IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

MINUTES
MEETING NO. 8-26

Springhill Suites
Teton Room
1177 S. Yellowstone Hwy.
REXBURG, ID 83440

August 6, 2026
WORK SESSION

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 8:30 AM (MT) Chairman Raybould called the meeting to order in Rexburg Idaho and on Zoom.

Agenda Item No. 1: Roll Call

Board Members Present:
Jeff Raybould, Chairman
Jo Ann Cole-Hansen, Vice Chairman
Albert Barker
Marcus Gibbs
Patrick McMahon
Brian Olmstead
Dale Van Stone
Dean Stevenson, Secretary

IDWR Staff Members Present:
Mathew Weaver, Director
Brian Patton, Deputy Director and IWRB Executive Manager
Cynthia Bridge Clark
Wesley Hipke
James Cefalo
Mary Condon
Cooper Fritz
Milin Ream
Nick Miller, Online
Justin Ferguson, Online
Amy Cassel, Online
Benjamin Camp, Online
Mike Morrison, Online
Jake Vermas, Online

Others Present:
George Hitz, Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Brian Murdoc, Murdock Farms
John Williams, Bonneville Power Authority
Steve Stuebner

Michael Fuss, Stantec
Tammy Scardino, Idaho PBS
Sean Jordan, Hummingbird Engineering
Will Stubblefield, Friends of the Teton Range
Mike Hilliard, United States Bureau of Reclamation
Ryan Alcorn, United States Bureau of Reclamation
Jace Pulson, Bonneville-Jefferson Groundwater District
Rebekah Triolo, United States Bureau of Reclamation, Online
Kennan Arnold, United States Bureau of Reclamation, Online
Chris Regilsker, United States Bureau of Reclamation, Online

Agenda Item No. 2: Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission Agency Overview

George Hitz Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) Operations Manager/Deputy District Director provided a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the history and operations of the SWCC.

Agenda Item No. 3: Upper Snake River Basin Study Update

Joining the Work Session via Zoom, IDWR Project Manager Amy Cassel provided a brief introduction to the item and reviewed the project timeline and key events. Ms. Cassel then introduced Rebekah Triolo, Project Manager with the United States Bureau of Reclamation, who joined via Zoom and reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the status of the Snake River Basin Study process and anticipated next steps.

With no further review or questions, Chairman Raybould moved to the next order of business.

Agenda Item No. 4: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Teton Dam Presentation

Joining the meeting via Zoom, Kennan Arnold and Chris Regilsker with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) provided the Board with an in-depth review of the history and events surrounding the Teton Dam. Their presentation included an overview of the dam's planning, design, construction, and operation, as well as the events leading up to the June 5, 1976, failure of the dam. They discussed the circumstances surrounding the failure, the resulting impacts to downstream communities and infrastructure, and the lessons learned from the disaster that have influenced dam safety practices and the design, construction, and operation of dams and water infrastructure.

Following the presentation and discussion, Chairman Raybould moved to the next Agenda item.

Agenda Item No. 5: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Planning Program

Ryan Alcorn with the U.S Bureau of Reclamation provided an overview of its Planning Program, including the process and considerations associated with rebuilding Teton Dam, Basin Study elements and the overall study process, and the Planning Roadmap. The presentation also included a discussion of the differences between a Basin Study and an Appraisal Study.

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

Agenda Item No. 6: Anderson Ranch Dam Raise Project Update

Mike Hilliard, with the Bureau of Reclamation, provided the Board with an informational update on the status of the Anderson Ranch Dam Raise Project. He provided a brief overview of the project's status, progress to date, key project milestones, and anticipated dates and activities moving forward.

Following a brief question and answer period, Chairman Raybould moved to Agenda Item No. 7.

Agenda Item No. 7: House Concurrent Resolution No. 34 – Bear River Legislative Draft Report

By way of Zoom, IDWR Engineering Supervisor Mike Morrison provided a series of slides outlining staff's efforts in preparing the second legislative report due by September 30, 2026. Mr. Morrison reported that this second report builds upon the findings of the initial one, and provides additional analysis and refined recommendations, for prioritized projects for further development of Idaho's compact allocation. Mr. Morrison reported that the final draft report would be presented to the Board for their review and comments prior to submission.

After discussion of the item, Chairman Raybould proceeded to the next Agenda item.

Agenda Item No. 8: Schedule for Water District Creation in Priority Areas

IDWR Western Regional Manager Nick Miller provided the Board with an in-depth review of water district creation, including current priorities, the process and considerations involved in establishing water districts, and the challenges associated with the process. Mr. Miller also discussed potential options and opportunities for IDWR to improve and streamline the water district creation process.

Mr. Miller's PowerPoint presentation further addressed how IDWR prioritizes areas based on identified needs and available resources, as well as the Department's current priorities. He also discussed the need for creating water districts, the process and considerations involved in establishing a district, and the associated timelines and challenges.

Upon completion of the discussion, Chairman Raybould thanked staff for the review.

Agenda Item No. 9: IDWR Eastern Regional Manager Update

James Cefalo, Eastern Regional Manager with IDWR, provided a regional update highlighting activities and issues within the Eastern Region. His PowerPoint presentation included an overview of the Eastern Regional Office, summer water curtailment activities from 2023 through 2026, changes in drought conditions and related drought declarations, the creation and development of water districts in the Eastern Region, and an update on the Bear River Basin adjudication.

Following a brief question and answer period, Chairman Raybould moved to Adjournment.

Agenda Item No. 10: Adjourn

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Raybould adjourned the meeting at 12:25 PM.

The Board broke for lunch at noon. Following lunch, the group departed for a field trip to Teton Dam at 1:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted this 18th Day of September 2026.

Dean Stevenson, *Secretary*

Milin J. Ream, *Administrative Assistant II*