

EIWRC BOARD MEETING
Thursday, April 11, 2024, 11:30 a.m.
Ball Ventures Conference Room
2194 Snake River Parkway Suite #300 Idaho Falls, ID 83402
Meeting Minutes

Present: Skyler Johns, Dean Mortimer, Payton Hampton, Keith Esplin, Roger Warner, Alan Jackson, Princeton Lee, Mayor Carrol, David Richards, Marynette Herndon, Brad Buttars, Bob Turner. On Zoom: Mayor Casper, Adam Young, Dylan Anderson, and Don Dixon

1. **Welcome** – Roger Warner thanked Ball Ventures for hosting the meeting and explained how they were instrumental in organizing the Coalition.
2. **Administrative Business**
 - a. Dean Mortimer moved to approve minutes of the March 7 Board meeting.
Approved.
 - b. Roger asked for a vote to approve invoices of \$1,526 for Keith and \$179 for Amy.
Motion was approved.
 - c. Budget Committee Report – Alan Jackson
 - i. Presented 2024 Budget proposal
 - ii. Discussed increasing assessments for cities and irrigation districts.
 - iii. Discussed the mission of the organization and the need to ensure that the organization is continually pursuing that mission.
 - iv. The Board will address what the increases in assessments will be at later date.
 - v. Discussed how to obtain more sponsorship or fundraising to ensure sufficient funds are available to fulfill the organization’s mission.
 - vi. Motion made by Dean Mortimer that the Subcommittee, formed at March 2024 Board Meeting, add Brad Buttars and Dean Mortimer, and that Brad Buttars, Dean Mortimer, Keith Esplin, Roger Warner, Alan Jackson, and David Richards meet prior to the May Board Meeting to formulate a budget proposal with possible increases and fundraising recommendations for the Board; the motion was seconded by Brad Buttars; and the motion carried.
3. **Updates/Developments**
 - a. Current Water Situation – Keith
 - i. BOR is predicting flows at Heise are 102% up from 94%.
 - ii. Sending flows past Milner, as high as 6,000 cfs.
 - iii. Canals in Magic Valley are working hard to expand recharge. Aberdeen-Springfield and other canals in East Idaho are recharging as well.
 - iv. Board member made a request for a report on all the recharge that is occurring was requested; board will receive a recharge report from now on when available.
 - b. Report on separate meetings of ESPA GMA Advisory Comm. with James Cefalo

- i. There are positive discussions on the whole. James Cefelo is moderating the separate meetings well, trying to bring folks together, but still big issues unsettled.
- ii. However, SWC does not want to permit ground water districts to offset their pumping with recharge, either in-season or into the future.
- iii. There is a group currently reviewing the ESPAM model.
- iv. Sentinel Well Levels are also a hot topic for discussion.
- v. Discussed how the EIWRC can advance the message of having all water users to cooperate on a solution.
 - 1. **Potential Action Item:** When the April Forecast comes out, we will put together a bullet point letter, send to legislators, industry folks, banks, dealerships, etc., May also use this as a Press Release and request a meeting with LT Gov. Bedke and Governor Little.
- c. Upcoming Legal Hearings – Skyler
 - i. Hear Officer Burdick is writing a decision on whether several IGWA district breach the 2015 Settlement Agreement in 2022; there are concerns that the Agreement is being interpreted in a manner that will make compliance near impossible for ground water districts.
 - ii. Judge Wildman is writing a decision on the Fifth Methodology Order; although the right questions were asked by the Judge, there are concerns that the due process issues and the punitive nature in which the methodology order was used by the Department will not be addressed.

4. Next Board meeting will be May 2 in Ammon.

5. Meeting Adjourns