



# Modernizing Idaho's Water Infrastructure

An Ongoing Story Series on the Idaho Water Resource Board's Aging Infrastructure Grant Program **ISSUE NO. 12**

## Weiser River Soil Conservation District Galloway Diversion Rehabilitation Project

**Overview:** Galloway Diversion Dam, located east of Weiser, was built in the 1930s to increase water storage, and it doubled the water rights for farmers and ranchers served by the Weiser Irrigation District to 120 cubic feet per second (cfs) flow.

Galloway is a critical piece of infrastructure for the Weiser Irrigation District and its shareholders. The District serves 15,000 acres of irrigated farmland. Farmers in the local area raise a variety of crops including sugar beets, onions, alfalfa and hay as well as livestock.

Galloway Dam provides multiple economic values to irrigators, municipal water for the City of Weiser (population 5,812), recreation and fishing benefits.

The project sponsor for the Galloway Dam aging infrastructure project is the Weiser River Soil Conservation District. The Weiser River District was organized in December 1941. It is one of 50 conservation districts in state of Idaho. It serves farmers and ranchers in Washington County.

The Weiser River District works on a wide variety of conservation projects to improve water quality in the Weiser River and reduce sediment,



*Braun-Jensen construction crew smoothes out concrete on the face of Galloway Diversion Dam. (photo by Steve Stuebner)*

phosphorus and nitrate runoff from local farms. In 2014, the Weiser River District installed automated headgates on the Galloway diversion. This improvement extended the irrigation season by an extra 30 days in the fall by providing a more accurate accounting of water consumption from the Weiser River and reducing losses in the irrigation delivery and return drain system.

**Project Need:** The Weiser Soil Conservation District applied for an aging infrastructure grant from the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) to complete much-needed maintenance/repair work and improvements on Galloway

Dam. The project resurfaced the spillway of the diversion dam and increased the width of the top deck to 4 feet for safety purposes.

Pre-construction, the dam spillway was eroding to the point where large rocks were protruding out of the concrete with large sinkholes where the concrete had already crumbled. The concrete and foundation were eroding away on the backside of the diversion dam, and it would be only a matter of time before there would be a break in the dam, officials said.

"The dam is nearly 100 years old, it's

- **Type of project:** Rehabilitation of nearly 100-year-old diversion dam.
- **Location:** Weiser, Idaho
- **Total project cost:** \$395,000
- **AIG:** \$124,410
- **Other funding partners:** \$150,000 WQPA grant, private loan
- **Start date:** September 2024
- **End date:** October 2024





# Modernizing Idaho's Water Infrastructure

An Ongoing Story Series on the Idaho Water Resource Board's Aging Infrastructure Grant Program **ISSUE NO. 12**

## Rehabilitation of Galloway Diversion Dam (cont.)

been been eroding exponentially every year,” Weiser River District officials said. “It is imperative that repair work be completed on this project to keep Galloway dam functional for another 100 years.”

The total cost of the project is \$383,000. The Weiser River District received a \$124,410 aging infrastructure grant from IWRB. It also received a Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA) grant for the project in the amount of \$150,000. Local cost-share funds are \$108,000.

**Construction work began on the project in September 2024** by Braun-Jensen contractors, based in Cambridge, Idaho. Construction crews used jack-hammers to chip away the top 6 inches of the concrete Galloway diversion structure, and then poured 6” of fresh concrete on top of the diversion dam. They also added two feet of width to the top of the diversion structure to create a wider walkway for dam maintenance crews, officials said.

“That’s more of a safety issue,” said Chet Jensen with Braun-Jensen contractors.

On the downstream face of the dam, construction crews added several layers of rebar and fresh concrete to rehabilitate the diversion dam structure.

Concrete for the project was provided by Idaho Materials and Construction. Project design was provided by Braun-Jensen and Bill Lillibridge, an engineer with the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission.



Above, Galloway Diversion Dam pre-construction. (courtesy Meghan Brooksher) Below, Braun-Jensen construction crews pour concrete into forms on the dam's crest in October. (photo by Steve Stuebner)



Construction of the Galloway project was completed in late October. The project was completed on time and on budget, officials said.

Next spring, the Weiser River District will provide an educational tour with local stakeholders. Information about the project also has been shared at the Washington County Fair, Division

III meeting with other conservation districts, and the Washington County Commissioners.

For more information, contact Vicki Lukehart at the Weiser Soil Conservation District, [vicki.lukehart@id.nacdnet.net](mailto:vicki.lukehart@id.nacdnet.net) or 208-549-2628 x112.