



# IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

## MINUTES MEETING NO. 14-25

Water Center  
Conference Rooms 602 B - D  
322 E. Front Street  
BOISE

November 21, 2025

### Board Meeting No. 14-25

**Brad Little**  
Governor

**Jeff Raybould**  
Chairman  
St. Anthony  
At Large

**Jo Ann Cole-Hansen**  
Vice Chair  
Lewiston  
At Large

**Dean Stevenson**  
Secretary  
Paul  
District 3

**Dale Van Stone**  
Hope  
District 1

**Albert Barker**  
Boise  
District 2

**Brian Olmstead**  
Twin Falls  
At Large

**Marcus Gibbs**  
Grace  
District 4

**Patrick McMahon**  
Sun Valley  
At Large

At 8:01 AM (MT) Chairman Raybould called the meeting to order in Boise, Idaho and on Zoom. The meeting was livestreamed on the Board's YouTube Channel after the executive session.

### Agenda Item No. 1: Roll Call

#### *Board Members Present*

Jeff Raybould, Chairman  
Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, Vice Chairman  
Marcus Gibbs  
Patrick McMahon  
Brian Olmstead  
Dean Stevenson, Secretary  
Dale Van Stone

#### *Staff Members Present*

Mat Weaver  
Brian Patton  
Cynthia Bridge Clark  
Matt Anders  
Nick Banish  
Justin Ferguson  
Wesley Hipke  
Neeley Miller  
Corri Parsley  
Spencer Patton  
Craig Saxton  
Amy Cassel, *online*  
John Loffredo, *online*

#### *Public Present*

Brian Murdock  
John Williams  
Al Grant

### **Agenda Item No. 2: Executive Session**

At 8:03 AM, Mr. Stevenson moved to resolve into executive session pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206(1) subsection (f) to communicate with legal counsel regarding legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated Mr. Van Stone seconded. **Roll call vote**: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

Mr. Stevenson moved to resolve out of executive session at 9:25 AM. Mr. Van Stone seconded. **Voice vote**: All in favor. The motion carried. The executive session was closed to the public, and no action was taken during the executive session.

### **Agenda Item No. 3: Public Comment**

At this time, Brian Murdock with Murdock Farms addressed the Board to deliver public comment speaking on the non-diversion agreement with Idaho Power, his recent delegation meeting in Washington D.C., and the level of growth versus the number of reservoirs in the state. Next, John Williams with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) provided his comments to the Board regarding the recent preliminary injunctions filed by environmental groups related to the Columbia River Operations Case, affirmed the financial condition of BPA—despite a challenging water year, and lastly comments on BPA’s Residential Exchange Program.

With no other public comment, Chairman Raybould moved to Agenda Item No. 4.

### **Agenda Item No. 4: Financial Report**

Senior Planner, Neeley Miller provided a summary financial report, as of October 31, 2025, on the Idaho Water Resources Boards available and committed balances. Said funds were reported as follows: Secondary Aquifer Fund: cash balance \$40,409,425, committed \$25,050,443, and uncommitted \$15,358,982; Revolving Development Account: cash balance \$36,381,094, committed balance \$24,485,588, loan principal outstanding \$23,010,596, and uncommitted balance \$11,895,506; and Water Management Account: cash balance \$343,721,791, total committed funds \$346,069,553, and uncommitted funds \$-2,347,762.

### **Agenda Item No. 5: Water Management Account and Secondary Fund Spending Plans**

Introducing the agenda item, IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton introduced the item conveying that the Financial Programs Committee spent quite a bit of time reviewing the items in preparation for the Board’s consideration. As such, two resolutions are being presented for the Board to consider which would modify both the Spending Plan for the Secondary Aquifer Fund and the Water Management Account. Mr. Patton suggested that the Board address the Secondary Aquifer Fund first.

Mr. Patton conveyed that the net effect of the resolution would be to restore the 3 percent reduction that the Board had originally approved and taken out of the Secondary Fund Spending Plan.

Mr. Van Stone moved to adopt the resolution to amend the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget in the matter of Amending the Statewide Water Sustainability and Aquifer Stabilization, and the Secondary Aquifer Stabilization, and Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management, and Implementation Fund Fiscal Year 2026 Budget. Mr. Olmstead seconded. **Roll call vote**: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye;

Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

Continuing, Mr. Patton moved to the Water Management account, whereby he reported that in addition to restoring the 3 percent holdback this resolution makes some additional funding commitments and minor edits/modifications to the subject resolution.

Mr. Van Stone moved to adopt the resolution to Approve the Second Amended Fiscal Year 2026 Water Management Account Spending Plan in the matter of the Idaho Water Resource Board's Water Management Account. Mr. Olmstead seconded. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

#### **Agenda Item No. 6: Aging Infrastructure Grant Awards**

IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton introduced the item, noting that it was reviewed thoroughly at the Financial Programs Committee, at which time he invited Senior Planner Neeley Miller to continue staff's presentation.

Mr. Miller addressed the Board and reported that the Finance Committee asked staff to investigate one application and has determined that the information that was brought to staff's attention is indeed correct and will not have a negative impact on the aquifer. As such, Mr. Miller conveyed that the scoring has been updated with a revised recommended funding fund award amount of \$22,919.08.

Mr. Van Stone moved to adopt the resolution to Award Funds in the matter of Aging Infrastructure Grants. Mr. Olmstead seconded. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Barker, aye with a declaration requested that his vote note an abstention from voting on three applications: District 45 Board of Control, Upper Wood River Valley, and the Boise Project Board of Control. Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye with a declaration that she is no longer affiliated with LOID; Mr. Gibbs, aye with an abstention on the Last Chance Canal Co. application; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye with an abstention on the Freemont Madison Irrigation District and the Henry's Fork GWD applications, 8 ayes. The motion passed.

#### **Agenda Item No. 7: Proposed State Water Plan & ESPA CAMP Changes**

Senior Planner Neeley Miller addressed the Board to report on the agenda item. Mr. Miller announced that as the Board is aware the legislature recently passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 110, which supports the 2024 Stipulated Mitigation Plan between water users and the Idaho Water Resource Board to enhance water management in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA). Moreover, it focuses on revising the State Water Plan to establish specific recharge goals for the aquifer and improving the management of its connection to the Snake River.

Following the Public Hearings and summaries of public comments that were received, Mr. Miller reported that the Planning Committee reviewed the comments for consideration in its update to the State Water Plan and the ESPA Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (CAMP). Following the identification of Sections 4B, 4D, 4E, and the ESPA CAMP proposed changes, as outlined in the Board's meeting packet, Mr. Miller stood for any questions on said proposed changes.

Following comments from Mr. Barker related to an additional recommended edit to Section 4D, with the addition of a phrase which reads:

*Recognizing a hydraulic connection between the ESPA and the Snake River, the 1986 State Water Plan identified the need conjunctive management of ground and surface water resources. In recent years, the State has implemented scientific measures to increase knowledge of the hydraulic connection between the ESPA and the Snake River, and implemented measures to improve aquifer conditions in, and spring discharge from, the ESPA. In recent years, the State has implemented scientific measures to increase knowledge of the hydraulic connection between the ESPA and the Snake River and implemented measures to improve aquifer conditions in and spring discharge from the ESPA. Including establishing a groundwater management area and a moratorium. Continuation of these efforts is fundamental to ensuring an adequate water supply for existing and future water demands within the Eastern Snake River Basin*

Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution to Approve to Adopt Changes in the Matter of the Changes to the Idaho State Water Plan and the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan, as amended. Mr. Mc Mahon seconded. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahan, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

With no further discussion, Chairman Raybould moved to Agenda Item No. 8.

#### **Agenda Item No. 8: American River Stream Channel Alternation Permits**

Providing historical background, IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised that the item had been discussed by the Planning Committee, which recommended approval of the stream alteration permits related to the South Fork Clearwater Basin Plan. The Plan establishes additional requirements for certain types of stream alterations and prohibits others. He explained that the American River, a tributary within the South Fork Basin, requires approval from the Department of Water Resources Board for certain stream alterations, and a resolution has therefore been presented for the Board's consideration.

Mr. Barker moved to adopt the resolution to Approve Stream Channel Alternations in the matter of the South Form Clearwater Stream Channel Alternation Permit NO. S82-20206 and No. S82-20207. Mr. Stevenson seconded. **Voice vote:** All ayes. Motion carried.

#### **Agenda Item No. 9: ESPA Recharge Program Update**

Technical Programs Supervisor Matt Anders provided a brief review on the status of the Board's recharge program for the season.

Following review and discussion, Chairman Raybould thanked staff for the update and moved to the next order of business.

#### **Agenda Item No. 10: Little Wood River Channel – City of Gooding Flood Control Project**

Joining the meeting via Zoom, Project Manager Amy Cassel provided the Board with a briefing update on the Regional Water Sustainability Project List—City of Gooding's Flood Control Project and a resolution for the Board's consideration to approve additional funding in the amount of \$1,197,000.

Ms. Cassel conveyed that the Finance Committee recommended that the city provide 5 percent of the total increase, which is \$63,000 (\$1.26 million x 5%). The total requested cost share from the IWRB's Regional Sustainability Project List is \$1,197,000.

With no further discussion, Chairman Raybould entertained a motion from the Board.

Mr. Gibbs moved to adopt the resolution to Award Additional funds for the City of Gooding Flood Control Project in the matter of the Regional Water Sustainability Priority List. Mr. Van Stone seconded. **Roll call vote**: Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

**Agenda Item No. 11: IWRB Recharge Water Right Non-Diversion Agreement**

Providing an update on the subject agenda item, IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised that the Water Supply Committee (Committee) recommended the Board approve the resolution in the matter of the Managed Recharge Agreement Not to Divert with the Idaho Power Company. The Committee further recommended that additional language be added to the agreement identified in Section 7 stating that nothing in said agreement is intended to affect the State Water Plan, the Zero Flow at Milner Policy, or the Board's ability to pursue its recharge goal of 350K AF on an annual average basis, or the 1984 Swan Falls Agreement, and 2009 Framework Reaffirming the Swan Fall Settlement.

Ms. Cole-Hansen moved to adopt the resolution authorizing Chairman Raybould to execute the Managed Recharge Agreement Not to Divert with the Idaho Power Company. Mr. Stevenson seconded. **Voice Vote**: All ayes. Motion carried.

Following the unanimous Board vote, a representative from the Idaho Power Company shared comments in thanking the Board for their support of the Non-Diversion Agreement. In closing, the Idaho Power Company extended its gratitude for the Board's leadership through this process.

**Agenda Item No. 12: Cloud Seeding Program Update**

Cloud Seeding Program Manager, Nick Banish provided the Board with an update on the current activity on the Cloud Seeding Program, which commenced on November 1, 2025, and its most recent events. Looking forward, Mr. Banish highlighted that IDWR staff will be coordinating meetings with Water Users (IGWA, WD01, WD37 & WD63) to gain an understanding of their budget, present information on cloud seeding benefits and the increased costs of cloud seeding to reassess the contributions from Water Users to the Collaborative program.

Addressing a question posed by Mr. Barker regarding the Government Accountability Office (GAO) Report, Mr. Banish advised that to his knowledge there is no further activity on the GAO, as it had been published and released a year ago. However, should any updates be announced, staff will keep the Board informed.

At that time, Water Projects Section Manager Wesley Hipke noted that staff had heard last year that the project was moving forward. However, they are now working to obtain additional data for analysis that has been reported to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, where such reports are submitted.

Hearing no further questions from the Board, Chairman Raybould thanked staff for the update.

**Agenda Item No. 13: Upper Salmon L-6 Annual Agreements Renewal**

Addressing the item, IWRB Executive Manager, Brian Patton advised that Transactions Program Manager John Loffredo would be discussing said item and presenting a resolution for the Board's consideration to approve and fund renewal of the proposed short-term agreements not to divert in the lower Lemhi River.

At this time, attending the meeting via Zoom, Mr. Loffredo provided a brief update reporting that staff proposes development of additional short-term agreements not to divert to reduce or eliminate the gap of 15.23 cfs between the permanent and long-term transactions and the 35 cfs flow target. As in previous years, payment will be based on the number of days each irrigator's water deliveries are restricted to meet the minimum flow at a rate of \$110.00/24-hour cfs. He further noted that proposed resolution is subject to the condition that the Board receives the requested funding from the Bonneville Power Administration through the Idaho MOA/Fish Accord Water Transaction Program or the Columbia Basin Water Transaction Fund in an amount up to \$465,811.50.

Ms. McMahon moved to adopt the resolution to Make a Funding Commitment in the Matter of the Lower Lemhi 2026-2028 Water Right Subordination Agreements. Mr. Olmstead seconded. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Barker, aye; Ms. Cole-Hansen, aye; Mr. Gibbs, aye; Mr. McMahon, aye; Mr. Olmstead, aye; Mr. Stevenson, aye; Mr. Van Stone, aye; and Chairman Raybould, aye. 8 ayes. The motion passed.

#### **Agenda Item No. 14: Potential Legislation of Interest**

At this time, Deputy Attorney General Garrick Baxter provided the Board with a briefing on legislation of interest to the Department of Water Resources.

Following review, Chairman Raybould moved to the next order of business.

#### **Agenda Item No. 15: Director's Report**

Director Mat Weaver addressed the Board to provide comments on the Water Supply Bank Program (Program). He explained that, as Director of the Department of Water Resources, a key goal has been to eliminate the year-to-year backlog by developing a new process and ensuring the department has sufficient resources to complete the workload. He noted that this remains a priority; however, staff turnover in positions supporting the Program has made progress challenging.

To address this issue, Mr. Weaver stated that the department has reorganized by consolidating all staff responsible for Water Supply Bank work into a single operating unit within the Water Rights Section. This reorganization includes a Water Right Supervisor, Water Right Principal, Water Right Agent, and two Technical Record Specialists.

Moreover, Mr. Weaver stated that if we can get fully staffed under this new reorganization and keep these resources working, IDWR will see some significant improvements in the numbers. Another added benefit to being fully staffed is we will have the experience to evaluate the processes in place and see what opportunities there are to streamline and improve.

Next, he provided a recap on the Surface Water Coalition (Coalition) delivery call proceeding; whereby, this irrigation season analysis found an injury of 86,756 AF to the carryover volume of storage water that the Coalition is entitled to, which is the largest carryover volume IDWR ever determined.

Moving on, Mr. Weaver shared information related to the evaluation of expanding the area of common groundwater supply for the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer into tributary basins. He advised that two letters would be going out regarding his decision not to move forward with an expansion at this time. As for the other three basins, deliberation continues and we hope to have a decision by the end of the year.

Hearing no questions from the Board, Chairman Raybould moved to Agenda Item No. 16

**Agenda Item No. 16: 2026 Meeting Dates**

Presented for the Board's review and consideration were the 2026 Regular Meeting dates for the 2026 Calendar Year.

The dates were approved, as presented with some changes expected in January with respect to the legislative session and to avoid a conflict in November 2026 with respect to the Soil Water Commissions fall meeting.

Mr. Stevenson moved to approve and accept the 2026 Regular Meeting schedule. Mr. Van Stone seconded. **Voice vote**: All ayes. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item No. 17: Non-Action Items for Discussion**

There were no items to come before the Board.

**Agenda Item No. 18: Next Meeting and Adjourn**

Prior to adjournment, Mr. Patton announced that the Bureau of Reclamation noticed IDWR Board's letter of interest in the WaterSMART Basin Study Program has been selected to proceed to the next phase of the application process.

Mr. Van Stone moved to adjourn. Mr. Mc Mahon seconded. **Voice vote**: All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:58 AM.

Respectfully submitted this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.



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Dean Stevenson, *Secretary*



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Milin J. Ream, *Administrative Assistant II*