



**Eastern Idaho Water Rights Coalition
2009 Annual Membership Meeting Minutes
October 29th 2009 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Idaho Falls City Council Chambers**

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Mr. Clark called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Introductions were made and everyone was welcomed to the meeting.

Coalition Business:

II.

A. **Membership/Budget Report:**

- Mr. Clark went over the Finance Report for October of 2009.
- Rounded Amounts: Checking - \$2563; Interest Bearing Acct. - \$8585; Actual 2009 Interest to date- \$12.47
- The Coalition has seen \$9600 dollars of income in *donations*, since founding of the coalition in 2007.
- \$8500 dollars was spent on Egin Lakes Project this year.
- We have run approximately \$12,000 through our accounts this year – Paid out for Egin Lakes, postage, supplies, and membership meetings.
- Membership Renewal Rates for 2010 will be \$250 – Professional, \$125 – Municipal and \$50 – Private Water Users.

B. **Major Achievements Report for 2009:**

1. The Executive Committee and The Board of Directors have met monthly throughout the year to discuss current events and challenges relating to water issues and to guide coalition activities.
2. The Coalition participated as a co-sponsor of the **Egin Lakes Recharge Pilot Project**. The purpose of the project is to document what really happens to the water when it is put into the ground at the Egin Lakes site, Jensen's Grove, and possibly other places in the area. For the fall of 2008 and the spring of 2009, the Coalitions' share of the project came to \$8515.50. We have been asked to help fund the project again for fall 2009 and spring 2010. Data generated by this project is being analyzed by IWRRI.
3. In November 2008, the Coalition co-sponsored the first **Eastern Idaho Legislative Forum**, along with the Regional Mayors' Workshop and the Chamber Alliance. Legislators from Districts 25 through 35 were invited to participate on the ½ day meeting. This provided a great opportunity to develop relationships with the cities and legislators and to communicate Coalition interests. Plans are underway for the next Legislative Forum to be held on December 9th, 2010 in Pocatello.
4. The Coalition was represented at **IWUA Water Law Seminars** in November 2008 and June 2009; also at the IWUA Annual Meeting in January 2009. We now have a seat on the **IWUA Legislative Committee**.
5. The Coalition was a sponsor of the **Eastern Idaho Legislative Tour** held in September 2009. While seated alongside the banks of the Snake River, we were able to conduct a 45 minute presentation and discussion with legislators from throughout the state. This tour, which is sponsored by the various Chambers of Commerce throughout the state, will not be held in Eastern Idaho again for about 9 years because the location rotates around the state for a different regional tour each summer.
6. Since its inception, the Coalition has been well represented with respect to the **Comprehensive Aquifer Management Planning (CAMP)** committee efforts. The Coalition worked to secure the approval of the plan by the IWRB and the subsequent successful passage of a bill to fund the implementation of the plan. Several of our members are also members of this implementation committee which has been meeting monthly since June of 2009.

III. **Featured Speakers:**

A. **Representative Dell Raybould –Chair, House Committee on Environment, Energy and Technology and Co-Chair, Interim House & Senate Resources Committee.**

- Protecting our water rights here in the upper valley is extremely important.
- The Interim Committee asked the Idaho State Water Board to come up with some ideas comment on the progress being made by implementation committee for the CAMP Project. At that meeting , Hal Anderson presented a status update of the CAMP committee.
- Demand and supply are out of balance in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer and needs to be addressed. Ground water to surface water conversion distribution needs management. Hopefully funds to implement these projects will be forthcoming.
- Education on water issues is paramount in creating an understanding between city populations and rural farmers, developers and irrigators.
- Lloyd Hicks and Stan Hawkins were at the Interim Committee meeting to discuss recharge, diversion and assessment payment issues. They made the point that Incidental recharge must be recognized by the CAMP project.
- The Interim Committee asked Jonathan Barch was asked to come up with recommendations for funding for the next Interim Committee Meeting at the end of November or first of December so there would be a nucleus for implementation put together for the first of the Legislative Session.

B. **Director Gary Spackman – Interim Director, IDWR**

- Budget cuts have caused a 17% reduction in employees in IDWR. Nine full time jobs have been cut and all employees have been asked to take six unpaid days of leave to balance the IDWR budget.
- Program and staff downsizing should keep the budget balanced through the end of the year into 2010.
- Water transfer backlogs are a priority and being addressed.
- We need to have plentiful representation from Eastern Idaho attending the Interim Committee Meetings.
- The Groundwater Model needs some input from water users as to how it can be refined to a workable solution for everyone.

IV. **Q&A/Refreshments/Discussion/Adjournment:**

- Ideas' were discussed about co-sponsoring an Eastern Idaho Legislative Tour each year in coordination with the IWRB.
- Mr. Clark adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm.

V. **2009 Calendar of Meetings:**

- ◇ Nov 12th – EIWRC Executive Committee Meeting
- ◇ December 1st Henry's Fork "Watershed Council Conference, Rexburg
- ◇ December 9th Eastern Idaho Legislative Forum, Pocatello