



IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

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At Large

MINUTES MEETING NO. 12-24

Idaho Water Center
Conference Rooms 602 B-D
322 E. Front Street
BOISE

November 21, 2024

Work Session

Agenda Item No. 1: Roll Call

Chairman Raybould called the work session meeting to order at 8:30 AM (MT) in Boise, 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.

IDWR staff members present were: Brian Patton, Cynthia Bridge Clark, Wesley Hipke, Mathew Weaver, Neeley Miller, Matt Anders, John Loffredo, Chloe Wilde, Tim Luke, Ethan Geisler, Amy Steimke, Shelley Keen, Craig Tesch, Erik Boe, Mary Condon, and Jennifer Strange.

Guests present were: Douglas R. Jones, Dylan Lawrence, Ann Yribar, Nicholas Zurfluh, Steve Stuebner, John Simpson, Paul Arrington, and Scott Pugrud. Online were Larry Schoen and Carl Pendleton.

After roll call, Ms. Cole-Hansen moved to amend the agenda to allow public comments. Mr. McMahon seconded. Voice vote. All in favor. The motion carried.

Public Comment:

Mr. Douglas Jones provided a status update on the Lost Valley Reservoir project. The squirrel study was complete, and they are awaiting the final report. He expressed appreciation for the Board's funding assistance. Mr. Olmstead asked about the reservoir fill.

Agenda Item No. 2: Idaho Quagga Mussel Update

Nicholas Zurfluh with the Idaho Department of Agriculture provided a comprehensive update on the Quagga mussel issue in the state.

Agenda Item No. 3a: Big Wood Groundwater Management Area Update

Shelley Keen provided an update on the Big Wood Groundwater Management Area management plan. The advisory committee recommended to extend the existing plan for three more years with adjustments.

Agenda Item No. 3b: Big Wood Groundwater Management Area Conservation, Infrastructure, and Efficiency Funding (CIEF) Request

Neeley Miller discussed a need for board authorization to fund the CIEF. A draft resolution included funds not to exceed \$200,000 annually for the next three years. Mr. Barker asked about prevention of funding for storage water. Carl Pendleton, the CIEF treasurer, was online and spoke about storage water. CIEF President, Larry Schoen, also provided comments.

Agenda Item No. 4: Mountain Home Plateau Aquifer Model Update & Funding Request

Amy Steimke provided an update on the Mountain Home Plateau Aquifer Model. She explained the project's history and the need for a new phase of modeling to include the Treasure Valley as part of the Western Snake Plain. Recommendations for funding included \$250,000 for fiscal year 2025 and a commitment to expend \$600,000 over fiscal years 2026-2028 to fund the construction of the Western Snake Plain model.

Agenda Item No. 5: Blackfoot to Minidoka Reach Gains Measurements

Brian Patton said that understanding how the Snake River near Blackfoot to near Minidoka reach gains are measured could be important considering the new proposed ESPA mitigation plan. He introduced Ethan Geisler to speak on that topic. Ethan explained that reach gain is calculated by subtracting inflow from outflow, including reservoir changes, evaporation, and return flows.

Agenda Item No. 6: Water Supply Bank Annual Report

Mary Condon presented the annual report for the water supply bank, including rental pools and the Board's bank operations. She highlighted the challenges faced in 2022, including staffing shortages and the impact on rental application processing. The board considered ways to improve efficiency. There was discussion on the possibility of introducing variable rental rates and application fees—which would require legislative approval.

Agenda Item No. 7: Administrative Rules

Erik Boe provided a brief update on the rule making efforts for the 2024 season.

Agenda Item No. 8: Cloud Seeding Program Update

Kala Golden provided an update on the cloud seeding program. She highlighted the newly developed webpage.

Agenda Item No. 9: Non-Action Items for Discussion

There were no other items for discussion.

Agenda Item No. 10: Adjourn

Chairman Raybould moved to adjourn for lunch. The meeting adjourned at 12:02 PM.

The board broke for lunch. Following lunch, the board departed for a field trip to the New York Canal lining project in Boise.

November 22, 2024
Board Meeting No. 12-24

At 8:00 AM (MT) Chairman Raybould called the meeting to order in Boise, 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
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	Brian Patton, Executive Manager
Cynthia Bridge Clark	Wesley Hipke
Mike Morrison	Jennifer Strange
Shelley Keen	Garrick Baxter
Neal Farmer	John Loffredo
Amy Steimke	Chloe Wilde
Meghan Carter	Neeley Miller

Staff Members Present Online

Kala Golden

Guests Present

Scott Campbell	Lt. Governor Scott Bedke
Neil Shippy	Bryan Horsburgh
Ann Yribar	Steve Stuebner
Craig Buitrago	John Williams
Chris Keith	

Agenda Item No. 2: Executive Session

At 8:01 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 and pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206(1) subsection (d) to consider records that are exempt from disclosure. 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.

Scott Campbell spoke on CSRBA Tribal Negotiations and Meghan Carter spoke on Priest Lake Dam litigation and Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Resilience Project.

Mr. Stevenson moved to resolve out of executive session at 8:30 AM. Mr. McMahon 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 10-24 and 11-24

The agenda and minutes for meetings 10-24 and 11-24 were available for approval. There were no changes to the agenda. Mr. McMahon moved to approve the minutes for meetings 10-24 and 11-24. Mr. Stevenson seconded. Voice vote. All in favor. The motion carried.

Agenda Item No. 4: ESPA Stipulated Mitigation Plan

Lieutenant Governor Scott Bedke announced that an Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer stipulated mitigation plan had been reached. He emphasized the importance of the water agreement and the willingness of all parties to work together. He provided details of the plan including more robust measurements. He stated that continued communication and collaboration among all parties would be crucial to the agreement's success. Chairman Raybould added that the difference between the 2015 agreement and the new plan was clarity. Parties have a better understanding of expectations.

Agenda Item No. 5: Public Comment

John Williams provided updates for Bonneville Power Administration. The annual report could be available to any who contact Mr. Williams.

Agenda Item No. 6: Financial Report

Neeley Miller provided the Board's financial report. The accounts as of August 31, 2024, were: Secondary Aquifer Fund: cash balance \$37,202,872, committed \$35,150,399, and uncommitted balance \$2,052,473; Revolving Development Account: cash balance \$36,261,032, committed balance \$29,724,389, loan principal outstanding and other obligations \$15,660,631, and uncommitted balance \$6,536,644; and Water Management Account: cash balance \$319,611,173, total obligated funds \$312,649,960, and unobligated funds \$6,961,213. Total committed/earmarked/obligated but not disbursed \$377,524,748; total loan principal outstanding \$15,660,631; and total uncommitted/unobligated balance \$15,550,330.

ARPA appropriations: received per HB 769 is \$100,000,000; received per SB 1181 is \$24,497,544; received per SB1411 (2024) \$75,502,456; total received: \$200,00,000. Total obligated \$250,000,000; expended \$97,205,685; committed balance \$152,794,315.

Agenda Item No. 7: Priest Lake Dam Litigation

Meghan Carter discussed a resolution to approve funds for outside counsel in the matter of Priest Lake Construction Litigation. On line 31 and line 34 of the resolution, she recommended adding the amount of up to \$570,000.

Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution with the recommended funding amount. 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. 8: MHAFB Water Resilience Project

Mike Morrison had a brief update on the Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Resilience Project. The project was on time and under budget. Meghan Carter covered the details of a resolution to approve a MHAFB water right use agreement.

Mr. Van Stone moved to adopt the resolution with attached Exhibit A. 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. 9: Appointment of Hearing Officer in Matter of S37-20565

Meghan Carter provided a resolution to appoint a hearing officer in the matter of stream channel alteration permit no. S37-20565.

Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution to appoint Roger S. Burdick. Mr. Gibbs seconded. Voice vote: All ayes. The motion carried.

Agenda Item No. 10: Anderson Ranch Dam Raise Project Update

Bryan Horsburgh provided an update on the Anderson Ranch Dam Raise Project. He detailed the progress and timeline for design and NEPA reinitiation. Mr. Barker asked for clarification on the timelines. Chris Keith also provided some information on timeline dates.

Agenda Item No. 11: Conservation, Infrastructure, and Efficiency Fund

Neeley Miller discussed a resolution to provide a funding commitment up to \$200,000 annually for three years, on a dollar-for-dollar match for those funds the ground water users contribute to CIEF.

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. 12: ESPA Telemetry Grant Program

Neeley Miller presented a resolution to adopt criteria for the award of Telemetry and Monitoring grants. The same had been recommended by the Finance Committee on November 8th.

Mr. Van Stone moved to adopt the resolution with attached criteria. 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, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

Agenda Item No. 13: Mountain Home Plateau Aquifer Model

Amy Steimke reminded the board of a resolution presented at the previous meeting to approve funds to develop the Western Snake Plain model. It would authorize funds in the amount of \$250,000 for FY2025 and commit to funding the remaining \$600,000 over Fiscal Years 2026-2028.

Mr. Gibbs 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. 14a: ESPA Managed Recharge Program Update

Wesley Hipke provided an update on the board's recharge program, detailing the natural flow recharge and storage water donations. Mr. Gibbs asked about the board's recharge commitment with the new ESPA mitigation agreement.

Agenda Item No. 14b: ESPA Managed Recharge Standards & Procedures

Wesley Hipke presented ESPA Managed Recharge Standards and Procedures that had been discussed at the Aquifer Stabilization Committee. Mr. Barker had several questions and suggestions of the document. Mr. Olmstead mentioned on letter B, section 2 that the per day should just be 10 CFS. Mr. Hipke agreed to update that suggestion. There was further discussion.

Mr. Olmstead moved to adopt the resolution with the attached Standards and Procedures and with some edits that had been discussed. 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. 15a: Cloud Seeding Program High Country RC&D Funding Request

Kala Golden discussed a resolution to approve funds for the High Country Resource Conservation and Development cloud seeding program not to exceed \$60,000 for operations and maintenance.

Mr. Gibbs moved to adopt the resolution not to exceed \$60,000. 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, abstain. 7 ayes. The motion passed.

Agenda Item No. 15b/c: Cloud Seeding Program Water Users Collaborative Program Payment & Collaborative Program Funding

Kala Golden presented a resolution to approve funds for the collaborative cloud seeding program not to exceed \$2.42 million for the 2024/25 season, with the expectation that water user contributions in the amount of \$435,800 will offset the total expenditures. There was discussion about completing the benefit analysis for the water users and the increased cost of the program.

Mr. Stevenson moved to adopt the resolution. Mr. Olmstead seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahan, abstain; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 7 ayes. The motion passed.

Agenda Item No. 16: Potential Legislation of Interest

Garrick Baxter provided a brief update. He discussed two pieces of potential legislation from the Idaho Water Users Association.

Agenda Item No. 17: Director's Report

Director Weaver was pleased with the mitigation plan that had been finalized. He appreciated the efforts of the Chairman, Brian Patton, Garrick Baxter, and Lt. Governor Bedke. He highlighted the benefits of the plan and the need for in-season groundwater measurement. He mentioned the Big Wood Groundwater Management area update. He also emphasized the need for resources to maintain and operate models like the Western Snake Plain model. Director Weaver discussed some needs for the water supply bank program. He noted that many challenges were due to staff turnover and suggested

that a fully staffed program may solve many of its problems. He concluded by reiterating the importance of maintaining the department's ability to handle contested cases efficiently and effectively.

Agenda Item No. 18: 2025 Approved Board Meeting Dates

Brian Patton stated that dates had been proposed for 2025 regular meetings.

Mr. McMahon moved to adopt the meeting dates for the 2025 regular meetings. Mr. Stevenson seconded. Voice vote: All ayes. The motion carried.

Agenda Item No. 19: Non-Action Items for Discussion

There were no other items for discussion.

Agenda Item No. 20: Next Meeting and Adjourn

Mr. Patton stated the next scheduled meeting would be January 17, 2025, in Boise. Mr. Van Stone moved to adjourn. Mr. Stevenson seconded. Voice vote. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:17 AM (MT).

Respectfully submitted this 17th day of January 2025.



Dean Stevenson, *Secretary*



Jennifer Strange, *Administrative Assistant II*