

Lewiston Aquifer Advisory Committee

Lewiston City Library, Second Floor Event Space
411 D Street
Lewiston, ID 83501

May 16, 2024

Committee Members Present:

Joe Kaufman, City of Lewiston; Barney Metz, Lewiston Orchards Irrigation District; Lynn Rasmussen, Nez Perce Soil & Water Conservation; Cory Baune, J-U-B Engineers; Chelse Maughan, Nez Perce County Planning & Building

Committee Members Not Present:

Bill Hobbs, Red Pheasant Water; Ted Zmak, Citizen

Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) Staff Present:

Michelle Richman, Northern Regional Manager; Daniel Sturgis, Hydrogeologist, Technical; Amanda Rozsa, Hydrogeologist; Chase Bell, Water Rights Supervisor; Micki Bowman, Administrative Assistant; Dean Garwood, Private Consultant

Audience Members Present:

Michael Camin, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ); Jason Williams, DEQ; Sujata Connell, DEQ; Leighann Conniff, DEQ; Allison Lebeda, Nez Perce Tribe; Bobby Hills, Nez Perce Tribe; Brooke Stowell, Nez Perce Tribe; Kasey Barney, Nez Perce Tribe; Sherise Bruce, Public Health

Call to Order

Daniel Sturgis called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Introductions

Attendee introductions were made.

Presentations/Discussion

Daniel Sturgis presented a hydrogeological assessment of the Saddle Mountains Basalt Formation. He provided data showing groundwater elevation and flow, as well as groundwater fluctuations in the Saddle Mountains (North and South). He discussed the water budget and demonstrated higher water use in the Saddle Mountains North relative to the Saddle Mountains South. He discussed estimates for total inflow into the Saddle Mountains North and South. He provided evidence to show that issues in the Saddle Mountains aquifer include high nitrate levels, low productivity and poor well spacing, not an overallocated water budget.

Daniel also provided an update for the Lewiston Plateau GWMA, specifically for the Grande Ronde Basalt Aquifer and the Wanapum Basalt Aquifer. He discussed drilling activities since 2023 and the precipitation outlook.

He ended his presentation with a discussion of new water right applications within the GWMA, and gave an overview of IDWR's review process for these new applications.

There was discussion among the group about required conservation plans and the need for more detailed requirements of such plans, within the LPGWMA Groundwater Management Plan.

Items requested of IDWR from the attendees included: Daniel's presentation slides, the Department's Application Processing Memo #22, sample conservation plans submitted by water right applicants, sample conservation plan templates, and Daniel's review memos for water right permits and applications discussed in the meeting. These items were to be supplied within a few days of the meeting.

Unfinished Business

None

Other Announcements

The next meeting is to be scheduled approximately one year from May 16, 2024.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.