

**EIWRC Meeting Board Minutes
IGWA Offices, Idaho Falls, Idaho
July 13, 2023**

Present: Bob Turner, Don Dixon, Brad Buttars, Skyler Johns, Mayor Marc Carroll, Mayor Donald Powell, Mayor Curtis Thomas, Mayor Rebecca Casper, Roger Warner, Keith Davidson, Keith Esplin, David Richards, Tracy Bono, Bradley Peterson, Princeton Lee, and Mayor Steve Adams and Jeff Raybould on Zoom.

Marc Carroll moved to approve the minutes of the June 1 meeting. Approved.

Bob Turner moved to approve payment of an invoice from Rocky Mountain Environmental for some \$14,000 and from Keith Esplin for around \$1,400. Motion approved.

Farmland Reserve (Canyon Falls Farms, American Falls) welcomed as a new member.

Keith gave the current water report. Upper Snake System reached a peak of about 92% physical fill. Most water rights were filled, with the exception of some of the last to fill. American Falls is dropping rapidly, with 150,000 acre-feet of flow augmentation send down river and now Idaho Power's storage water. Overall, we are in a much better situation than last year and will have a much better carryover situation this fall.

Update on the Hearing of the Director's Curtailment Order. No decision issued yet. Expect July revision to be somewhat less.

Update on the IWU Conference in Sun Valley

- ESPA issues were presented by Matt W. He did a good job presenting the issues in a fairly balanced manner with regard to the IGWA/SWC settlement and litigation
- The Nez Pierce Agreement issues were also presented well. It is about the half way mark for this agreement, and emphasis was placed on the parties to and affected by the Agreement need to start working on issues now before the expiration of the Agreement in about 10 years. If anyone wants to see changes to the salmon flow augmentation, then they need to discuss those with the Nez Pierce Agreement folks.
- There was also a great talk on the Great Salt Lake water issues. It discussed balancing recharge with putting additional water into the lake.

Legislators Call for Gubernatorial Action

- About 1/5th of Idaho legislators sent a letter to the Governor requesting he intervene in the SWC water call on ESPA ground water users.
- This resulted in the Governor calling for the Idaho Water Resource Board to host a State-Wide Water Summit on August 7, 2023, in Boise, Lincoln Auditorium.
 - o Topic regions include: the ESPA, Treasure valley, Wood River valley, northern Idaho, water supply, try to educate people state-wide, may follow up with regional meetings.

- ESPA issues will tentatively be addressed by: Jackson Higgs, Alan Jackson; Jay Barlogi, Dan Davidson; Water supply will be addressed by IDWR.
- o Jeff Raybould read a Tentative AGENDA that covers:
 - 2023 surface water supply, GW source review
 - Streamflow patterns
 - Cloudseeding
 - Elmore County, Mountain Home Aquifer
 - Cities, tribes, utilities perspective
 - ESPA discussion
 - Murphy Gauge
 - Palouse Aquifer
 - Treasure valley
 - Wood River
- Summit will focus on issues affecting the entire state.
- The Coalition should be present and active in the Summit
- Need to be messaging the same thing “drought resilience”
- **Mayor Casper moved for two members of leadership to represent the Coalition formal; and the Coalition develop talking points we can all distribute in preparation for summit; Mayor Powell seconded; the motion carried.**

Update on SWC Water Delivery Call

- Mitigation is being negotiated between SWC and IGWA
- A four-day hearing with experts testifying about the Fifth Amended Methodology Order occurred on June 6-9, 2023.
- Discussions are still ongoing between IGWA and SWC; the Coalition supports ongoing communication;
- There are ground water users who are not part of a mitigation plan, and this new methodology order will reach more ground water users on average.

Legislative Water College Tour

- **Mayor Casper moved that the Coalition donate \$500 to the IWUA water college tour and that Keith Esplin attend the tour representing EIWRC; Mayor Carrol seconded; the Motion carried.**

Future EIWRC Events

- There is a growing concern among commerce and industry folks over the water issues on the ESPA raised by the recent changes to the Director’s methodology order.
- The Coalition should sponsor a meeting hosting ag businesses and commerce and industry folks.
- Bigger player would be the food processors, Idahoan, Anheuser-Busch, have expressed concerns.
- Terresa McKnight with REDI may be a group we reach out on this issue.
- Discussed annual meeting addressing these issues from perspective of commerce and industry folks

Report on Domestic Well Issue

- Nothing new at this time, but will continue to monitor.
- Allow for development outside of municipalities. Avoid city tax. This urban development outside cities makes it more economically attractive. Will eat away at good farm production. Cities can get the water that developers need.
 - o Interface of counties and cities working well or not working well affects this as well.
- Individual sewer is also an issue.
- This can be part of the drought resiliency plan.

East Idaho Think Tank

- Committee has been formed by the Department of Water
- Will continue to attend meetings and have influence in discussions on ground water management plan for the ESPA.

Next Meeting

- Will not have August 2023 board meeting. Next meeting September 7, 2023. Blackfoot, Idaho.

Meeting Adjourned