

**EIWRC BOARD MEETING**  
**Thursday, May 7, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**  
**Fremont Madison Irrigation District, 350 N. 6<sup>th</sup> West, St. Anthony, ID**  
**Minutes**

1. Present: Roger Warner, David Richards, Keith Esplin, Mayor Donald Powell, Leisa Moulton, Dean Mortimer, Mayor Jerry Merrill, Keith Davidson, Dylan Anderson, Alan Jackson, Brad Buttars, Karey Hanks, Aaron Dalling, Rebecca Casper, Krist Krein, and Tony La Rosa.
2. **Welcome – Roger Warner**
3. **Administrative Business**
  - a. **Mayor Powell moved to approve the Aril 2 minutes, with one correction, motion seconded and approved.**
  - b. **Keith Davidson moved to approve payment of Keith’s April invoice. Motion seconded and approved.**
  - c. Brad Buttars reported on a meeting of the sponsorship committee. The committee recommends a \$10,000 to \$15,000 budget for sponsorships. Sponsors will be solicited to cover costs of specific events and possibly specific programs. Events would include the annual meeting, Legislative Water College, Luncheon for legislators and other meetings as determined. Different levels will be established, including Platinum; above \$1,000, Gold; \$1,000, Silver; \$500, and Bronze; \$250 and in-kind services.
4. **Updates/Developments**
  - a. Keith discussed the ever-worsening water outlook. Agencies continue to reduce the forecast flow due to difficulty making projections with the warm conditions and very little snow at lower elevations. Water District #01 reports record low priority cuts on the Snake River, with over 200,000 acre-feet of reservoir storage already used. Current natural flow available is 8,300 cfs. 2,000 more is needed to fill all water rights above Blackfoot. An additional 8,000 cfs would be need to fill all rights below Blackfoot and allow more storage water accrual. While natural flow will increase with warmer weather, it is unlikely to add to the storage supply.  
Natural flows are currently at record or near record low levels in both Eastern Idaho and in the reach gains below Blackfoot. Many canals will likely run out of water before the irrigation season is over.
  - b. Aaron Dalling discussed impacts of the current drought on FMID. With record low priority cuts, many canals east of the Henry’s Fork will face early shut-off. Some have turned out now to save what water they have for later. While the Henry’s Fork reservoirs are nearly full, much of the water belongs to the American Falls water right, or will be required to fill last year’s flow augmentation and impacts on the Fort Hall water rights. Aaron explained how a similar year in 1934 led to the formation of the Fremont Madison Irrigation District and subsequent construction of Grassy Lake and Island Park Reservoirs.

- c. Alan Jackson discussed the impacts of situation on Bingham GWD. With record low reach gains below Blackfoot the amount of mitigation rental water next year is sure to rise to 82,000 + acre-feet. IGWA has not yet acquired the required amount of storage water for this year, but expects to be able to. With an early, dry spring it will be difficult for pumpers to stay within their allocation, which is averaged over four years.
- d. Roger reported on Transfer Committee Meeting held in Blackfoot. The meeting was well attended with a good discussion of the problem. The current system needs to be streamlined in order for workable transfers and growth to occur in Eastern Idaho. James Celfalo, from IDWR, was later told he could no longer participate in the discussions by IDWR leadership. A follow-up meeting will be held at the IWUA Water Law Seminar on June 1. A small group is working to develop some ideas to present at that meeting.
- e. The dispute around the inclusion of the Big and Little Lost River Basins in the 2024 Stipulated Settlement Agreement was discussed. The SWC wanted to nearly eliminate the mitigation requirement of the A&B Irrigation District as a condition of approving the new inclusions. An agreement was reached to move forward. There was a lot of consternation about reporting that the Big and Little Lost Districts had been late in filling their mitigation plans. Roger reported that his firm had been working with them for a long time to prepare to meet the deadlines.
- f. Keith Davidson explained the issues surrounding a DEQ lawsuit regarding illegal waste water discharges into the Teton River. Rexburg is working with DEQ to resolve some violations by upgrading the waster water treatment facility. He explained that there was no dumping of raw sewage into the river. The waste was treated and sanitized, but the clarifiers failed to adequately remove the solids as required.
- g. Rebecca Casper and Keith reported on the Snake River Headwaters Symposium in Jackson. The organization has grown to over 300 members, with around 125 member organizations in the last three years. The symposium covered a wide range of topics dealing with the headwaters of the Snake River. The Committee of Nine has been involved, helping them to understand the needs of Idaho Famers, who own most of the water storage rights in Jackson Lake. The organization includes a lot young people who are passionate about a wide range of issues, including pet waste and dust storms from Idaho farms. A speaker from Laramie reported that the trend to warmer temperatures has significantly increased over the last 20 years. Warm winters, such as we just experienced, will likely occur more frequently going forward.
- h. Plans for 2026 Water College Tours with IWUA were briefly discussed. Mayor Powell volunteered to be the contact with Pacific Corp at the Ashton Dam.

## **5. Upcoming Events**

- a. The June 4<sup>th</sup> board meeting will be held at the Bingham Groundwater District office in Blackfoot.
- b. IWUA Water Law Seminar June 1 & 2, Sun Valley
- c. Legislative Water College Tour – September 1.

## **6. Meeting Adjourned**