

Agenda

Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission

Meeting Date: January 15, 2020

Meeting Place – Twin Falls County Office Building at 630 Addison Avenue West, Twin Falls, Idaho, Conference Room A. Enter the back of the building through the revolving door and turn right to the hall way. First door on the left or 2nd door if meeting is moved to conference room B.

Meeting time: 1:00pm

Agenda items:

- 1. Approve Minutes of previous meeting (1:00 to 1:05)**
- 2. Approve Bills (1:05 to 1:08)**
- 3. Correspondence (1:08 to 1:15)**
- 4. Final review of suggested changes to Water Quantity section of the plan (1:15 to 2:00)**
- 5. Discuss information needs and commission goals for the remainder of 2020 (2:00 to 2:30)**
- 6. Old or new business**

Minutes Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission

January 15, 2020

The meeting of the commission was called to order by Chairman Lew Pence at 1:00pm. Members present Kerry McMurray, Dan Suhr, Dean Edgar, Arlen Morgan, Duane Turner, Gale Kleinkopf and Bob Muffley, Executive Director. Also present were Brent Reinke, Twin Falls County Commissioner, Charles Howell, Jerome County Commissioner and Irene Nautch, DEQ.

Lew asked if there were any changes or corrections to the previous minutes. Duane Turner moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Gale Kleinkopf and approved.

Lew asked Bob for the bills since the last meeting. Bob said the bills include his compensation in the amount of \$550.00, his mileage for \$29.58, postage stamps for \$55.00 and two new ink cartridges for \$74.19. Other bills are mileage for members who are present. Dean Edgar moved the bills be paid. The motion was seconded by Dan Suhr and approved.

Lew asked Bob if there was any correspondence. Bob said he had received a card and thank you note from Mario de Haro and others. His message said they had submitted their work plan to the EPA and are awaiting a reply.

Lew asked Dan Suhr if he had a report on the latest WAG meeting. Dan said he had attended the meeting and wasn't happy. Charts showing nitrate and phosphorus levels were handed out at the meeting which clearly shows the water we receive at Milner Dam is of worse quality than the water leaving our region at King Hill which is at .075 for phosphorus most of the time. This means to him that springs in our region are diluting the poor water quality above Milner as well as the poor water quality in the tributaries entering the river between Milner and King Hill. Dan also believes the method they are trying to use for testing various tributaries may be faulty because of where they are proposing to take their samples. He said they plan to sample Billingsly Creek at the bridge on highway 30 because it's easier to get to and he knows there are several return flows between that bridge and the river. Bob Muffley said there is also a fish facility and a small hydro facility. Bob said he will try to get Sean Woodhead of IDEQ to come and speak with us at our next meeting.

At this time, Lew turned the meeting over to Bob Muffley for a final review of the changes made to the water quantity portion of the plan. New changes were recommended and will be reviewed in February.

Agenda

Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission

Meeting Date: February 19, 2020

Meeting Place – Twin Falls County Office Building at 630 Addison Avenue West, Twin Falls, Idaho, Conference Room A. Enter the back of the building through the revolving door and turn right to the hall way. First door on the left or 2nd door if meeting is moved to conference room B.

Meeting time: 1:00pm

Agenda items:

- 1. Approve Minutes of previous meeting (1:00 to 1:05)**
- 2. Approve Bills (1:05 to 1:08)**
- 3. Correspondence (1:08 to 1:15)**
- 4. Discussion Panel Made up of Steve Hines, Mario de Haro Marti, Joel Packam and Linda Schlott, U. of I educators and Steve Schuyler, NRCS. (1:15 to 2:30)**

OPEN DISCUSSION BETWEEN COMMISSION MEMBERS AND PANEL:

SOME POSSIBLE TOPICS:

- 1. Available educational opportunities for the proper application of nitrogen, phosphorus and animal waste.**
- 2. Percent of farmers and dairymen who take advantage of these educational opportunities.**

Minutes Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission

February 19, 2020

The meeting of the commission was called to order by Vice-Chairman Gale Kleinkopf at 1:00pm. Members present Kerry McMurray, Dan Suhr, Dean Edgar, Duane Turner, Gary Bowman and Bob Muffley, Executive Director. Also present were Steve Hines, Mario de Haro Marti, Ph.D. and Joel Packham, U. of I. Extension educators, Linda Schott, Ph.D., U. of I. Nutrient Management Specialist and Steve Schuyler, NRCS.

Gale asked if there were any changes or corrections to the previous minutes. Dan Suhr moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Kerry McMurray and approved.

Gale asked Bob for the bills since the last meeting. Bob said the bills include his compensation in the amount of \$550.00, his mileage for \$29.58. Other bills are mileage for members who are present. Duane Turner moved the bills be paid. The motion was seconded by Dan Suhr and approved.

Gale asked Bob if there was any correspondence. Bob said he had received correspondence from Twin Falls, Jerome and Gooding Counties regarding recommended reappointment to the Commission for Gale Kleinkopf, Dan Suhr and Lew Pence. He also received a groundwater quality trend proposal from Ken Skinner of the USGS and forwarded it for comment to all the members. Gale asked Bob when the study would be completed. Bob said Ken told him the report should be done by the end of the year, but would need to go through a peer review so wouldn't be released until early in 2021. Bob also received a notice to an upcoming SIWQC member meeting at the Cliff Bar Baking Company on April 1st at 5:00pm. Bob said he or Lew would try to attend. Finally Bob received a notice from Extension that a class would be held in Gooding on February 26th for a program on farm and ranch successors.

Gale turned the meeting over to Steve Hines who introduced the panel members for the days discussion. Steve asked Bob Muffley to give an overview of the topics for today's discussion. Bob said the possible topics shown on the agenda were educational opportunities for the proper application of nitrogen, phosphorus and animal waste. The commission also needed to know the percentage of farmers and dairymen who take advantage of this education. He said we needed to discuss if there are ways to improve communications on the proper management of fertilizer and animal waste. And finally if partnerships could be formed to increase awareness.

REVISED Agenda

Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission

Meeting Date: March 18, 2020

Meeting Place – Twin Falls County Office Building at 630 Addison Avenue West, Twin Falls, Idaho, Conference Room A. Enter the back of the building through the revolving door and turn right to the hall way. First door on the left or 2nd door if meeting is moved to conference room B.

Meeting time: 1:00pm

Agenda items:

- 1. Approve Minutes of previous meeting (1:00 to 1:05)**
- 2. Approve Bills (1:05 to 1:08)**
- 3. Correspondence (1:08 to 1:15)**
- 4. Comments from Chairman Pence the 2020 Southwest Ground Water Quality Forum. (1:15 to 1:35)**
- 5. Report on latest WAG meeting - Dan Suhr (1:35 to 1:45)**
- 6. Review final changes to last 4 pages of the water quality portion of plan (1:45 to 1:55)**

Minutes
Middle Snake Regional
Water Resource Commission

March 18, 2020

The meeting of the commission was called to order by Chairman Lew Pence at 1:04pm. Members present Kerry McMurray, Dan Suhr, Dean Edgar, Duane Turner, Gale Kleinkopf, Arlan Morgan and Bob Muffley, Executive Director. Also present were Steve Hines, U. of I. Extension educator.

Lew asked if there were any changes or corrections to the previous minutes. Hearing none Dean Edgar moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Arlan Morgan and approved.

Lew asked Bob for the bills since the last meeting. Bob said the bills include his compensation in the amount of \$550.00, his mileage for \$29.58. Other bills are mileage for members who are present. Duane Turner moved the bills be paid. The motion was seconded by Dan Suhr and approved.

Lew asked Bob if there was any correspondence. Bob said he had been corresponding with the Snake River Alliance concerning their attendants at our March meeting. Monday the Alliance finally decided not to attend because of fears over the Coronavirus. Bob said he also sent ballots to each county on nominees to the commission and hopes to hear back soon as the terms of the various commission seats expire in April.

Lew Pence briefed the commission on the 2020 Southwest Idaho Ground Water Quality Forum which was held in Boise on our regular meeting date in February. Lew said the meeting was well attended, but because of the poor speaker system, it was difficult to hear some of the speakers. The first speaker was Ed Hagan, the DEQ Ground Water Bureau Chief, who said there are no federal regulations pertaining to the protection of groundwater. He said the responsible state agencies are the DEQ, IDWR and the Idaho Dept. of Ag. IDWR is the agency responsible for trending in the state. Ed said the Snake Plain Aquifer is actually two aquifer systems. The Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer ends at King Hill and the western Aquifer continues from there. He said aquifer recharge is still pretty good in the Boise area because many of the farms in the western part of the state still use gravity irrigation while farming on the eastern aquifer has been converted to sprinklers. Lew said, statewide, the IDWR maintains the statewide ambient groundwater monitoring for the state and maintains about 2,000 monitoring wells of which 250 are tested each year. they look at the water tests and developing trends in the various regions. Lew said at 250 each year, it means they are checking each well every 8 years. He said when testing they look for uranium, arsenic, nitrates and fluoride. he said he didn't realize that

fluoride was a problem until that meeting. They went on to discuss the problems created by urbanization of agricultural and grazing land. He said the problem is that urbanization can cause problems year round while agriculture is on a seasonal basis. He said that nitrate levels in one of their wells in the Boise area showed levels of 100 mg per liter and should never be higher than 10. The DEQ is trying to locate the cause of this so they can look for solutions. He said the Treasure Valley has been broken down into zones and some of those zones require wells to be cased all the way down.

Lew said Lesley Duncan, a Kootenai county commissioner described the purpose and formation of the Kootenai County Aquifer Protection District. He said the district is taxpayer funded and does monitoring and education concerning their underlying Spokane-Rathdrum aquifer. He said the District uses the DEQ as a resource and for technical assistance. The District created a groundwater management Plan which looks at various ways to protect their drinking water supply. Bob Muffley said he thinks Irene told him about the District a few years ago, but when he researched it further he found some major problems with a district. First, he said, it moves the responsibility of water testing and monitoring to the local tax payer and away from the responsible agencies and Second, it would need to go to a vote in each of our counties. We have a lot of people on fixed incomes and a lot more working at near minimum wage. It would also never make it past our county commissioners. We already do everything they do except the actual monitoring.

Lew said they broke-up into groups to discuss major concerns and the number one problem is the lack of concern by the public Lew was asked who attended the meeting and he said, as far as he could tell it was made up of people from local, state and federal agencies. He didn't think there was anyone from the public.

Lew called on Dan Suhr to brief us on the last meeting of the WAG. Dan said there is a new chairman of the WAG, Jason Brown who heads the Twin Falls city sewer system. He hopes he can do a better job then their old chairman who he believes was chairman too long. Dan also said they changed the meeting date of the WAG to overlap with our meetings. This was changed, however, as they now meet a weeks before. Dan said segmentation of the Middle Snake is still a major concern. The current segments for water testing was created by Sony Buhider back in the 90's, but there are too many and it make no scents. The DEQ has six permanent measuring stations on or near the Middle Snake where they take monthly samples, but they don't match up with the current defined river segments. They are reaching out to Sony to find out his reasoning. He said the USGS is still a year out on their studies of the Crystal Springs area which will, hopefully, help develop the TMDL. He also said that Brian from Idaho Power said the company would step up their efforts to remove macrophytes from their impounds which could help a lot. Bob said back in the 90's Idaho Power said they didn't have impounds as their dams were run of the river. He's glad to see they're finally owning up to it. Dan said he'd be surprised if they have any more meeting until the coronavirus scare is over.

Lew thanked Dan for his briefing and asked Bob muffley to go over the last changes to the water quantity portion of the plan. Bob went through the changes on the final 4 pages of the

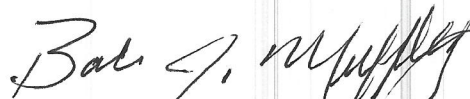
plan and there were no objections. Bob said the changes to this section are now finalized and will go to the counties when the updates to the economic portion of the plan are complete. Bob asked Steve Hines when this would be. Steve said they are starting on it next week and should have it in a couple of months.

Lew said the meeting last month appeared very interesting, but what can be done about taking action on the items covered. He said Steve Schuyler of the NRCS discussed their partnership with Coors to reward growers that go the extra mile in protecting the resources. And wondered if we could help them form similar partnerships with other companies doing business in the region. Arlan Morgan said he applied, through the NRCS Equipment Program, but couldn't get financing for a pivot because the phosphorus levels in the top two feet exceeded their limits. He said they only have these limits on the actual feedlot, but not farm land held under a separate entity. Bob Muffley said he could get in touch with Steve Schuyler and see if he would like to discuss it with us further. Arlan said the Department of Agriculture is doing a better job with their inspections of ponds and feed yards, he is having problems with them, however, on one of his critical ponds. They're asking for a new test and as currently structured it can't be drained for the time necessary for the test to be done.

Lew said the last meeting served to highlight our need for the trend data for the aquifer. He then asked what can be done about getting our manure out of the region? Duane Turner and Arlan mentioned that some was being shipped to eastern Idaho, usually as back loads. Arlan said it simply costs too much at this time to ship it very far away. Bob asked Arlan if wood chips are available to enhance compost. He said it is very limited at this time. Steve Hines said there is a real need for a test farm in the area for actual research on soil fertility. He said the problem is you need to use the farm land for a minimum of 30 to 40 years to get the best results. He said he has found two farmers willing to let them use two 40 acre parcels of their land for that purpose. He said the Idaho Conservation league is thinking about helping with the funding.

Lew asked if there was any new or old business. Hearing none the meeting was adjourned at 2:37pm.

Respectfully Submitted



Bob J. Muffley, Executive Director

Agenda

Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission

Meeting Date: June 17, 2020

Meeting Place - Twin Falls County Office Building at 630 Addison Avenue West, Twin Falls, Idaho, Conference Room A or B. Enter the back of the building through the revolving door and turn right to the hall way. First or second door to the left.

Agenda items:

1. Approve Minutes of previous meeting (1:00 to 1:05)
2. Approve Bills (1:05 to 1:08)
3. Correspondence (1:08 to 1:15)
4. Update on on happenings since the last meeting in March (1:15 to 1:25)
5. Begin review of Water Quality Section of plan Pages 22-31 (1:25 to 2:25)
6. New or old business (2:25 to 2:30)
7. Adjourn

TIME FRAMES FOR EACH AGENDA ITEM LISTED ABOVE ARE ESTIMATES

Minutes Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission

June 17, 2020

The meeting of the commission was called to order by Chairman Lew Pence at 1:04pm. Members present Kerry McMurray, Dan Suhr, Duane Turner and Bob Muffley, Executive Director. Also present were Steve Hines, U. of I. Extension educator.

Lew recognized that a quorum had been established since four of the five counties were represented at the meeting.

Lew asked if there were any changes or corrections to the previous minutes. Both Lew and Kerry offered corrections to the minutes. Kerry McMurray moved to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Dan Suhr and approved.

Lew asked Bob for the bills since the last meeting. Bob said the bills include his compensation for April, May and June in the amount of \$550.00 for each month. He said he did not charge mileage for this meeting because he was paid twice in March. We also had a bill for \$30.00 from Marne Curtis for her work on the web site and a bill from the USGS in the amount of \$15,000 to fund our portion of the water quality trend study for the region. Bills also include mileage for members who are present. Dan Suhr moved the bills be paid. The motion was seconded by Kerry McMurray and approved.

Lew asked Bob if there was any correspondence. Bob said the Commission had received word from all five members of the Commission's Executive Committee approving our budget for next year and he had then sent the budget to each county for inclusion in their budgets. He said the budget request was bare bones and 12% less than the current budget year. Bob said he proposed the cut because the counties are having funding problems caused by Coronavirus.

Bob said he also received an email from Irene Nautch of DEQ asking for contact information for Duane Turner. She said Gale Kleinkopf had recommended Duane to take his place as a member of the Twin Falls County Ground Water Quality Advisory Committee for DEQ. Duane commented that the email was interesting because he didn't know anything about it and didn't know what the advisory committee even did. Bob said he had just assumed that Gale had spoken with him about the committee so he sent Irene his information. Bob also said he believed the committee was formed to deal with the nitrate priority area in Twin Falls County. Duane said he hadn't heard from Irene concerning this appointment.

Agenda

Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission

Meeting Date: July 15, 2020

Meeting Place - Twin Falls County Office Building at 630 Addison Avenue West, Twin Falls, Idaho, Conference Room A or B. Enter the back of the building through the revolving door and turn right to the hall way. First or second door to the left.

Agenda items:

1. Approve Minutes of previous meeting (1:00 to 1:05)

2. Approve Bills (1:05 to 1:08)

3. Correspondence (1:08 to 1:15)

4. Begin review of Water Quality Section of plan (1:15 to 2:30)

Please bring you copies of the plan. We will start review at item 6 on page 25.

5. New or old business (2:30 to 2:35)

6. Adjourn

TIME FRAMES FOR EACH AGENDA ITEM LISTED ABOVE ARE ESTIMATES

Minutes
Middle Snake Regional
Water Resource Commission

July 15, 2020

The meeting of the commission was called to order by Chairman Lew Pence at 1:04pm. Members present were Kerry McMurray, Dan Suhr, Duane Turner, Gale Kleinkopf, Alen Morgan and Bob Muffley, Executive Director. Also present were Mario de Haro, U. of I. Extension educator.

Lew asked if there were any changes or corrections to the previous minutes. Kerry McMurray moved to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Gale Kleinkopf and approved.

Lew asked Bob for the bills since the last meeting. Bob said the bills include his compensation of \$550.00, mileage for \$29.32 and Supplies in the amount of \$76.31. Bills also include mileage for members who are present. Dan Suhr moved the bills be paid. The motion was seconded by Duane Turner and approved.

Lew asked Bob if there was any correspondence. Bob said he, once again, Received an email from the Snake River Alliance that they would not be attending our July meeting. He hasn't heard anything from Ken Skinner of the USGS, but he had already told us he probably wouldn't have anything until September or October.

Lew commented on the latest WAG meeting through Zoom which he attended in place of our WAG member Dan Suhr. He said, because of the Zoom thing, he didn't do to well. Lew said the WAG had decided to reduce the number of stream segments for monitoring from eight to three. This change, however, will still need to be approved by both the DEQ and EPA. Our commission, he said, had already discussed and approved of this change. Lew said he now understands Dan's frustration with the WAG.

Lew introduced Mario do Haro for an update on the U. of I. CAFE program. Mario said the new research dairy should be up and running sometime in 2023. Along with that, the University received a grant from the Department of Agriculture for \$10 million which will allow 15 researchers on dairy technologies to try to commercialize and neutralize high nutrient content in dairy waste. Mario said he is one of the 15 researchers and he will work on the composting part of the study. He said the goal is to help dairy producers, through new technologies, to transform nutrients extracted from dairy manure into alternatives for commercial fertilizers and other value-added byproducts to improve soil, sustain agricultural productivity, reduce environmental impacts, provide alternative income streams and create employment

opportunities. Mario said he will be working on the composting part of the study and hopes to find better ways to extract nutrients and phosphorus to help make them more available for crop uptake. He said researchers will address constraints on water usage and environmental quality and support the agricultural sectors of dairy, livestock, cropland and food processing while exploring solutions for long term sustainability.

One of the things they will be using hyrochar (a process where biomass is heated at a temperature range of 200 to 300 degrees celsius, in the presents of water, and is comprised of two phases; liquid and solid.) this method will be used to extract nutrients from manure. The Char method creates a solid. They want to improve solid separation so a larger percent of nutrients can be removed. Dan asked about the cost to the farmer. Mario said with the needed equipment they will greatly decrease the need to clean their settling ponds. Alan said the problem with composting is their isn't enough money in it to make it viable. Mario said that's one of the things they will be looking at. Another is to separate the water and make it clean enough to reenter the waterways. Mario said the great thing about the new U. of I. farm is that it has never had any type of manure applied to it so it's a clean slate for experiments. Mario finished by saying the 15 researchers will be looking for college students who will be helping with the experiments.

Lew Asked Bob to continue with the review of the water quality portion of the plan beginning on page 6.

Lew asked if there was any new or old business.

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:29pm.

Respectfully Submitted


Bob J. Muffley, Executive Director

Agenda

Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission

Meeting Date: September 16, 2020

Meeting Place - Twin Falls County Office Building at 630 Addison Avenue West, Twin Falls, Idaho, Conference Room A or B. Enter the back of the building through the revolving door and turn right to the hall way. First or second door to the left.

Agenda items:

1. Approve Minutes of previous meeting which were sent in August (1:00 to 1:05)
2. Approve Bills (1:05 to 1:08)
3. Correspondence (1:08 to 1:15)
4. Discuss report by the Idaho Conservation League sent in August (1:15 to 1:25)
5. Regions most recent economic report by U. of I. - Steve Hines U. of I. Extension (1:25 to 2:30)
6. New or old business (2:30 to 2:35)
7. Adjourn

TIME FRAMES FOR EACH AGENDA ITEM LISTED ABOVE ARE ESTIMATES

Minutes
Middle Snake Regional
Water Resource Commission

September 16, 2020

The meeting of the commission was called to order by Chairman Lew Pence at 1:03pm. Members present were Kerry McMurray, Dan Suhr, Duane Turner, Gale Kleinkopf, Gary Bowman and Bob Muffley, Executive Director. Also present were Cathy Harris of the Gooding County P. & Z. and Steve Hines U. of I. Extension Educator.

Lew asked if there were any changes or corrections to the previous minutes. Dan Suhr moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Duane Turner and approved.

Lew asked Bob for the bills since the last meeting. Bob said the bills include his compensation for two months in the amount of \$1,100.00, mileage for \$29.32. He also said we already paid a bill submitted by Marne Curtis who handles our web site in the amount of \$626.14. This amount includes her compensation and the 3 year renewal of our web site. Gale Kleinkopf moved the bills be paid. The motion was seconded by Kerry McMurray and approved.

Lew asked Bob if there was any correspondence. Bob said he received an update on the aquifer water quality trend study by the USGS. He said Ken Skinner had received all the data from the various agencies and was going through it to remove any duplicate data before establishing the trends. We also received a notice from the South Idaho Water Quality Coalition (SIWQC) saying that Randy MacMillan had retired and Wade Allred of Cliff Bar Baking Company had taken over the chairmanship of SIWQC. Bob said he had been emailing Mark Bolduc, Gooding County Commissioner concerning Ami Bennett. Bob said Ami had only been present at a couple of meeting last year and none during the current year, so he asked for a new appointee. Mark said he would work on it. Bob sent Ami an email thanking her for her past work on the Commission. Finally, Irene Nautch of DEQ sent a copy of the final draft of changes to the Twin Falls Aquifer Water Quality Plan. Bob said he had read the plan and forwarded the pertinent parts of the plan to each of our member. Bob said he saw no problems with the draft plan and that it seemed to follow closely with our own water quality plan. Others had similar comments.

Lew went on to the next item on the agenda which was the August report by the Idaho Conservation League concerning water quality in the Mid. Snake region. Bob said he had gone over their report and found that much of their discussion concerned the aquifers in Twin Falls, Cassia and Minidoka counties which are pretty much closed systems. He said they failed to mention that Twin Falls county is big on legume crops which also contribute to nitrogen in the Twin Falls aquifer. He said the report also states that aquifer recharge efforts on the Snake Plain Aquifer are primarily in the upper regions of the aquifer which is actually a small part of

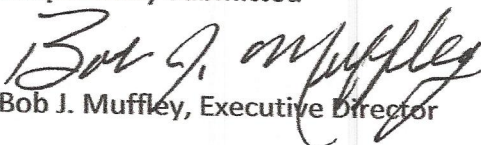
the recharge effort. The report discussed the total TP levels for the springs and stated that 40% of the springs test higher than the 51% that are good, but doesn't say by how much. Finally Bob said the the study states that several studies have shown that 5 mg/L of nitrogen can be harmful to people, but only sited one such study. The EPA says 10 mg/L are harmful. Bob also said he believes their report to be premature as they should have waited for the USGS to complete their trend study for the region. There was other discussion concerning developing a working relationship with the ICL. Lew said the letter that came to us with the report did recognize our commission and the work we had done. He said, however, that we shouldn't form too close a relationship with them. We, as a commission, have stayed clear of forming relationships with any outside organization because we work solely for our county governments.

Lew turned the meeting over to Steve Hines, Extension Educator, to give us an economic update for the region. Steve said that he would be giving us a preliminary report on the economic ag. situation for our region and the state. He said the data that went into his report was from 2017 and compiled in 2018. He said the data represents net export sales and not so much for gross sales because they are looking at new money coming into the region. This means they aren't looking at milk and other ag. sales to regional processors, but at the sale of goods within the U.S. and the rest of the world from those processors. Our base industries bring this new money to the region which generates economic activity in other sectors. Steve said base is composed of both direct and indirect sales while gross is simply total sales.

Steve said by comparing the major sectors of output in this region we find the agricultural sector contributes 44% of our gross output, but 59% of the region's base output. Comparing our regional ag. contributions to the state's totals, we are 43% of the states gross output and 44% of the states base output. Ag's contribution to base employment in the region is 44% and 34% for the state's ag. base. Steve said the university also looked at the value added which is the sum of employee compensation, proprietor income, return to capital and indirect business taxes in the valley and the state. They found that the ag's contribution is 48% in the region and 37% of the ag. base values in the state and 25% of the gross values in the region and 35% of the state's ag. values. Steve said when looking at wages in the region agriculture is only 21% of the gross wages, but is 42% of the base wages. He said our gross wages are lower because of efficiency in ag. processing and production. Bob asked Steve when he thought we could get the updates to the economic portion of our plan. Steve said he hoped it would be by January of next year.

Lew Thanked Steve for the economic update and asked if there was any new or old business. Bob said we had already discussed the draft Twin Falls ground water plan from DEQ so he had nothing. Duane Turner moved the meeting be adjourned at 2:21pm.

Respectfully Submitted


Bob J. Muffley, Executive Director

Agenda

Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission

Meeting Date: October 21, 2020

Meeting Place - Twin Falls County Office Building at 630 Addison Avenue West, Twin Falls, Idaho, Conference Room A or B. Enter the back of the building through the revolving door and turn right to the hall way. First or second door to the left.

LEW DECIDED THAT, BECAUSE OF A SHARP RISE IN COVID 19 CASES OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS IN THE REGION, HE IS CANCELLING THE MEETING FOR THIS MONTH.

HOPEFULLY WE WILL SEE EVERYONE IN NOVEMBER.

TIME FRAMES FOR EACH AGENDA ITEM LISTED ABOVE ARE ESTIMATES

Agenda

Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission

Meeting Date: December 16, 2020

Meeting Place - Zoom at <https://uidaho.zoom.us/j/84247552182>

Agenda Items:

1. Approve minutes of September meeting (1:00 to 1:05)
2. Approve Bills (1:05 to 1:08)
3. Correspondence (1:08 to 1:15)
4. Report on ground water trend study by Ken Skinner, USGS (1:15 to 2:15)
5. Discussion on future Zoom meetings (2:15 to 2:20)
6. New or old business (2:20 to 2:30)
7. Adjourn

TIME FRAMES FOR EACH AGENDA ITEM LISTED ABOVE ARE ESTIMATES

Minutes Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission

December 16, 2020

The meeting of the commission was called to order by Chairman Lew Pence at 1:04pm. Members present were Kerry McMurray, Dan Suhr, Duane Turner, Gale Kleinkopf, Arlen Morgan and Bob Muffley, Executive Director. Also present were Mark Bolduc, Gooding County Commissioner, Cathy Harris of the Gooding County P. & Z. Mario d Haro Marti and Steve Hines U. of I. Extension Educator and Ken Skinner of the USGS.

Lew asked if there were any changes or corrections to the previous minutes. Dan Suhr moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Arlen Morgan and approved.

Lew asked Bob for the bills since the last meeting. Bob said the bills include his compensation for three months in the amount of \$1,650,00 and a bill for envelopes from Jerome Printing for \$150.00.

Lew asked Bob if there was any correspondence. Bob said he received a Christmas card addressed to Lew and the commission from the U. of I extension folks and read the card to the commission. He also got notice that Irene Nautch of the local DEQ office retired as of this day. Bob sent her a thank you from all of us for her work with the commission and asked if her replacement had been appointed. She said that no one had at this time.

Lew introduced Ken Skinner of the USGS to give us an update on his water quality trend study for the region's groundwater resources. Ken went over the purpose of the study and then said that starting in 2022 they will no longer be monitoring so The National Water Quality Program (NWQP) is over. Ken went over the number of wells they have been testing for many years and there was good dispersion within the region. He also said the DEQ may add a nitrate Priority area in southwest Jerome county. Portions of Twin Falls and Cassia counties already have that designated. Ken said they also monitor 6 springs on the north side of the canyon. Ken said it's interesting that there is all kinds of data within the region, but no one has done anything with that data, until now, to establish trends for nitrates and phosphorus. He said along with the water quality data he must look at what is happening with the level of the aquifer since that could also impact water quality.

Ken said he gathered ground water data from DEQ, IDWR ,ISDA, IRWB, USBR and Nation Parks. He said the problem is that the data is being looked at in different ways by all the different agencies. He has around 7,000 samples from the agencies, but he had to go through each one to see if the data will work in the actual trend study. He put up a map showing all the test sites

