

**Water District 37 (WD37)
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 8, 2024
1:30 p.m.**

Nance Hall at the Lincoln County Community Center in Shoshone, Idaho

(All meeting documents including agenda, previous meeting minutes, proposed budget, and proposed resolutions are posted on the Department's website at: www.idwr.idaho.gov > Water Rights > Water Districts > Active Districts > Water District 37, and then click on "Big and Little Wood River Drainages including Ground Water")

1:00 p.m. pre-meeting

- Roll call of attendees to establish total meeting attendance: Attendance was taken, via sign in sheets.
- Designation of voting eligibility from those in attendance.

1:30 p.m. meeting - To help this meeting operate more smoothly, a "Nay" vote will be requested on all voted items. The "Yay" vote will then be determined by subtracting the Nay vote number from the number of total eligible voters.

#1 CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION

Watermaster Sunny Healey called the meeting to order at 1:31pm. She introduced the Water District staff, the IDWR staff from Twin Falls in attendance and confirmed that the Water District Board Members were present.

#2 SELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN

Nominations for a chairperson for the 2024 annual meeting were requested.

Motion: Rod Hubsmith nominated Pat McMahon as Chairman of the WD37 2024 Annual Meeting. Motion seconded by Sharon Lee. No other nominations were received. Vote. The motion passed, unopposed.

#3 SELECTION OF MEETING SECRETARY/RECORDER

Nominations for a meeting secretary for the 2024 annual meeting were requested.

Motion: Fred Brossy nominated Marybeth Collins as the secretary/recorder of the WD37 2024 Annual Meeting. Larry Schoen seconded. No other nominations were received. Vote. The motion passed unopposed.

#4 IDWR PRESENTATION ON Cloudseeding

Chairman McMahon announced Kala Golden was unable to attend today. Chairman McMahon spoke to the ongoing efforts of cloudseeding and the efforts to hone in on defining costs, volumes, and benefits for this program. The estimated 2023-2024 season cloudseeding cost for Water District 37 came in at \$100,191. Chairman McMahon invited questions from those in attendance. No immediate questions occurred.

Chairman McMahon noted that each person present had been handed a copy of the drafted minutes, for the January 9, 2023 annual meeting, and time was allowed to ensure review of this document.

There was discussion started by Fred Brossy on cloudseeding reporting and inquiry into whether a daily report was accessible and include: flight schedules, materials used, estimated impacts/results. Pat stated that he would follow up with Kala to inquire about these communications and goals.

Larry Schoen inquired about the 2023 budget line item for cloudseeding, inquiring what actual funds were spent, and if funds collected, but not spent, on cloudseeding were still in the WD37 reserve funds. Brittany Gailey responded, providing that the 23-24 fiscal year was estimated to be \$95,000 for cloudseeding. In actuality, the invoice will be for

\$100,191, overbudget by just over \$5000. The annual billing occurs in spring. The 2024-2025 fiscal budget proposes \$100,000 for cloudseeding.

Carl Pendelton spoke, providing a little additional information regarding cloudseeding costs and contributions. He noted that the RC&D Committee had, several years ago, started a collection from amongst local business for the purpose of cloudseeding participation. He estimated that about \$35,000 will be this spring's likely fiscal support toward the cloudseeding expenses.

Chairman McMahon confirmed again that he will follow up with several items on cloudseeding with Kala.

#5 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

Chairman McMahon called for a motion to approve the drafted Minutes from the January 9, 2023 annual meeting.

Motion: Nick Purdy made a motion to approve the WD37 Minutes for the 2023 Annual Meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Larry Schoen. Vote. The motion carried, unopposed.

#6 ADOPTION OF 2024 BUDGET

Chairman McMahon called for discussion on the proposed budget. The proposed budget was distributed, and Brittany Gailey spoke to drafted 2024 budget, addressing several line items. Changes to the category of salaries and several related items (PERSI, employment taxes for federal and state) is the continued effort to address cost of living impacts. And, in a similar update, medical benefits reflects an increase so that seasonal WD37 staff can be provided coverage.

Some changes in line items which address various monitoring efforts were discussed, related to new equipment. The cloudseeding expense was also referenced. Monitoring and telemetry costs were discussed, as a notable increase.

Larry Schoen requested a little more clarity around the gages which are currently funded, and what changes in action the proposed budget includes. Sunny spoke to ongoing USGS Op-Op and the PivoTrac, a new gage at Ragsdale, and 15 new monitoring devices which include a nominal monthly monitoring fee.

Motion: Nick Purdy made a motion to adopt the WD37 2024 Budget. Motion seconded by Sharon Lee. Vote. The motion passed unopposed.

#7 ADOPTION OF 2024 RESOLUTIONS

Chairperson McMahon called for a motion for the seventeen (17) resolutions proposed for 2024. Watermaster Sunny Healey referenced the Northside Canal Company phasing out, three years into a five-year plan, with incremental reductions each of the next two years.

There was an inquiry by Cooper Brossy regarding the date of the annual meeting. Kevin Lakey spoke to the members referencing timing considerations for WD37 operational success. With this understanding, the existing date for the annual meeting remains acceptable, and no change to Resolution #1 is proposed.

Larry Schoen requested clarification of Resolution 13A, with focus on understanding the actions that the resolution covered. Watermaster Healey confirmed that the three times annually was met in 2023, as was the bi-weekly review of 200 wells.

Motion: Larry Schoen made a motion to approve the resolutions as presented. Fred Brossy seconded the motion.

There was some discussion regarding that the resolution addresses that approximately 600 wells are read at least three times per irrigation season, and 200 additional wells are read every two weeks. Cooper Brossy suggested that the new sentence might be phrased more generally. Additional water monitoring may be necessary per the groundwater management plan to meet the terms. Larry Schoen also supported the revisions discussed for Resolution 13A.

Discussion related to Resolution 13A resumed, and the secretary was asked to read aloud incorporated updated for Resolution 13A: BE IT RESOLVED that in order to ensure accurate data collection, but also control costs, groundwater diversions using meters will be recorded a minimum of three (3) times per year. In addition, water use data collection may be needed per the terms of the Groundwater Management Plan. Diversions that have been allowed power consumption coefficient and time clock variances will be measured and calibrated every three (3) years and the power usage calculated annually.

Motion: Larry Schoen made a motion to withdraw his original motion. Larry then motioned to approve the list of seventeen resolutions to include two updates to Resolution 13A, noting a minimum of three reads per season and incorporating the additional meter reading as determined by the Groundwater Management Plan. "No less than 3 x per year" in Resolution 13a. This was seconded by Fred Brossy. Motion passed, with amendments, unopposed.

#8 CURRENT ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Chairman McMahon confirmed that the existing slate of Board members were willing to stand for the 2024 year and opened the floor for discussion. No nominations occurred and the board was approved.

2024 Advisory Board for Water District 37

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| (2) Big Wood River Representatives: | |
| 1- Above Magic | Sharon Lee |
| 1- Below Magic | Howard Morris |
| (1) Little Wood River/Silver Creek | Nick Purdy |
| (1) Hydropower | Bill Arkoosh |
| (2) Canal Companies/Irrigation Districts | |
| 1- 2023 Rep – American Falls Res. Dist #2 | Rod Hubsmith |
| 1- 2023 Rep – Big Wood Canal Company | Fred Brossy |
| (1) Groundwater Municipals | Pat McMahon |
| (1) Groundwater Small Users (Less / 40 Acres) | Dave Bell |
| (1) Groundwater Large Agricultural (Larger /40 Acres) | Justin Stevenson |

#9 DISTRICT NEWS AND UPDATES

Watermaster Sunny Healey referenced the new Ragsdale gage, which is installed and functioning. She also discussed the Ethos monitoring devices. Sunny noted the success in water conservation reported by Water District 63, which has been using the Ethos system for two years. Brief reference to the current snow/water equivalent of 49% with hopes for the snow forecasted in the next few days. There was a brief discussion on water rights accounting.

Larry Schoen noted that the 2023 meeting provided time for CIEF discussion, and Chairman McMahon confirmed this as news and updates for WD37 members. Larry spoke to the CIEF fund, defining the acronym (conservation, infrastructure, efficiency), referencing his position (Chair), and confirming the availability of funds for projects. He referenced several which have received CIEF funding (Lincoln Bypass. Canal lining, new monitoring equipment) and a partnership with AFRD2. Larry noted that this was year 3 of the BWGWMA and invited members to submit proposals to the CIEF Board, in this third year of a three-year agreement. March and August are deadlines for proposal submittal.

Chairman McMahon asked for any other discussion items, with none presented.

#10 ADJOURN

Motion: Nick Purdy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Cooper Brossy. Call for nays. Motion passed unopposed. Meeting adjourned at 2:23pm

Respectfully,

Patrick McMahon, Chairman

Brittany Gailey, Treasurer

Marybeth Collins, Minutes Secretary