funds \$5,826,590. Total committed/earmarked/obligated but not disbursed \$387,426,360; total loan principal outstanding \$18,603,981; and total uncommitted/unobligated balance \$13,691,481.

ARPA appropriations: received per HB 769 is \$100,000,000; received per SB 1181 is \$24,497,543; received per SB1411 \$_____*; total received: \$124,497,543. Total obligated \$250,000,000;

expended \$93,666,532; committed balance \$156,333,468. Obligated but appropriation not yet received in July (\$75,502,456).

The obligated balance in the Water Management Account includes 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 includes \$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 also includes \$150M per HB 361 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 this money for grants.

Agenda Item No. 6: Spending Plan Update: Governor Little's ESPA Commitment

Cynthia Bridge Clark discussed a resolution to reallocate \$10 million from the Dworshak Clearwater pipeline project to ESPA improvement projects in the Board's Water Management Account. The same had been reviewed and recommended by the Finance Committee on September 9, 2024.

Mr. Van Stone moved to adopt the resolution to amend the FY2025 Water Management Account spending plan as stated in the attachment. Ms. Cole-Hansen seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahan, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

Agenda Item No. 7: Twin Falls Regional Water Sustainability Project

Brian Patton stated that the Finance Committee had recommended tabling the topic because of ongoing discussions with the City of Twin Falls on other matters.

Agenda Item No. 8: MHAFB Water Resilience Project Water Right Application

Ann Yribar walked through a resolution to accept proposed stipulations to resolve protests to water right application 2-10556 in the matter of the Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Resilience Project.

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

Agenda Item No. 9: Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee Project Terms & Conditions

Neeley Miller stated the Finance Committee had recommended terms and conditions for the Palouse Basin Alternate Water Supply Project. He discussed a resolution to approve contract terms and conditions.

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

Agenda Item No. 10: Aging Infrastructure Grant Awards

Neeley Miller shared an attachment of round 5 Aging Infrastructure Grant applicants. There were some questions about the projects.

Ms. Cole-Hansen moved to adopt the resolution to award funds. Mr. Van Stone seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Barker, aye (with recognition of three conflicts); Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye (with recognition of conflicts). 8 ayes. The motion passed.

Agenda Item No. 11: ESPA Managed Recharge Infrastructure

Cooper Fritz summarized projects that had been discussed at the September 5th Aquifer Stabilization Committee. He also stated there was a change in proposal for the 55th Road Basin expansion. He also discussed the West Egin Recharge Complex. Representatives from both projects were present. Hattie Zobot explained changes in the proposal for the 55th Road Basin expansion. There was discussion about the excess material on the project.

Chairman Raybould asked for clarification on the resolutions being proposed. Mr. Fritz walked through each of the test well resolutions. The first resolution would approve funds in the matter of the Vanderford Road test recharge well development up to \$296,500. The next resolution would approve funds in the matter of the People's Canal Company test recharge well development up to \$135,000. The next resolution would approve funds in the matter of New Sweden Irrigation District's Osgood Recharge Project test recharge wells development up to \$250,000. The final resolution would approve funds in the matter of New Sweden Irrigation District's head of the basalt recharge well development up to \$256,000. All four resolutions were recommended by the Aquifer Stabilization Committee.

Mr. Barker moved to adopt all four resolutions pertaining to recharge test wells. 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.

Mr. Fritz stated the edited resolution for the 55th Road Basin recharge would be up to \$2,388,587, with anticipated recharge rate of 36.4 cfs. Mr. Barker had concerns about the excess material. Darrell Ker of Enterprize Canal discussed the project.

Mr. Olmstead moved to adopt the resolution 55th Road Basin with discussed edits. Mr. McMahon seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Barker, nay; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 7 ayes. The motion passed.

Chairman Raybould removed himself from the discussion on the Fremont Madison resolution to approve funds for the West Egin recharge wells. Vice Chair Cole-Hansen led the discussion.

Mr. Van Stone moved to adopt the resolution. Mr. Stevenson 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, abstain. 7 ayes. The motion passed.

Agenda Item No. 12: Proposed Cloud Seeding Program Funding Request

Kala Golden presented three funding resolutions for consideration. The first resolution would authorize funding for development of downscaled climatology data set in the matter of cloud seeding in Idaho up not to exceed \$910,000. Ms. Golden discussed the resolution. Mr. Gibbs stated that more cloud seeding

committee meetings may be needed and that tabling the resolution might be an option. Ms. Golden spoke on a timeline for the project.

Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution \$910,000. 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, nay. 7 ayes. The motion passed.

Ms. Golden shared a funding resolution to fund improvements to model physics in the matter of cloud seeding not to exceed \$290,000.

The second resolution received a motion to adopt from Mr. Van Stone, and a second by Mr. McMahon. After some discussion, Mr. Gibbs provided a substitute motion to table the resolution. Mr. Stevenson seconded. Voice vote. All in favor. The motion carried.

The final resolution in the matter of cloud seeding would fund deployment of weather instrumentation to support liquid propane investigation not to exceed \$170,000.

Mr. Gibbs moved to adopt the resolution. 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.

Agenda Item No. 13: Director's Report

Director Weaver said the agency's budget had been submitted, including all enhancements. He mentioned the zero-based rules were submitted on time. He stated that conjunctive management rules were additionally printed. He spoke on the preliminary results of an employee survey. He concluded his comments by stating the Natural Resources Interim Committee would be October 28th for presentations by the Board and the Department.

Agenda Item No. 14: 2025 Regular Meeting Options

Brian Patton stated that dates had been proposed for next year's regular meetings. He requested that the board members share preferences with the administrative assistant.

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

Mr. Barker mentioned that in November, a field trip to the New York Canal Project could be beneficial and timely. Further, he discussed an update on the Columbia River Treaty.

Agenda Item No. 16: Next Meeting and Adjourn

Mr. Patton stated the next scheduled meetings would be November 21-22, 2024, in Boise. Mr. Van Stone moved to adjourn. Mr. Stevenson seconded. Voice vote. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:14 AM (MT).

Respectfully submitted this 22nd day of November 2024.



Dean Stevenson, *Secretary*



Jennifer Strange, *Administrative Assistant II*