

EIWRC BOARD MEETING
Thursday, October 5, 2023, 11:30 a.m.
Rexburg City Council Chambers
35 N 1st East, Rexburg, ID
Minutes

1. Present: Mayor Marc Carroll, Skyler Johns, Keith Davidson, David Richards, Mayor Jerry Merrill, Princeton Lee, Mayor Steven Adams, Roger Warner, Mayor August Christensen, Marnette Herndon, Brad Buttars, Jeff Raybould, Bob Turner, Aaron Dalling, Mayor Rebecca Casper, Keith Esplin (telephone).
2. Welcome – Roger Warner
3. Administrative Business
 - a. Minutes of July 13 and September 7 board meetings
 - i. **Mayor Adams moved to approve; seconded Mayor Carrol, the motion carried**
 - b. Bills to be approved
 - i. No bills presented for approval.
 - ii. Discussed adjusting city membership dues. May need ground water districts to take a larger share of the load.
 - iii. Need to make a decision in November; suggested a smaller committee take a look at the issue to prepare for November vote.
4. Updates/Developments
 - a. Current Water Situation – Keith
 - i. Rains since early August have improved storage outlook. Fremont Madison is storing water earlier than normal.
 - ii. We are approximately 1.2 million acre-feet ahead of last year.
 - iii. 70% likelihood of a strong El Nino (which may or may not be positive for us.)
 - iv. Bear Lake is storing water right now as well.
 - b. Report on First meeting of ESPA GMA Advisory Committee
 - i. It was positive; James Cefalo did a good job managing it
 - ii. Folks are staking out their territory.
 - iii. Seems to be some willingness to work together; but it is early on.
 - iv. The Director is over the Committee because he has the responsibility to implement the ground water management plan.
 - c. IDWR Director Mat Weaver to attend board meeting November 9 in Idaho Falls:
 - i. Second Thursday in November. Will be at the Idaho Falls City Council Chambers. Plan on being there around two hours.
 1. Will want to hear from him, but we need to share out concerns with him.
 - ii. Will need to have discussion and vote on dues.
 - iii. Please have questions planned
 1. May want to send some questions to Matt beforehand so he has time to consider them.

2. Hearing officer questions, his vision for the department, etc.
 3. May have him provide summary of advisory committee for GWMP.
 4. What can EIWRC do to help him?
 - iv. May want to put together a bio, info email, and send to the leadership; have people register so that we have an idea how to set the room up.
 - v. Need to hold elections and send out dues (for tax purposes).
 - d. SWC / IGWA Negotiations
 - i. November 2, 2023.
 - ii. Try to come up with a consensus on what direction they need to head.
 - e. Coalition ESPA Conjunctive Management Key Tenants – Keith
 - i. Paragraph 1, sharpen the language. (e.g., “Idaho’s growth in its population and economy require more effective management of its water resources.”)
 - ii. Roger reviewed the talking points.
 - iii. Need to wordsmith 3 and 6 to be more in support of policy efforts and individual efforts the soften or avoid “draconian” curtailment.
 - iv. Strike last clause of paragraph 4 referring to entities making water delivery calls.
 - v. Mayor Casper will work on paragraph 7.
 - vi. State water board will likely not follow number 8; The zero-flow concept comes from the state water plan statement that no one below Milner can make a call for water. Idaho power will not participate in cloud seeding if they don’t receive the spill benefit. This may not be a position we want to take. The State’s water plan should be followed as much as is practicable with regard to keeping water in the basin.
 - f. Governor Cox invited to speak at IWUA Conference in January.
 - i. Keith and Roger have meeting with Paul
 - ii. May invite the association of cities as a co-sponsor.
 - iii. Other panelists to suggest to Paul?
 - g. Representative Horman’s bill on IDWR
 - i. Changing hearing officer selection
 - ii. Will discuss with Matt Weaver when he is here.
 - h. Revised Resolution from Representative Julianne Young
 - i. Not yet prepared to vote.
 - ii. Need to know longer term plans for legislation and who will be supporting it.
 - i. Plans for Annual Coalition meeting in December & date
 - i. Nice lunch or dinner meeting mostly for board – include elections
 - j. Domestic Well Issue continues to advance
 - k. Other business from board members
5. Goals for 2023
- a. Conduct water education for legislators regarding SWC / IGWA agreement and ESPA GMA plans
 - b. Monitor and participate in the ESPA Groundwater Management Area process

- c. Continue to fund an expert to participate on the ESPA Aquifer Modeling Committee
 - d. Help non-city municipal water providers find a better path to be a part of the SWC agreement and ESPA GMA
 - e. Update and utilize the Coalition's website
6. EIWRC Directors' 2023 Schedule:
- a. Next ESPA GMA Advisory Committee Meeting, October 23
 - b. Next Board meeting November 9 in Idaho Falls
7. Meeting Adjourns