



IDAHO WATER WATCH

NEWSLETTER OF THE IDAHO WATER USERS ASSOCIATION

WWW.IWUA.ORG

APRIL 2023

IWUA LEADERSHIP UPDATE

During the 86th Annual Convention, IWUA members held their annual district caucuses and board reorganization meeting. We have several new individuals taking leadership positions.

First, each of the IWUA officers were nominated to serve an additional year, as follows: Randy Brown (President), Ron Platt (1st Vice President) and Barney Metz (2nd Vice President), Dan Davidson (Past President).

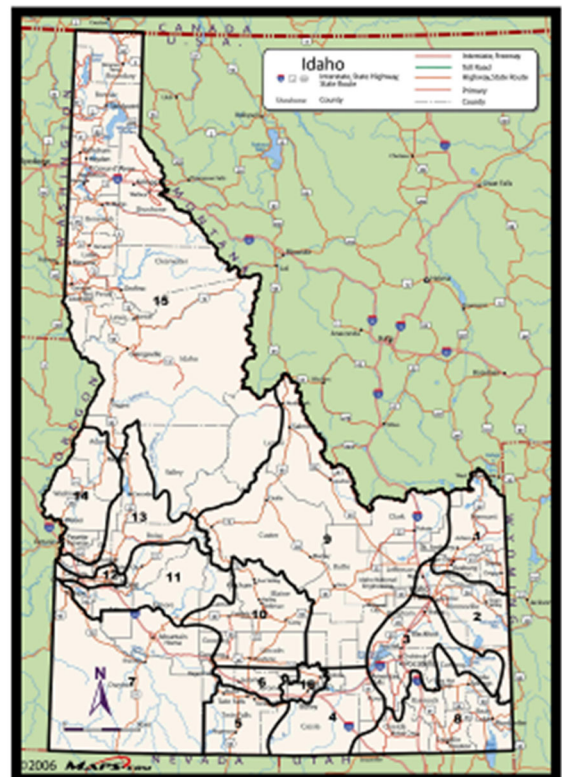
Several board members retired Brad Mattson, John Lind, Ellis Gooch and John Hartman. The following were newly elected to serve on the board: Tony Dixey, Don Terry, Kevin Lakey and Carl Hayes. In addition, Julie Sievers, IWUA's longstanding Nominating and Awards Committee Chair retired. Ruth Bailes from Minidoka Irrigation District was appointed as the new chair.

IWUA'S 2023 LEADERSHIP

- District 1:** Mike Rasmussen
- District 2:** Gary Dixon
- District 3:** Tony Dixey
- District 4:** Don Terry
- District 5:** Roger Blass
- District 6:** Bart Patterson
- District 7:** John Eells
- District 8:** Lynn Keetch
- District 9:** Greg Shenton
- District 10:** Kevin Lakey
- District 11:** Ron Platt
- District 12:** Greg Curtis
- District 13:** Carl Hayes
- District 14:** Dennis Ujjiye
- District 15:** Barney Metz

- District 16:** Harold Mohlman
- At-Large Directors:**
 - Shawn Tischendorf
 - Dan Davidson
- Ground Water Caucus:**
 - Heather Rice
 - Randy Hillman
 - Milk Faulkner
 - Randy Brown
 - Pat McMahon
- Associate Directors:**
 - Dylan Lawrence
 - Hal Anderson
- Ex Officio Director:**
 - Gary Spackman

IWUA DISTRICT MAP



ISSUE TRACKER

STATE

Idaho has been very fortunate to have a legislature that supports and understands the importance of water to our communities and economies. During the 2023 Session, the Legislature appropriated additional funds for water projects throughout Idaho. The IWUA Legislative Committee supported these appropriations, including:

- **\$150 million** to the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) to continue funding grants, loans and expenditures on water infrastructure. Up to one third of these funds will be made available for infrastructure grants. Stay tuned to the IWRB webpage (<https://idwr.idaho.gov/iwrp/programs/financial/>) for information about opportunities.
- **\$7 million** to the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for grants for Ag and CAFO Best Management Practices (BMP) projects. Several of our members have utilized these grants for sediment basins and other projects. Stay tuned to the DEQ webpage (<https://www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/grants-and-loans/>) for information about opportunities.
- **\$5 million** to the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission for the Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA). This program provides funds for water quality projects related to agriculture. Projects include flood-to-sprinkler conversions and sediment retention. Reach out to your local Conservation District for more information.

REGIONAL

On April 3, Paul Arrington spoke at a listening session relating to the ongoing litigation and mitigation efforts on the Columbia River. Here are his comments:

Members of the Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service, Council on Environmental Quality and others working with the parties to the ongoing litigation surrounding the Columbia River System Operations, thank you for providing this opportunity to speak with you today.

My name is Paul Arrington, I am the Executive Director and General Council for the Idaho Water Users Association. IWUA represents irrigation district, canal companies, ground water districts and other organizations throughout Idaho. We actively engage with the region's states, tribes and stakeholders on matters related to the Columbia River Basin.

At first, I want to thank you for your hard efforts to find a path forward that will allow us to end this endless litigation. For far too long, the region has found itself embroiled in a litigation cycle that has done nothing to advance or protect the interests of the communities relying on the river system. Tribes, sportsmen and others find themselves looking for more abundant and predictable stocks. At the same time, those who rely on the network of dams and locks find themselves fighting to preserve their operations. Frustratingly, it seems that many have convinced themselves that for one to survive, the other must perish.

IWUA rejects this type of win-lose mentality. Our members pride themselves on the ability to tackle seemingly impossible challenges and find a path forward. We have done it time and time again. It is not easy but is it possible if the parties involved are truly committed to the task.

Importantly, in order to attack complex challenges, like those facing the Columbia River Basin, all voices must be heard and all must be permitted to participate. Without involvement by necessary stakeholders, no solution will truly be successful in the long-term.

While we appreciate the hard work of those leading this effort, we are concerned that many voices in the region are not being heard in this process. Ironically, those who chose not to fight this battle in court – many with the hopes of finding a collaborative solution elsewhere – are being shut out of these efforts to find a meaningful solution.

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Further compounding the concern is that those not involved in these discussions have received no information about the concepts being discussed or how they might impact the lives and livelihoods along the river system. Additionally, we do not know how the unique perspective of the individuals we represent could benefit the discussions.

Examples of issues that would benefit from a broader perspective include:

- *Snake River Water Rights Agreement (regularly referred to as the Nez Perce Agreement): This is an example of one of those seemingly impossible challenges that was faced, head on, by Tribes, the State of Idaho and water users. The result is a long-term agreement benefiting tribes, water users and the region. As part of that agreement, water users above the Hells Canyon complex provide flow augmentation water for anadromous fish. In return, a 30-year biological opinion on the Upper Snake River has allowed water users, the State and Tribes to avoid litigation. It is unclear how the discussion in this process might impact the expectations and protections of the Nez Perce Agreement.*
- *Impacts to Agricultural Economies / Food Security: One of the significant challenges facing our country today is that of food security. In recent years, we have experienced the impacts of the COVID pandemic, the war in Ukraine, trade disruptions, and at home, extended drought, the escalating cost of inputs, and increased regulation. All of these have placed extreme pressures on our food systems and have reiterated something we know to be true – food security is an issue of national security. Our nation’s food system cannot afford to have additional stressors placed upon it. Accordingly, we are concerned that the voice of agriculture is not being adequately represented in these discussions. Agriculture throughout the Pacific Northwest relies on the Columbia Snake River System to transport their crops from their farms to ports in Portland, and onto to customers around the world – and to transport inputs up the river system. Ten percent of our nation’s wheat exports move through the dams on the river system. Barging agriculture commodities is a low-carbon, safe, and efficient method of transportation. Altering operations along the Columbia and Lower Snake Rivers, whether through shifted flow regimes or dam removal, would send crippling ripple effects throughout the broader agricultural community.*

Thank you, again, for taking the time to listen to additional stakeholders in the region. We urge you to continue your efforts and to look for ways to make them more inclusive. IWUA members stand ready to work with our region’s states, Tribes and stakeholders to develop a long-term, meaningful solution.

FEDERAL FROM SENATOR RISCH

Risch, Crapo Succeed in Challenging Biden WOTUS Rule. U.S. Senators Jim Risch and Mike Crapo’s Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution passed the Senate March 29. The CRA challenged the Biden administration’s Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule, which grossly expands federal regulatory authority over water.

“Today’s vote is a decisive and bipartisan movement away from big government. Idaho has been managing water longer than we’ve been a state, and we do not need federal bureaucrats telling us how to do so. The Biden administration’s proposed navigable waters rule would have a crippling effect on Idaho’s farmers, ranchers, and landowners, and I will continue fighting until I see it scrapped entirely,” said Risch.

“The passing of this CRA shows there is bipartisan support to halt the Biden Administration’s effort to trample on states’ water rights,” said Crapo. “Water quality management policies are best decided by state and local on-the-ground experts—including farmers, ranchers and water users. Idaho’s congressional delegation continues to fight to protect Idaho water sovereignty.”

With the bipartisan passage of the CRA in both the House and the Senate, the rule cannot be implemented unless both Chambers vote successfully to implement it.

Update: On April 6, President Biden vetoed the Congressional resolution, ensuring that this dispute will continue to play out in the courts. IWUA appreciates the continued efforts of our Congressmen to protect Idaho’s waters.

SAVE THE DATE
2023
LEGISLATIVE
WATER COLLEGE
AUGUST 28-30 | BURLEY, ID

COME LEARN ABOUT:
Managing surface / ground water
Water infrastructure projects
Waste water treatment



CLASS 2 RECAP

DEVELOPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF WATER LEADERS

IWUA recently finished Headgate Class 2. A full class of 15 participants gathered for three 2-day sessions to learn leadership skills and gain a better understanding about water in Idaho.

The Headgate development committee made several tweaks to Class 2 - refining topics and condensing the class time. The result was a more robust and engaging experience for participants. Here are some pictures of Headgate Class 2: 1) Headgate students in front of the Idaho Capitol Building, 2) Students exercise critical thinking to solve complex puzzles, 3) Team building: escape rooms! 4) Students with Gov. Little and Lt. Gov. Bedke.



1



2

INTERESTED IN CLASS 3?

Visit www.iwua.org/headgate to learn about course expectations and curriculum. The application period for Headgate: Class 3 opens late summer 2023.



3



4

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SESSION

Last week marked the end of the 2023 Legislative Session. It was an interesting session due, in large part, to the overwhelming number of new faces joining Idaho's legislative ranks. In the Senate, nearly 50% were freshmen. This played over to our committees, with both the House Resource and Conservation Committee and the Senate Resources and Environment Committee largely comprised of new members.

As a result of all this change, education was at the top of our legislative priorities. Although we had relatively few bills as compared to prior sessions (only 11 total bills considered by the Legislative Committee this year), we spent a lot of time with legislators talking about water issues.

As far as legislative issues, we were grateful, once again, that water was not the hot button issue. The legislature spent a lot of time debating property tax relief, education funding, and how to regulate appropriate materials in libraries. They did not spend a lot of time debating water bills. This is due, in large part, to the ongoing efforts of IWUA members to make sure their legislators understand the importance of water. Because of your efforts, once again, we have a 100% success rate. All the bills we supported were enacted into law.

A few bills warrant reminder here:

S1031: Under Idaho Law, the facilities owned by canal companies and irrigation districts (i.e. canals, headgate,

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etc.) are exempt from property tax. Historically, to qualify for that tax exemption, an annual filing with the county was required. S1031 removes that annual filing requirement. Thank you to Milner Irrigation District for bringing this issue before our Legislative Committee.

S1033: Idaho's Land Use Planning Act includes the policy that, as land is developed, any surface water historically used for irrigation should continue to be used on that property. Based on this policy, the Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) has conditioned new groundwater rights with irrigation purposes to require that the surface water historically used on that land be

used first (with ground water filling in the gaps as needed). Last year, the district court rejected the condition, concluding that the Land Use Planning Act did not give the Director any authority to act. S1033 adds a new section of code (I.C. 42-204A) to expressly authorize the Director to include "surface water first" conditions on applicable new ground water rights. Thank you to our members in the Treasure Valley for leading on this issue.

Be sure to check out IWUA's legislative scorecard at www.iwua.org to see how your legislators voted on important water issues. Finally, stay tuned for the late summer when we will begin working on concepts for the 2024



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KIBITZING WITH KATHRYN

Alas, IWUA's time at 1010 W. Jefferson is nearing its end. Our lease is up in May, and it is time for us to move on. As Paul and I pack and sort and purge, a few things come to mind: 1) Karen and Norm were savers, and 2) history is neat.

As with anything, in order to remain relevant, the Association and its processes have had to adjust and conform to societal norms, the implementation of newer technology and generally the passing of time. As these new changes have been incorporated, I'm not kidding when I tell you that hardly any of the old have been discarded.

The obvious reflection in sorting through the office is the evolution of technology – we still have floppy discs, documents that Karen typed with a typewriter, Otto Otter slide decks that come together to make ag water safety movies, and brittle historic newsletters and copies of legislative testimony, to name a few. While we have moved on from these mechanisms in one way or another and no longer need them, the ancillary reflection is the inevitable loss in tangible history that comes from discarding these

items.

While we are certain that not everything merits keeping, as we have either replaced or no longer need to directly reference the information within some of these documents, it's still difficult for us to purge. While most days we find ourselves caught up in the now and the what's next of our issues (water or otherwise), this office move has incidentally allowed Paul and me to reflect and appreciate the breadth of how far we have come and how hard those before us worked to keep the water flowing down the stream.

The takeaway here is that Idaho's water resources has been, and still is, in good hands! We have the historical shrine to prove it! We have been packing and sorting pieces of history that have been edited or touched in some way by many of you, and likely your father, and for more of you than not, your grand dad, too. And even if we have a long way to go, come on over to our office on packing day to freshen your perspective on just how far we have come. Kibitz ya later. –K

10 QUESTIONS WITH DON TERRY

BURLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Paul Arrington (PA): Tell us a little bit about yourself, your background, education, family, hobbies etc.

Don Terry (DT): I was born and raised in the Mini-Cassia area and graduated from Minico High School. I started out as a ditch rider 26 years ago and have worked my way through the company, working in each department. I've sprayed weeds, worked maintenance, been the Water Master, and am currently the General Manager. I have a passion for my job, the water, and the users we provide for. I have been married for 12 years to my wife, Melanie. Together we enjoy traveling and going on new adventures. I have a love for sports as well. I have been a volleyball coach for many years, coaching at various levels from Junior High, Club Ball, to High School. In my free time I also enjoy squeezing in a round of golf.

PA: Tell us a little bit about your organization – when it was founded, number of acres, etc.

DT: Burley Irrigation District (BID) and Minidoka Irrigation District (MID) were one company. BID was the pump division and MID the gravity division. BID was officially organized in 1918. There are approximately 48,000 acres within our district. The district has nearly 90 miles of canals and over 400 miles of roads. We have storage rights in Palisades (39,200 af), Lake Walcott (33.5%), and American Falls (155,395 af).

PA: Tell us something about your organization that other water users might find interesting?

DT: 99% of our water is pumped through three different lift stations, lifting the water 30 feet each time, for a total of a 90-foot lift after traveling 13.5 miles through the South Side Canal from Lake Walcott. The first lift pump

station can pump approximately 1,015 cfs at full capacity.

PA: What do you see as the biggest challenges your organization will face in the future?

DT: Some of our biggest challenges are protecting our appropriated water rights, urbanization, dealing with aging infrastructure, and financially competing with the current workforce.

PA: What do you see as the most exciting opportunities your organization will face in the future?

DT: I am excited to see the use of automation and technology advances to take the problem of aging infrastructure and turn it positive as technology changes to deliver, track, and manage water to water users more efficiently utilizing available grants.

PA: Tell us about someone that has influenced your career and how they influenced your career.

DT: Randy Bingham, General Manager at the time, hired me 26 years ago as a ditch rider and influenced my growth in the company. He saw potential in me and tried to continually encouraged me to gain more knowledge and be involved. He continues, to this day, to be supportive and helpful.

PA: What has been the toughest lesson you have learned during your work career?

DT: Things cannot always happen right now. I have had to learn to be patient until the timing is right.

PA: What advice would you give to someone who is new to your line of work?

DT: Be well rounded. Learn all you can about every aspect of the company. For example, as a ditch rider I learned the basics of the hydraulics of water. This has been the key element of every other job within the company for me. Take the time and effort to learn all the various jobs within the company and the key elements of those jobs.

PA: If you could have a billboard anywhere, what would you put on that billboard?

DT: My billboard would be an excerpt of a quote that I



Continued from page 6

currently have on my office wall from Theodore Roosevelt. "It is not the critic who counts. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; who errs; who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly."

PA: If you were king of the world for one day, what would be your first decree?

DT: There are many things I would like to do if I were king for a day, but the first thing is to fix welfare. Get people off welfare permanently and put welfare back to the short-term fix it was designed to be. Or better yet give everybody a million dollars. 🙏

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- April 17-19: NWRA Federal Water Issues Conference - Washington, D.C.
- April 26-27: IWUA Spring Board Meeting - Idaho Falls, ID
- June 12-13: IWUA Summer Seminar - Sun Valley, ID
- July 21-23: Tri-State Irrigators - Spokane, WA
- Aug. 2-4: NWRA Western Water Seminar - Medora, ND
- Aug.28-30: Legislative Water College - Burley, ID
- Oct.24-25: IWUA Fall Board Meeting -TBD
- Nov. 8-10: NWRA Annual Conference - San Antonio, TX

IWUA SUMMER SEMINAR



Save the date for IWUA's Summer Seminar from June 11-13, 2023 in beautiful Sun Valley, Idaho! The Water Law & Resource Issues Seminar begins bright and early Monday, June 12.

Visit www.iwua.org to register and to see the agenda.

DROPLETS QUICK UPDATES ON WATER NEWS

Keep an eye out for the next round of Flood Management Grants from the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB). The application process will open in the spring, with applications due mid-June. This program allows drainage districts, irrigation districts, canal companies, and other organizations to address flood damaged stream channels, stream channel improvements, flood risk reduction, and flood prevention projects. For more information, visit: <https://idwr.idaho.gov/form/financial-program/>



The Bureau of Reclamation continues to provide opportunities for project funding through the WaterSMART grant program. These programs focus on all phases of water project planning, development and construction. Check out BOR's WaterSMART webpage for more information, including to learn when funding opportunities are available: <https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/>.



BUREAU OF
RECLAMATION

Negotiations continue for a modernized Columbia River Treaty. The countries meet regularly to discuss the complex, technical issues associated with managing the Columbia River flood control operations. In total, the countries have engaged in 16 formal negotiation sessions. While most of the details of their discussions remain confidential, we have been advised that the U.S. negotiating teams hopes to have an agreement in principle by June 2023.

IWUA IS HIRING!

IWUA is seeking an Office Administrator.

For more information or to apply visit our jobs page at www.iwua.org/Industry-Job-Postings

FROM THE ARCHIVES

In this section, we dig deep into the Association's archives and pull an article from prior newsletters. Here, we reprint an article from the March 1976 edition of *Water Life*, newsletter of the National Water Resources Association. Other interesting information in this edition includes:

- Clean Water Act and Wetlands: Several articles discussed recent litigation requiring the Corps to extend its jurisdiction over wetlands. NWRA expressed concern about the scope of wetland jurisdiction.
- NWRA officers include John Rosholt (Twin Falls, ID) as Vice President.

ASSN. WATER USERS COMMITTEE MEMBERS RECITE OBJECTIONS TO IRRIGATION RULES

Members of NWRA's Water Users Committee met in favor management by an existing agency rather than a new federal bureaucracy. "My choice would be the Soil Conservation Service, which works at the local level and is already familiar with farming techniques," he said.

Robert Lynch, an attorney representing the Arizona Irrigation Districts Coordinating Committee, said the EPA

Committee Chairman, Reid W. Teeple of Phoenix, mentioned that irrigated lands in the West account for about 25 percent of the nation's farm produce, a fact, he said, needed to be called to the attention of the members of Congress from the Western States.

Some of the other comments made at the meeting:

The EPA proposals are discriminatory, in the opinion of committee member Bob Raschke of Huron, South Dakota, because they apply only to irrigated farming, which means primarily to the West. Farming in the East and Midwest is virtually exempt from the EPA proposals.

"Government controls could ultimately interfere with Western water rights" warned incoming President, John Rosholt, of Twin Falls, Idaho, "by depriving downstream users of their full entitlement of a stream."

Walter Hoffbuhr of Talent, Oregon, said the results of water quality monitoring are open to debate, but four irrigation districts monitored last year showed that the quality of water leaving the fields was better than the quality of water coming in.

If some sort of water monitoring program is forced on farmers, Ralph Adkins of Pueblo, Colorado, said he would

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Omnibus Water Project Bill Is Approved By President

The first irrigation projects authorized to be constructed in the past four years were signed into public law (94-228) by President Ford on March 11.

The irrigation projects were a part of an omnibus reclamation bill containing four titles, which was put together by the House Subcommittee on Water and Power Resources. The bill passed the House by a vote of 284 to 119 on January 30, and was approved by voice vote in the Senate February 25. The bill's provisions provide for:

- (1) construction and operation of the Pollock Bench area of the Shoshone extension unit, Wyoming; (2) modification for safety purposes of the existing Dickinson Dam, North Dakota; (3) reauthorization of the McKay Dam, Oregon, also for safety purposes and to include flood control as a project purpose; and (4) construction and operation of the Pollock-Herrald irrigation project, South Dakota. The combined costs of the four projects is \$77,200,000.

As Congressman Harold T. (Boss) Johnson, D-Calif., said, in recommending the bill for passage, the projects to be authorized are small in comparison to most public works programs but no less significant to the communities and States that will be benefited by them.

The Department reported unfavorably on each of the projects as it came up for hearings last year. The principal objection on all of them was that more time was required for funding.

(Continued on page 8, col. 2)

Assn. Water Users Committee Members Recite Objections To Irrigation Rules

Members of NWRA's Water Users Committee met in Scottsdale, Arizona, March 5, to assess the regulations proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency February 23. They generally agreed that legislative clarification was needed for (a) NPDES applicability to agriculture activities and (b) the definition of "navigable waters."

Committee Chairman, Reid W. Teeple of Phoenix mentioned that irrigated lands in the West account for about 25 percent of the nation's farm produce, a fact, he said, needed to be called to the attention of the members of Congress from the Western States.

Some of the other comments made at the meeting:

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If some sort of water monitoring program is forced on farmers, Ralph Adkins of Pueblo, Colorado, said he would favor management by an existing agency rather than a new federal bureaucracy. "My choice would be the Soil Conservation Service, which works at the local level and is already familiar with farming techniques," he said.

Robert Lynch, an attorney representing the Arizona Irrigation Districts Coordinating Committee, said the EPA proposals are the result of a

(Continued on page 7)

proposals are the result of a Federal District Court order obtained by an environmental group. "EPA is appealing the court decision but was required to make these proposals. Our best hope in getting these proposals changed is in Congress."

The Water Users Committee has recommended to the Board of Directors of NWRA that it urge EPA to (a) request an extension of the deadline for promulgating final regulations pending the outcome of the Department of Justice appeal of *NRCD v. Train*; (b) conduct meaningful research of agricultural management practices before imposing a costly and tenuous permit program; and (c) hold public hearings to consider alternatives which are equitable to all agriculture interests.

Another recommendation to the Board was that it should urge individual irrigators and/or local, state and regional water user associations to oppose application of the NPDES permit to irrigated agriculture in any form until after Congress addresses the issue.

The Committee also agreed to meet again after final regulations were promulgated and/or the District Court decision appeal is resolved.

NWRA Executive Director Carl Bronn participated in the meeting along with President-elect John Rosholt.

IDAHO'S DOMESTIC WELL EXEMPTION: IS IT TIME FOR A CHANGE?

Is it time to reconsider Idaho's long-standing exemption for domestic wells? That is the question that a workgroup of the IWUA Legislative Committee has been asking over the last year.

Under the current law, a water right is not required for "domestic" uses - defined as single home use with irrigation under 1/2 acre and no more than 13,000 acre-feet per day. Importantly, water uses that fit within these limits are not subject to administration in times of water shortage. Although the exact number of domestic uses that are developed in any given year is unknown, it is believed to be well over 2,500/year in recent years.

Each year, the state, water users and others are spending millions of dollars attempting to address stressed and declining ground water supplies. In light of this, some question the sense in allowing essentially unfettered growth of water use through the domestic exemption.

Through its review and discussion over the last year, the workgroup has engaged cities, counties, developers, the Department of Water Resources, and other stakeholders to attempt to find a solution to the concerns raised. Topics discussed include:

1) With over 2,500 new domestic uses each year, there are as many as 1,250 new irrigated acres (1/2 acre each new use) without mitigation. In a time when so much is spent to protect and restore ground water supplies, does this

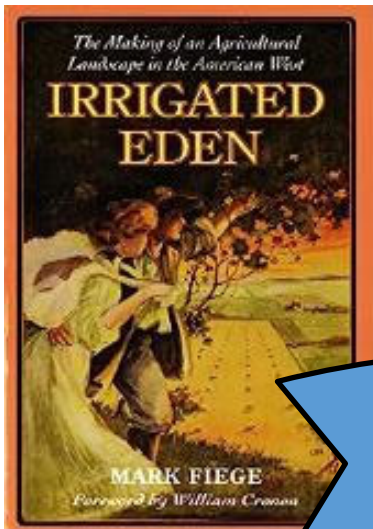
make sense?

2) Is the domestic use exemption fair? For example, while domestic uses are not subject to administration, their neighbors that may use in water pursuant to a community water right will be subject to potential administration during times of shortage.

3) Domestic wells uses are not subject to regulation by DEQ in the same way that community or municipal wells are regulated. More domestic wells means more opportunities for water quality issues to reach the aquifer.

4) Developers feel they have been forced to rely on the domestic well exemption in order to see development take place in a reasonable time. Often, developers see their projects subject to lengthy delays while they litigate their new community well water rights with the Department of Water Resources. To avoid the delay or expense, the developers have resorted to drilling individual domestic wells.

Although the workgroup has discussed several options, further discussions are required to determine a path forward. At this time, no specific path has been determined by the workgroup, which continues to meet and discuss the matter. It is anticipated that, if legislative action is necessary, it will be presented during the 2024 session.



IWUA COMMON READ

In each IWUA Newsletter, we will recommend a book that will expand your perspective on western water.

IRRIGATED EDEN
BY MARK FIEGE



Julie Sievers is presented the Karen Joy Edwards Hall of Fame.



WESTERN WATER SUMMIT

Join NWRA this summer for the Western Water Summit on August 2-4, 2023. The meeting is in Medora, North Dakota, near the Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

To register, and for more information, visit www.nwra.org

COMMITTEE UPDATES

VISIT WWW.IWUA.ORG FOR 2023 COMMITTEE ROSTERS

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Committee Chair: Barney Metz

Did you know that IWUA has adopted a resolution addressing cloud seeding? Resolution 2023-19: Cloud Seeding, was adopted by IWUA members during the 86th Annual Convention. This resolution recognizes the importance of cloud seeding as part of the State's and water users' ongoing efforts to provide sufficient, sustainable water supplies. You can review this and IWUA's other resolutions at www.iwua.org.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Committee Chair: Heather Rice

Educating members is one of the most important aspects of IWUA's mission. The Education Committee is excited to provide workshops, seminars and conventions to help with this education. Please reach out to a member of the education committee if you have ideas for topics and any of these events.

RURAL & URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Committee Chair: Jay Barlogi

The Committee continues to work to provide tools for IWUA members to help with their rural / urban interactions. Visit www.iwua.org for the Ditch Smart videos - a series of short videos providing answers to some of the most commonly asked ditch-related questions. Feel free to share these videos as you see fit (i.e. on your webpage, social media, etc.). Let's get the word out!

WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

Committee Chair: Jason Brown

WOTUS Rule Stayed in Idaho & Texas: On March 19 a federal judge in Texas granted a preliminary injunction to the States of Idaho and Texas freezing the Biden Administration's recently released Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule. The rule, which was to take effect on March 20, will now be paused in Idaho pending further consideration by the Court.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Committee Chair: Ron Platt

After another successful legislative session, the Committee is catching its breath. We will fire back up for the 2024 legislative session in late summer. If you have any ideas for possible legislation, please let Ron Platt, committee chair, or Paul Arrington know.

NOMINATING & AWARDS COMMITTEE

Committee Chair: Ruth Bailes

During the Annual Convention, water users were reminded of the amazing people in our community. We honored 14 individuals who have improved the water community through their hard work and dedication. This included Mark Limbaugh, Ted Diehl Award for Meritorious Service and Julie Sievers, into the Karen Edwards Hall of Fame, to name a few.



Louis Thiel is presented the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Heather Grubaugh, Cheyenne Fernlund, Carl Hayes are awarded the Outstanding Employee Award.



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