

Swan Falls Implementation Group Meeting

March 17, 2023, 2:00 – 3:00 pm
IDWR State Office 6th Floor Conference Rooms

Meeting Agenda

1. Introductions

Mat Weaver, Scott Campbell, John Simpson, Kresta Davis, Scott Pugrud, Brian Patton, Jamie Neil, Ethan Geisler, Megan Jenkins, Shelley Keen, Sean Vincent, Matt Anders, Tim Luke

Online: Jeff Raybould, TJ Budge w/ IGWA, Rick Naerebout w/ Dairy Mens Association, Bob Turner w/ IGWA, Frank Garigllio w/ ID Power, Jennifer Sukow, Danielle Favreau, Norman Semanko

2. AAFD Report – *Ethan Geisler, IDWR*

Update on the AAFD – flows at Murphy Gage, update from Watermaster Rob Whitney. Snake River Irrigation District is the only major divertor has turned on. Most irrigators do not plan to turn on until the end of the month or April 1. Could change depending on weather. Update on the 2023 Winter Forecast

3. Technical Question #5 Discussion – Sean Vincent, IDWR

Review of previous questions. Update to question 5 to make it more technically accurate. While doing the analysis several database errors were discovered. Even with errors fixed there was still a lot of unexplained variability. Moved ahead using cumulative storage change vs. discharge relationship because it is easy to explain and intuitive.

ESPA discharge is the largest Murphy flow component during the low flow period
ESPA discharge is correlated to cumulative aquifer storage change
ESPA discharge estimates plot within +/- 200 cfs of the trendline
Non-ESPA and consumptive use components are also significant & variable
Conservative assumptions could be used to address predictive uncertainty

Discussion of next steps.

4. Trust Water Right Administration and Term Limit Review Framing Questions

Broke item 4 into 2 agenda items. New #5 below.

Shelley Keen gave a presentation on administering Water Rights and what that might look like. The process is underway and hopefully will be able to share a completed document in a few weeks or months.

5. Term Limit Review Framing Questions

Questions submitted from TJ Budge:

1. Does the State have authority to curtail TWRs in order to prevent a breach of the minimum flow, or must IDWR wait until a breach occurs before curtailing TWRs?
2. Does IDWR have authority to cancel term-limited TWRs irrespective of Swan Falls Minimum flows?
3. Can IDWR curtail a term-limited TWR that is senior to a TWR that is not term-limited?
4. Can IDWR strategically curtail select TWRs in a manner to most effectively sustain the minimum flow, or must curtailment be blind to everything but priority?

These questions will serve as a start for further discussion and/or questions for another meeting. Ask that other questions be submitted.

6. Other business

Does the group want to have Swan Falls presentations at the IWUA Law Seminar?

Calendar May 16th 2pm – 4pm for SFIG date

- Focus on current conditions, table discussion on TWR review until summer.
- Deadline for TWG review questions

Adjourn