

EIWRC BOARD MEETING
Thursday, January 4, 202, 11:30 a.m.
Bingham Groundwater District Office
1725 Riverton Rd, Blackfoot, ID 83221
Draft Minutes

1. Welcome – Roger Warner, Present: Roger Warner, Keith Esplin, Bob Turner, Marynette Herndon, David Richards, Adam Young, Amy McKoon, Dean Mortimer, Mayor Marc Carroll, Princeton Lee, David Cottle, Mayor Rebecca Casper, Alan Jackson, Brad Buttars, Payton Hampton, Tony Dixey, Tracy Hillman, and on Zoom: Jeff Raybould, Aaron Dalling, and Dylan Anderson.
2. Administrative Business
 - a. **Mayor Carroll moved to approve the minutes of the December 7 board meeting. Motion seconded and approved.**
 - b. **Bob Turner moved to approve payment of invoices from Keith Esplin and Amy McKoon. Motion was seconded and approved.**
 - c. Dues rate for Groundwater Districts. **Brad Buttars moved to increase the dues rate for Groundwater Districts to one cent per acre. Motion was seconded and approved.**
3. Updates/Developments
 - a. **Current Water Situation** – Keith reported that the Upper Snake Reservoirs currently hold over 1.3 million acre-feet more than last year. However, the current snowpack on the Henry’s Fork and South Fork is around 62% of average, the lowest of the last 30-year record. Hopefully predicted snow over the next two weeks will start to turn that around.
 - b. **Report on latest meeting of ESPA GMA Advisory Committee. Jan. 2.** The meeting reviewed the CAMP process. James Cefalo told the committee that IDWR will not be providing them an acre-feet goal for balancing use on the ESPA, that is the committee’s responsibility. He also said that recovery of the ESPA is needed from the committee. The discussion centered around the idea that it will take some time, perhaps a 10-year rolling average to accomplish that. The committee was not interested in reviewing specific goals. Conversation was more amenable than in previous meetings. The next meeting will be a presentation from Mike McVay of IDWR on ESPA levels and how they are calculated.
 - c. **SWC / IGWA Negotiations.** There are no SWC / IGWA negotiations on-going. Most of the groundwater districts are submitting their own mitigation plans to IDWR.
 - d. **Administrative Procedures Bill – options.** The board agreed that changes in how IDWR conducts administrative procedures is needed. IGWA is working on some options. However, Director Weaver is showing that he will use more out-side hearing officers, so the board declined to support Representative Horman’s bill to remove the IDWR exemption from the State’s administrative hearing program. We will continue to closely monitor this issue.

- e. **Self-help Bill – IWUA Roger** explained the background of this difficult issue. Court rulings have made it necessary for legislation to affirm the rights of canals to maintain and repair their easements, particularly where they cross cities. The proposed legislation has attracted the attention of the Association of Idaho Cities, which is concerned about the rights of cities. There is no easy solution. It's hard to legislate proper etiquette between different interests.
- f. **Coalition ESPA Conjunctive Management Key Tenets.** Board members will give feed back to Keith, who will forward the revised document to all to review.
- g. **Rule 50 Elimination.** This is the rule that currently defines the boundaries of the ESPA. There are many that want to eliminate the rule to bring tributary basins into the discussions and regulations of the ESPA. Caution is needed to avoid unintended consequences. The Association of Idaho Cities says there are statewide implications to legislation being proposed.
- h. **Domestic Well Issue** There is a lot of pressure, including from the Speaker's office, to move this forward. How to mitigate for new community system wells is one of the difficult points.
- i. **Setting 2024 Goals.** Some suggestions were given for modifying the 2023 Goals for 2024. Keith will write up the suggestions and forward to the board.

4. EIWRC Directors' 2024 Schedule:

- a. IWUA Annual Conference Jan 15-18.
- b. Next Board meeting will be hosted by the City of Idaho Falls in February

5. Meeting Adjourned