



IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Notes 2-26

Idaho Water Center
Conference Rooms 602 B-D
322 East Front Street, Boise, Idaho 83720

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

March 9, 2026

Chair Cole-Hansen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Agenda Item No. 1: Introductions and Attendance

Attendees included Chair Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, Committee members Jeff Raybould (online), March Gibbs (online), Dale Van Stone (online), and Dean Stevenson (online); Board members Albert Barker (online), Brian Olmstead (online), and Patrick McMahon (online) were also in attendance. Staff members in attendance were Brian Patton, Ann Yribar (online), Cynthia Bridge Clark, Wesley Hipke, Justin Ferguson, Neeley Miller, Mary Condon, Jennifer Sukow, and Milin Ream. Guests at the meeting included Hattie Zobott and Molly Gould (online) with Ardurra, Matt Stewart with Aberdeen Springfield Canal Company (online), David Parks with Little Wood Irrigation District, Bill Millenkamp with Raft River Irrigation District, John Simpson with SWC, Shawna Adams and Dan Davidson with Minidoka Irrigation District (online), Don Terry with Burley Irrigation District (online), Matt Darrington (online) and Stephen Anderson with Civil Science (online), Ben Sandberg with Franson Civil Engineers (online), and Wade Olorenshaw with Farmers Land & Irrigation Company (online).

Agenda Item No. 2: Idaho Department of Wate Resources budget Update

IWRB Executive Manager Brian Patton provided the Committee with a verbal update on the Idaho Department of Water Resources budget.

Agenda Item No. 3: Water Management Account Spending Plan

Continuing to the next Agenda item, Planning and Projects Bureau Chief Cynthia Bridge-Clark provided the Committee with a summary review of the Water Management Account Spending Plan.

Agenda Item No. 4: Aberdeen Springfield Canal Company Regional Water Sustainability Project Proposal

Senior Planner Neeley Miller provided a brief introduction to the Aberdeen Springfield Canal Company (ASCC) item, whereby he invited Hattie Zobott and Molly Gould with Ardurra to walk through a PowerPoint (PP) presentation on their Regional Water Sustainability Project proposal.

Following a lengthy review and discussion period, Chair Cole-Hansen entertained a motion from the Committee.

Mr. Van Stone moved to table the item for a subsequent Finance Committee meeting, requesting that ASCC provide the support letters for their projects, along with additional information supporting their projects recharge reliability and the proposed project's impact on other water users. Mr. Gibbs seconded. **Voice Vote:** All ayes. Motion carried.

Agenda Item No. 5: Little Wood Canal Company Regional Water Sustainability Project Proposal

Senior Planner Neeley Miller again introduced Hattie Zobott with Ardurra to provide a review of Little Wood Canal Company's Regional Water Sustainability Project proposal. Ms. Zobott walked through a series of PowerPoint slides which included:

- Proposed Projects
- Revenues
- Beneficial Use – *Bureau of Reclamation Schematic*
- Water Savings (Freed Up for Purposes Management)
- Cost Estimate
- Project Benefits

Following review and discussion, David Parks with Little Wood River Irrigation District shared some comments with the Committee.

With no further review or discussion, Chair Cole Hansen entertained a motion.

Mr. Raybould moved to table the item for a future meeting, requesting that the Little Wood Irrigation Company provide the support letters for their projects, along with demonstrated information that their projects would not have any negative impacts. Mr. Gibbs seconded. **Voice Vote:** All ayes. Motion carried.

Agenda Item No. 6: Raft River Loan and Regional Water Sustainability Project Proposal

Project Manager Justin Ferguson introduced Hattie Zobott with Ardurra to provide a PowerPoint review of the Raft River Loan and Regional Water Sustainability Project Proposal.

At this time, Ms. Zobott reviewed a series of slides that included information on:

- Project Background
- Raft River Watershed
- Special Funding Mechanism PL-88-566
- Project Deception and Benefits
- Raft River Irrigation District Formation – 7 Formed
- Project Timeline and Schedule

Following review, a question-and-answer session took place. Matt Darrington, legal counsel for Raft River Irrigation District, provided additional information and comments to the Committee.

With no further discussion, Chair Cole-Hansen entertained a motion.

Mr. Raybould moved to recommend the Board adopt a resolution adopting contract terms and conditions in the Matter of the Raft River Irrigation District Project, with the caveat that legal counsel review the Raft River Board residency matter to ensure that there is no exposure. Mr. Van Stone seconded. **Voice Vote:** All ayes. Motion carried.

Agenda Item No. 7: Minidoka Irrigation District Surface Water Coalition Operations Efficiencies Project Proposal

Project Manager Justin Ferguson introduced the item providing some background that the Minidoka Irrigation District (MID) is requesting funding support for their South Side Project, including repairing their existing F-Waste syphon structure, improving and automating three existing check structures, and piping sections of the existing laterals extending from the main canal.

At this time, Engineer Jennifer Sukow provided a recap of her hydrologic review and anticipated impacts, particularly to the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer.

Next, Dan Davidson and Shawna Adams with MID provided additional information and clarification on their project proposal. Ms. Adams stressed that the overall goal is to eliminate uncontrolled losses. Don Terry with Burley Irrigation District also shared information on the F-Waste syphon structure.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Stevenson moved to forward to the Board for approval the automation check structure piece and F-Waste repair portion. It was seconded by Mr. Raybould, and discussion continued.

Following review and additional discussion, Mr. Stevenson withdrew his motion, and Mr. Raybould withdrew his second. The Committee provided direction to staff to conduct additional research as to which IWRB grant programs the MID projects would be best suitable under.

Agenda Item No. 8: Farmers Land & Irrigation Company Loan

Introducing the Agenda item, Project Manager Justin Ferguson recapped that Farmers Land & Irrigation Company (FLIC) is requesting a new loan in the amount of \$40,000 from IWRB to install a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system at their existing Soda Creek Diversion. Specifically, FLIC will install a downstream flume, headgate actuators, measurement sensors, and SCADA-specific integrations software to provide the Company with automated diversion controls. These improvements would allow FLIC to more precisely control flows through the canal and to its patrons. FLIC currently holds an existing IWRB loan for \$185,333. The request is to consolidate the existing loan and the proposed loan into a new loan for \$225,333.

Following comments from Wade Olorenshaw with Farmers Land & Irrigation Company, and a review of the proposed resolution, Chair Cole-Hansen entertained a motion from the Committee.

Mr. Gibbs moved to recommend the Board adopt a resolution to authorize loan funding for costs related to the installation of automation hardware and loan consolidation in the matter of the Farmers Land & Irrigation Company Loan Request. Mr. Raybould seconded. **Voice Vote:** All ayes. Motion carried.

Agenda Item No. 9: Other Items

There was no other business to come before the Committee.

Agenda Item No. 10: Adjourn

Mr. Raybould moved to adjourn. Mr. Stevenson seconded. **Voice Vote:** All ayes. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:38 pm.

Committee Members: Chair Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, Jeff Raybould, Marc Gibbs, Dale Van Stone, and Dean Stevenson.

Respectfully submitted by Milin J. Ream, Administrative Assistant to the Board.