



IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PRIEST LAKE OPERATIONS

Notes 1-26

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118 Main Street
Priest River, Idaho 83856

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July 13, 2026

Chairman Pat McMahon called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. (PT)

Agenda Item No. 1: Introductions and Attendance

Attendees included Chairman Pat McMahon, Committee members Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, and Dale Van Stone. Board members Dean Stevenson and Brian Olmstead (online) were also in attendance. Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) Staff members in attendance were Cynthia Bridge Clark, Ann Yribar (online), Mike Morrison (online), Jake Vermas, Josh Morell, Amy Cassel, Michelle Richman, Bill Cresse, Milin Ream (online) and Kara Ferguson (online). Online guests at the meeting included David Perkins with the Idaho Office of the Attorney General.

Agenda Item No. 2: Priest Lake Outlet Dam Introduction and History

IDWR Project Manager Amy Cassel provided a PowerPoint presentation on the historical background of the Priest Lake Outlet Dam and its ownership and operations. Moreover, Ms. Cassel provided an emphasis on the current operations, as guided by Idaho Law, water rights, and policies defined by the IWRB responsibilities.

Agenda Item No. 3: Priest Lake Outlet Dam Operations – Lake & River System Management Best Practices Manual

Addressing the Committee, IDWR Northern Regional Manager Michelle Richman presented a PowerPoint explaining the framework used to guide day-to-day operational decisions for the Priest Lake Outlet Dam. She described how operational decisions are informed by current hydrologic conditions, monitoring data, stakeholder input, and applicable legal requirements.

Agenda Item No. 4: Priest Lake Operations – Water Supply Forecasting Protocol

IDWR Hydrologist Josh Morell provided a PowerPoint presentation describing the forecasting tools and decision-making process used before, during, and after spring runoff to estimate water availability and inform operational decisions at the Priest Lake Outlet Dam.

Agenda Item No. 5: Priest Lake Operations – 2026 Season Update

IDWR Engineer Bill Cresse presented an overview of current hydrologic conditions and provided a summary of 2026 water management operations to date. He also outlined anticipated summer and fall operations, explaining how continued very dry conditions are expected to influence water management decisions for the remainder of the season.

Agenda Item No. 6: Public Comment

At this time, Chair McMahon reviewed the public comment protocol, outlined the speaking guidelines, and invited members of the public to address the Committee. Individuals who wished to speak were recognized in turn and provided the opportunity to share their comments.

Following the conclusion of public comments, Chair McMahon thanked all speakers for taking the time to provide their feedback, perspectives, and input. He noted the Committee's appreciation for public participation and acknowledged that the comments received would become part of the meeting record.

At this time, Ms. Cole-Hansen moved to recommend IDWR staff review the comments provided and received, consider potential changes or develop staff recommendations to be presented to the Committee for review at a later date. Mr. Van Stone seconded. **Voice Vote:** All ayes. Motion carried.

Agenda Item No. 7: Non-Action Items for Discussion

There was no other business to come before the Committee.

Agenda Item No. 8: Adjourn

Ms. Cole-Hansen moved to adjourn. Mr. Van Stone seconded. **Voice Vote:** Three ayes. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:54 p.m. (PT)

Committee Members: Chairman Pat McMahon, Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, and Dale Van Stone.

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