

# Agenda

## Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission

Meeting Date: March 16,2022

Time: 1:00PM

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 to revolving door and turn right to the hallway. First or second door to the left.

### Agenda Items:

1. Approve minutes of the December meeting (1:00 TO 1:05)
2. Approve Bills (1:05 to 1:08)
3. Correspondence (1:08 to 1: 10)
4. Final review of the Economic portion of the plan (1:10 to 1:20)
5. Continue review of water quality portion of plan starting on page 36 Goal D (1:20 to 2:30)
6. New or old business - (2:30 to 2:40)
7. Adjourn



**Minutes  
Middle Snake Regional  
Water Resource Commission**

**March 16, 2022**

The meeting of the commission was called to order by Chairman Lew Pence at 1:02pm. Members present were Kerry McMurray, Dean Edgar, Duane Turner, Arlen Morgan, Gale Kleinkopf and Bob Muffley, Executive Director. Also present were Steve Hines and Mario de Haro U. of I. Extension Educators and Roy Huber, Lincoln County Commissioner.

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

Lew asked Bob for the bills since the last meeting. Bob said the bills include his compensation in the amount of \$1,650.00 for 3 months and mileage for \$59.67. Other bills are mileage for members who are present. Dean Edgar moved to pay the bills. The motion was seconded by Arlen Morgan and approved.

Lew asked Bob if there had been any correspondence since our last meeting. Bob said he had emailed Ken Skinner about the final completion of his water quality report for the region, but has, as yet, received a reply. He also said Duane Turner and Arlen Morgan had both been reappointed and would both serve until 2025.

Lew turned the meeting over to Bob to continue our review of the Coordinated Water Resource Management Plan. Bob suggested that, because Steve Hines was present that he, once again, go over the changes made to the economic portion of the plan since we failed to have a quorum at the last meeting. All agreed so Steve began the final review. Following this review Dean Edgar suggested that we should mention our region's population growth and it's impact to the region's water resources. Bob said he would get together with Steve to see about working that fact into the plan.

Bob said we need to continue our revision of the water quality portion of the plan beginning where we left off on page 36.

A motion was made and the meeting was adjourned at 2:20PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Bob J. Muffley, Executive Director



# Agenda

## Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission

Meeting Date: April 20,2022

Time: 1:00PM

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 to revolving door and turn right to the hallway. First or second door to the left.

### Agenda Items:

1. Approve minutes of the December meeting (1:00 TO 1:05)
2. Approve Bills (1:05 to 1:08)
3. Correspondence (1:08 to 1: 10)
4. Continue review of water quality portion of plan starting on page 40 Objective B02 (1:20 to 2:30)
5. New or old business - (2:30 to 2:40)
6. Adjourn



# Minutes Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission

April 20, 2022

The meeting of the commission was called to order by Vice Chairman Gale Kleinkopf at 1:02pm. Members present were Dan Suhr, Kerry McMurray, Duane Turner, Arlen Morgan and Bob Muffley, Executive Director. Also present were Steve Hines, U. of I. Extension Educator and Brent Reinke, Twin Falls County Commissioner.

Gale asked if there were any changes or corrections to the previous minutes. Kerry McMurray moved that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Arlen Morgan 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 and mileage for \$29.84. Other bills are mileage for members who are present. Dan Suhr moved to pay the bills. The motion was seconded by Arlen Morgan and approved.

Gale asked Bob if there had been any correspondence since our last meeting. Bob said he had received several starting with a reply on previous correspondence with Ken Skinner. Ken said he has spoken to several groups since his aquifer study was completed including the Idaho Water Quality Workshop and the Boise State radio station. He has also spoken to some folks at the state level and they will be working to get sampling for phosphorus back into their groundwater sampling routine. He said that's great news. Bob also received an email from Matt Vawser who works at the Kimberly Water Department, asking how he could become an appointee to the commission. Bob told him that his county can have only two members to the Commission and both are filled at this time. He should, however, let the county commissioners know of his interest for any future vacancies. Bob also had an invitation to speak at a joint meeting of the Snake River Alliance and the Sierra Club at a tour of the Box Canyon to talk with them about the aquifer. Bob said he would not be available at that time and gave them the name of Paul Thomas with IDWR. Bob asked if anyone had read the newspaper article a few days ago saying that the Mobile Microreactor project is going forward and, while the facility and fuel production will occur in other states, the components will be transferred to the INL for assembly and testing. Finally Bob said that at the last meeting Dean Edgar said, in the economic portion of the plan, we should make it clear that our increasing population is having an impact on recreation and tourism. Bob talked with Steve Hines and the change has been made.







# Agenda

## Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission

Meeting Date: May 18,2022

Time: 1:00PM

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 to revolving door and turn right to the hallway. 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: 10)
4. Brian Olmstead, Idaho Water Resource Board Member - Update on actions and future activities of the Board, recharge update and possible actions concerning short water year (1:10 to 2:10)
5. Bob Muffley, review of DOE's final EIS for proposed versital test reactor (2:10 to 2:20)
6. New or old business - (2:20 to 2:30)
7. Adjourn



# Minutes Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission

May 18, 2022

The meeting of the commission was called to order by chairman Lew Pence at 1:01pm. Members present were Dan Suhr, Kerry McMurray, Duane Turner, Arlen Morgan, Gale Kleinkopf and Bob Muffley, Executive Director. Also present was Wade Allred, President of the South Idaho Water Quality Coalition and Aaron Trevino, DEQ regional office.

Lew asked if there were any changes or corrections to the previous minutes. Arlen Morgan moved that the minutes be approved. 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 and mileage for \$29.84. Other bills are a bill for \$30.00 for work on our web page from Marne Curtis and mileage for members who are present. Dan Suhr moved to pay the bills. The motion was seconded by Kerry McMurray and approved.

Lew asked Bob if there had been any correspondence since our last meeting. Bob said he received a letter from Hannah Smay, A board member of the Snake River Alliance, thanking us for our testimony On the EIS for the mobile microreactor research at the INL. She also asked if Chairman Pence would give her a call, which he did. Lew said he spoke with Hannah and told her of our continued concerns with the INL, since they had not cleaned up their existing waste at the site. He said they both agreed to stay in touch on any future concerns. Bob said that after the last meeting had ended commissioner Brent Reinke gave him a copy of an email he received concerning the water quality of the Mid-Snake. Brent said they had received about 27 of these emails from different individuals so it was a "form type" email. He asked if I would develop a reply that the county could send out. Bob said he developed a "form type" reply which Twin Falls county was sending out. The reply spoke to our concerns and welcomed them to check out our web site for more information.

Lew introduced Wade Allred, President of the South Idaho Water Quality Coalition (SIWQC). Wade said he is currently Environmental Manager for Glanbia which is looking to reduced it's carbon footprint over the next 25 years. He said they are also looking to continued reductions of pollutants in their waste water. Wade said, while in the Navy, he spent considerable time working in Africa helping people obtain clean water. He said it was heart breaking to see the women try to find clean water drinking water for their families and that's what got him into water quality which ultimately led him to the Magic Valley. He said he has been amazed at what the Ag community is doing in the region to clean the water before it's returned to the





## Agenda

### Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission

Meeting Date: ~~May 18, 2022~~ <sup>June 15, 2022</sup>

Time: 1:00PM

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 to revolving door and turn right to the hallway. 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: 10)
4. Brian Olmstead, Idaho Water Resource Board Member - Update on actions and future activities of the Board, recharge update and possible actions concerning short water year (1:10 to 2:10)
5. Bob Muffley, review of DOE's final EIS for proposed versital test reactor (2:10 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

June 15 , 2022

The meeting of the commission was called to order by chairman Lew Pence at 1:05pm. Members present were Dan Suhr, Kerry McMurray, Arlen Morgan, Gale Kleinkopf and Bob Muffley, Executive Director. Also present was Brian Olmstead, Idaho Water Resource Board, Steve Hines, U. of I. Extension Educator and Aaron Trevino, DEQ regional office.

Lew asked if there were any changes or corrections to the previous minutes. Dan Suhr moved that the minutes be approved. 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 in the amount of \$550.00 and mileage for \$59.68. Other bills are mileage for members who are present. Kerry McMurray moved to pay the bills. The motion was seconded by Gail Kleinkopf and approved.

Lew asked Bob if there had been any correspondence since our last meeting. Bob said he had a few emails, but nothing of importance.

Lew introduced Brian Olmstead, member of the Idaho Water Resource Board from our region. Brian said "as an aside" that he attended a hearing yesterday for proposed windmills in the Salmon Falls area. He said the developers are wanting to place hundreds of windmills on BLM ground near the reservoir. Most people in attendance were, very much, apposed to the project, him being one. He said the size of the proposed project and the windmills themselves would leave a huge footprint in, what is now, an open desert with much wildlife. He said he doesn't mind solar panels but not wind as it's too invasive.

He said they are still developing recharge sites over the aquifer and the results at some of the new sites have been pretty good for this being a low water year. Because of the lack of runoff during the period for recharge they could only recharge about 150,000cfs. Their goal for each year is 250,000cfs, but luckily they have been able to do around 500,000cfs the previous two years. Brian said Jackson lake may only fill by around 70% this year and is currently dropping about 2,000cfs a day. Most of this water goes to local farmers with some going to the river. He said the good news is that American Falls reservoir, Our regions primary source, should fill or nearly fill this year, so our canals who use this water should be good for the season. Because of the rain/snow we have been receiving in the Big Wood drainage, farmers should now be able to get to the end of July. This is far better then was first predicted. The Little Wood drainage is



still not well so the Department shut down some Junior wells in the area. Because of this action water in Silver Creek and the Little Wood are starting to rise. Their season, however, will still be very short. Brian said they are still working with Idaho Power on the company's cloud seeding operation. He said Idaho Power has the biggest cloud seeding operation in the country and it's doing well when conditions are right, but they weren't very good this year.

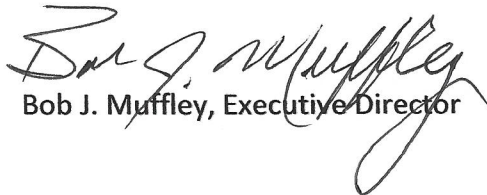
Other projects around the state include raising the Anderson Ranch Dam by a couple of feet which will benefit the Treasure Valley and will help a small amount in Elmore County. He said the aquifer in Elmore is also doing poorly. The Mt. Home Air Base ended up purchasing a well right from Simplot because the base also needs more water. At bear lake they will be working on a flood control plan allowing the lake to handle more water. He also spoke about the Clear Water River, Priest Lake and various grants that can be obtained through the Board.

Lew thanked Brian for his presentation and asked Bob to give us a report on the comments made by DOE concerning our testimony on the EIS for the Versatile Test Reactor proposed for the INL. Bob said their reply to our comments were, in his mind, so bad, they were almost funny. He said first he wants tell the commission about comments made by our governor on the EIS. He wrote "The state supports the Federal Administration's promotion of advanced nuclear research and the use of advanced nuclear reactor technology at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL). Construction and operation of the VTR at INL will increase jobs and income in the surrounding area and have a long-term beneficial impact on the Idaho economy." Bob said we know who our friends are. Our only friend at the state was attorney general Wasden and he was defeated in the election. Our Governor Doesn't seem to care about the economy of the Magic Valley.

Bob said the response to our testimony regarding incidents of thyroid cancer in four of the INL's surrounding counties is twice the average for Idaho and the nation. Their reply was astounding. They barely mention the thyroid situation, but say all the other types of cancer are less then the average for the state and nation. We know that very few things cause thyroid cancer, but the biggest is constant exposure to radiation. Bob said that in the very next bullet we draw their attention to a statement that Idaho is the best location, because they have fewer people to put at risk. Their reply said they didn't mean it that way, but then go on to say the same thing. Then Bob skipped down to bullet 5 which discusses their statement that seismic activity would be nearly impossible to do damage to the facility, but doesn't tell us the seismic rating for the structure. And later they say that a seismic event would only happen every 16,000 to 40,000 years, but they don't say starting from when. Our research suggests that both the Great Idaho Rift and Yellowstone could be overdue. Bob said those responding to us must think we're stupid because most of their responses are ridiculous. He said their replies may be actionable and would like to find a good investigative reporter in our area, but doesn't believe there is such a thing. Bob had handed out copies of the DOE reply to our testimony and asked everyone to read through them and let him know what they think.

Lew thanked Bob for his report and asked if there was any new or old business. Hearing none  
The meeting was adjourned at 2:40PM.

Respectfully Submitted

  
Bob J. Muffley, Executive Director

# **Agenda**

## **Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission**

Meeting Date: July 20, 2022

Time: 1:00PM

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 to revolving door and turn right to the hallway. 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: 10)
4. Kerri Treiman, PHD, USGS - Water quality testing and monitoring at the INL (1:10 to 2:10)
5. Bob Muffley, up date, if any, on DOE reply to our concerns on EIS (2:10 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

## July Meeting Cancelled

From: bmuffley@muffleyins.com

Sent: Tue, Jul 19, 2022 at 1:19 pm

To: pixyk@msn.com, donnapence25@msn.com, danasuhr@gmail.com, edgarinc007@gmail.com, kerrym@cassiacounty.org, dwtturner1912@gmail.com, arlenandlois@gmail.com

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The meeting for July 20, 2022, is cancelled because there will not be a quorum in attendance. The next meeting will be August 17th with the same agenda and at the same time and place.

Bob

# Agenda

## Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission

Meeting Date: August 17, 2022

Time: 1:00PM

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 to revolving door and turn right to the hallway. 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. Steve Hines, current work on soil conservation efforts and use of cover crops (1:15 to 2:00)
5. Bob Muffley, up date on DOE reply to our concerns on EIS (2:00 to 2:10)
6. New or old business - (2:10 to 2:20)
7. Adjourn



# Minutes Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission

August 17 , 2022

The meeting of the commission was called to order by chairman Lew Pence at 1:05pm. Members present were Dan Suhr, Kerry McMurray, Duane Turner, Gale Kleinkopf and Bob Muffley, Executive Director. Also present was Steve Hines, U. of I. Extension Educator and Aaron Trevino, DEQ regional office.

Lew asked if there were any changes or corrections to the previous minutes. Kerry McMurray moved that the minutes be approved. 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 the amount of \$1,100.00, mileage for \$63.76 and postage for \$24.00. Other bills are mileage for members who are present. Gale Kleinkopf moved to pay the bills. The motion was seconded by Duane Turner and approved.

Lew asked Bob if there had been any correspondence since our last meeting. Bob said he received an email from Arlen saying he would be attending a continuing education class in Utah at the time of the meeting. Bob said he also received an email from Jim Jones which he would discuss later. Bob said it wasn't correspondence, but he had tried to reach Josh Bartlome of the INL Citizens Advisory Board, but couldn't find him. He said he called commissioner Reinke to see what he knew and was told that Josh had moved to Florida. Bob said this would make an opening on the advisory committee and until filled the Magic Valley would not be represented. Bob said applications can be found on line and would like to see a county commissioner fill the position. He would work on this.

Lew introduced Steve Hines, U. of I. Extension Educator to discuss his current work on soil conservation efforts and the use of cover crops. Steve said his project got it's start in 2013 with a \$75,000 grant through the NRCS to study the use of cover crops to help stop soil erosion. He said this could also be a factor in our problems with phosphorus in the water ways. He said bare soil during the spring months is very susceptible to our typical high winds during those months. He has seen clouds of dust in the air during these months and part of that dust, containing phosphorus and other nutrients, enters our water ways. Steve said they are working on several different types of cover crops to see what mix my be the best for various farming and livestock grazing within the region. He said the best cover crop for farmers is the cheapest. He is trying to find the best cover crop mix that would cost the farmer between \$30.00 and \$40.00 per acre. He said one of their demonstration mixes include triticale, peas, turnip and

radish. He said one big problem can come from cover crops, such as this, is that voles love them. What he's found, however, is that if cows graze on the cover crop they will trample the soil and this will keep the vole population down. Steve also said the timing for seeding is part of their research. The best time for seeding appears to be around mid July and it's best if the farmer can work up the soil a little before seeding if possible.

Another thing they're looking at is if you can make money by just planting a cover crop and then graze it throughout the year. He said a cool thing about cover crops is it stays good during the summer and continues to grow well in cool weather. For cattlemen this system works. The hard part is matching the number of head to the amount of feed. Forage oats and barley, if you keep them growing, are the best for this use, but it can be hard to kill. It's still a good spring and summer forage. If you want only a winter forage then it's best to use cereal grains since it is easily killed with Roundup in the spring.

They are also studying the planting of forage crops in corn fields. He said they are finding that if two corn rows are seeded 6" apart and then you create a 30" row followed by a second 6" double row and so on, you can seed the 30 inches between the corn with a cover crop. He said the field still produces the same amount of corn and the forage, per acre, is amazing. Steve said, however, that to make money with a cover crop a farmer really must use it for grazing.

After questions, Lew thanked Steve for updating us on his study and asked Bob to give us an update on the DOE reply to our testimony on the Proposed Versatile Test Reactor (VCR) for the INL. Bob said he and Dan Suhr had talked about their response to us after our last meeting and Dan said we should send it to Jim Jones and see what he thinks. Jim said "with regard to item 55-1 for instance, DOE does a song and dance about how it generally handles SNF, where it might go and so on, without saying when or how it will be removed from Idaho. Other answers to other questions are (1) general in nature, (2) depends on an understanding of other procedures and programs, (3) draws information that is not relevant and (4) not specific enough to critically evaluate. The answer in question 74-3 suffers from some of each of these problems."

Jim told me he had not read the EIS and his opinions are just that. He goes on to state "where the potential impact on the aquifer is of such importance, it seems a specific, succinct answer should have been provided". Bob said he's leaving it up to the commission about what, if anything, we can do from here.

Lew thanked Bob for his report and asked if there was any new or old business. Hearing none The meeting was adjourned at 2:24PM.

Respectfully Submitted



Bob J. Muffley, Executive Director



# Agenda

## Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission

Meeting Date: September 21, 2022

Time: 1:00PM

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 to revolving door and turn right to the hallway. 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. Kerri Treinen, USGS - Update on monitoring at the INL (1:15 to 2:00)
5. Bob Muffley, Final review of Plan changes and schedule public hearing (2:00 to 2:15)
6. New or old business - (2:15 to 2:25)
7. Adjourn



# Minutes Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission

September 21 , 2022

The meeting of the commission was called to order by chairman Lew Pence at 1:15pm. Members present were Kerry McMurray, Duane Turner, Arlen Morgan, Gale Kleinkopf and Bob Muffley, Executive Director.

Lew asked if there were any changes or corrections to the previous minutes. Kerry McMurray moved that the minutes be approved. 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 the amount of \$1,100.00, mileage for \$63.76 and postage for \$24.00. Other bills are mileage for members who are present. Gale Kleinkopf moved to pay the bills. The motion was seconded by Arlen Morgan and approved.

Lew asked Bob if there had been any correspondence since our last meeting. Bob said the only correspondence was the final Trends in Goundwater levels, and Orthophosphate and Nitrate Concentrations in the Middle Snake River Region, South-Central Idaho by Ken Skinner. He said he had finally gotten the OK to release the report. Bob said there had been no change in the trend data which he covered with the Commission about a year ago, but does include better information on background information and how the data was analyzed.

Lew introduced Kerri Treinen of the USGS to give us an update on groundwater monitoring at the INL. Kerri said her job is to determine Hot spots and monitor these and other areas of the INL. She said they have recently updated their findings based on their monitoring using 2019 and 2020 data. She said the Snake Plain is made up of fractured basalt, but there are also sediment zones within the Basalt which can capture some of the pollutants. Some groundwater at the INL can travel at a rate of 2' to 26' per day, but some would take up to 700 years to reach the magic valley. She said ground water in the Magic Valley travels at a much faster rate. The Idaho Nuclear and Engineering Center (INTEC) is where much of the waste was originally injected. Employees at INTEC must drink bottled water. She said the sources of water to the INL are the Little Lost River, Birch Creek, Mud Lake and Some (intermittent) comes in through the Big Lost. Kerri said the Snake River is south of the INL and doesn't flow into ground water at that point.

In 1952-1972 the waste from INL was injected through wells. Other methods used during this time period were trenches, ditches, pits, drain fields, land fills, septic tanks and buried waste





# Agenda

## Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission

Meeting Date: October 19, 2022

Time: 1:00PM

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 to revolving door and turn right to the hallway. 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 invasive species work in our region and the state: Bethany Muffley, Ag Program Specialist, Boise office and Michael Cellan, Ag Program Specialist, Twin Falls office
5. Bob Muffley, Final review of Plan changes and schedule public hearing (2:00 to 2:15)
6. New or old business - (2:15 to 2:25)
7. Adjourn



# Minutes Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission

October 19 , 2022

The meeting of the commission was called to order by chairman Lew Pence at 1:15pm. Members present were Kerry McMurray, Duane Turner, Arlen Morgan, Gale Kleinkopf, Dan Suhr and Bob Muffley, Executive Director. Others present were Bethany Muffley and Michael Cellan with the ISDA, Aaron Treveno of IDEQ and Mario de Haro, U. of I. Extension Educator.

Lew asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting. Kerry McMurray moved that the minutes be approved. 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 of \$550.00 and his mileage for \$63.76. Other bills are mileage for members who are present. Gale Kleinkopf moved to pay the bills. The motion was seconded by Dan Suhr and approved.

Lew asked Bob if there had been any correspondence since our last meeting. Bob said there had been no correspondence since our last meeting.

Lew introduced Bethany Muffley and Michael Cellan, Ag Program Specialists with the Idaho Department of Ag. Bethany said she was going to discuss each item of importance to the Commission sent to her by Bob. She said the check points on entries to the state have been very effective since no mussels have been discovered in the state's waterways. She said, however, the risk is never zero. She said one problem is that not all states have detection programs such as those states that are already heavily infested. Most boaters coming back to or through Idaho are coming back from the Colorado river in both Utah and Idaho, but some, particularly in north Idaho, are coming from the mid west. She said many states who have programs such as ours will notify them if a suspected boat is coming to or through Idaho. Mussels, they found, are not as robust as once suspected. They will die pretty fast when taken from a water way. Out of water they will only survive about 5 days. The problem, however, is when they are in water that is pooled in a watercraft. This is what the inspectors are looking for. She said it's extremely important that boat motors and boats themselves are drained of all water when leaving an infested waterway.

They are still closing their stations in the winter months because mussels don't do well in freezing water. They are still looking at keeping their stations open later in the year and opening earlier. She said county and state police are available at all stations in Idaho based on availability. Bonner, Kootenai, and Owyee counties station an officer at their stations. Other



counties don't have the manpower to do this even though the ISDA will pay the salary. Its hard to find officers willing to work at one because of the long and many times inactive days. She said the Twin Falls Sheriff is no longer going to staff the Highway 93 check station so they are looking for an organization in our area that will take over the responsibility. Bethany said, overall, they get excellent help from the police and even boat marinas in the region. She said the state has developed an Idaho rapid response plan for early detection of dreissenid mussels. If a detection is made in an Idaho water body the plan kicks in and shows the specifics of who must be contacted and what must be done to contain the problem.

Bethany said her specialty is aquatic plant invasive species. She displayed some slides on their recent work at Blue Hear Springs in the Hagerman Valley. She said Eurasian watermilfoil had been discovered at the spring a few years ago and they began an intense program to remove it from the water system. She said all plants were either pulled or sucked up from the bottom and removed from the river system. She said they continue to check the spring and remove it when found. A problem they are seeing now is that native plants are now taking over the area where the watermilfoil was removed so the sandy area around the spring is not looking much better. The watermilfoil removal disturbed the sand around the spring allowing this to take place. The oldest problem in our area is hydrilla. This was found below fish raising facility north of Buhl several years ago and is an ongoing problem. This must also be pulled by hand and no chemicals are use. Hydrilla is a warm water plant, but they are afraid that, over time, it may adapt to colder water. They are still making progress, however, but they may not be totally eliminated. A third problem, just east of our region, is flowering rush. Flowering rush will build up a mat and, even though it is quite pretty, it can foul a canal system given sufficient time. They are trying to get a handle on the situation before it continues down stream. Bethany said there are 12 aquatic invasive plant species in Idaho that they are trying to either contain or eliminate throughout the state.

Bethany finished up by saying there are many ways for invasive species to enter the state. She gave an example of a Marimo moss ball being sold at a retail establishment. She said the problem was, the moss ball contained invasive mussels. She said Ag investigators are now inspecting nurseries and pet stores on a year-round basis.

Lew thanked Bethany and Michael for their update on the invasive species program and asked Bob if he wanted to discuss the final changes to the plan. Bob asked if everyone received the final updated plan and if there were any other changes at this time. Bob was told that on page 42 there is a reference to page 48 which should be page 49. There were no other changes recommended. Bob said he would start the ball rolling on printing the changes to the plan and putting them on our website. His hope is to have the public hearing at our December meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Bob J. Muffley, Executive Director



# **Agenda**

## **Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission**

Meeting Date: November 16, 2022

Time: 1:00PM

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 to revolving door and turn right to the hallway. 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. Mario de Haro Marti, Extension Educator - Update on U. of I. Dairy & research facility, water quality issues & education, efforts toward water conservation and economic outlook for the industry.
5. Bob Muffley, discuss make up of new legislature in the region and reaching out and educational needs within the region (2:00 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

November 16 , 2022

The meeting of the commission was called to order by vice chairman Gale Kleinkopf at 1:04pm. Members present were Kerry McMurray, Duane Turner, Arlen Morgan, Dean Edgar and Bob Muffley, Executive Director. Others present were Mario de Haro and Steve Hines, U. of I. Extension Educators and Aaron Treveno of IDEQ.

Gale asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting. Kerry McMurray moved that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Duane Turner and approved.

Gale asked Bob for the bills since the last meeting. Bob said the bills include his compensation of \$550.00, his mileage for \$38.88 and \$41.00 for our annual legal ad. Other bills are mileage for members who are present. Arlen Morgan moved to pay the bills. The motion was seconded by Dean Edgar and approved.

Gale asked Bob if there had been any correspondence since our last meeting. Bob said he had just received an email from the DOE discussing their intent to build a 2<sup>nd</sup> product storage building for high level waste at their INTEC facility at the INL. They say this will be needed to eventually store the 900,000 gallons of liquid waste when turned to a solid state. Their current storage houses 37 vaults and with the new facility they will have a total of 78 vaults. Bob said we probably should have no problem with this since it gets the liquid waste out of the ground. The new vaults will also, most probably, hold the waste from the new Versatile Test Reactor.

Gale introduced U. of I. Extension Educator, Mario de Haro for an update on the CAFE and Research centers as well as the Dairy economy and projects on water quality and quantity issues. Mario said the Idaho Center of Agriculture, Food and Environment will be the largest and most advanced center dedicated for dairy research in the country. He said the new dairy will be located in the Rupert area and will be a mid size dairy. He said the Dairy portion of the operation is scheduled to be completed in 2024. The research center, to be located near Jerome and the CSI campus will come later when more money, hopefully, will be forthcoming. He said there will be 5 programming areas which are:

1. Animal related research/value added/robotics and genomics
2. Agronomic research/ crop rotation/soil and water health/nutrient management
3. Food science research ( on CSI campus)
4. Jerome center will provide outreach and Extension
5. Workforce training and education





# Agenda

## Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission

Meeting Date: December 21, 2022

Time: 1:00PM

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 to revolving door and turn right to the hallway. 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. Brian Olmstead, Idaho Water Resource Board Member, Raft River Basin Project (1:10 to 1:50)
5. Bob Muffley, discuss make up of new legislature in the region and reaching out and educational needs within the region (1:50 to 2:25)
6. New or old business - (2:25 to 2:30)
7. Adjourn





# Minutes Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission

December 21 , 2022

The meeting of the commission was called to order by Chairman Lew Pence at 1:02pm. Members present were Kerry McMurray, Duane Turner, Dean Edgar, Dan Suhr, Gale Kleinkopf and Bob Muffley, Executive Director.

Lew asked some questions regarding the minutes and then asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting. Dan Suhr moved that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Kerry McMurray and approved.

Lew asked Bob for the bills since the last meeting. Bob said the bills include his compensation of \$550.00, his mileage for \$38.88 and \$322.50 from the Jerome Print shop for printing the changes to the plan. Other bills are mileage for members who are present. Dean Edgar moved to pay the bills. The motion was seconded by Duane Turner and approved.

Lew asked Bob if there had been any correspondence since our last meeting. Bob said he hadn't received any since the last meeting.

Lew said our speaker, Brian Olmstead, hasn't shown up so he would go to the next item on the agenda and asked Bob to proceed. Bob said he had looked up all the legislators in the region and went through the names with the members to make sure he hadn't missed anyone. He said we need to send our legislators information on our water quality and quantity work for the year. He said we also need to let them know some of our concerns. We have a lot of new legislators who have probably never heard of us. The good news is that one of our old members, Jack Nelson, is now a legislator from Jerome. Bob went on to say he is having a hard time contacting various divisions in the state agencies. The web sites for each department used to list individuals in their various divisions and give contact names in each division. Now, all he can get is a complete list and email address of everyone in the department, but no names and email addresses for individuals within each of the divisions. This means he doesn't know who to contact for information we need. IDEQ has the same thing for its Boise office, but luckily it still lists contact names for their regional offices. A bad example would be the Idaho Department of Water Resources. If you need to talk to someone in their Twin Falls office concerning a specific topic, instead of bringing up names of individuals and what they do, it simply brings up a map showing the location of the department and a phone number. How do you know who to contact at the local office if there is no name or job description. Bob doesn't believe this to be "open government". After some general comments by the commission, Dan Suhr, moved to send Bob and Lew to Boise to meeting with various department heads involved

