



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes - February 28, 2024

The meeting of the Executive Committee of the Mid Snake Regional Water Resource Commission was called to order by Commissioner Brent Reinke at 12:45m.

Present:

Commissioners

Brent Reinke – Twin Falls County
Ron Buhler – Gooding County
Dan Shaeffer – Minidoka County
Nathan Schutte – Lincoln County
Lenard Beck – Cassia County
Charles Howell – Jerome County

Commission Members

Roger Morley – Executive Director
Bethany Muffley – Ex Assistant

Commissioner Reinke began by asking for a motion to approve the previous Executive Committee meetings minutes from October 27th, 2023. Commissioner Buhler motioned and Commissioner Schutte seconded with all in favor.

Commissioner Reinke addressed the next agenda item regarding ratifying the Mid Snake RWRC's nomination of Arlen Morgan as Chair and Duane Turner as Vice chair to replace Lew Pence and Gail Kleinkopf who had/were retiring. Commissioner Reinke asked if there was any feedback from the commissioners on these appointments. Hearing none, Commissioner Howell moved to ratify the appointments of the chair and vice chair as presented. Commissioner Buhler seconded it with all in favor.

Commissioner Reinke moved on to the next agenda item which was a request from Roger Morley and Bethany Muffley to move the commissions financial account from the Gooding County Clerk's office to a financial institution that would be easier to access for them. Bethany relayed to the committee that upon further investigation after this agenda item had been added, she identified that moving the financial account would not be in the best interest of the commission due to the services the county can provide in relation to tax-related documentation, and expressed the approval she and Roger had been originally seeking was no longer desired. This led into a discussion about how assessments will be delivered and received in the future, including the timing at which this should happen. Bethany indicated that the Mid Snake RWRC Plan outlines communicating the proposed budget by June 15th. Commissioner Reinke indicated that reaching out to the counties around the May-June timeframe with the proposed budget would be great timing.

New Business: Roger relayed that he had contacted Casey Prestwich with the BLM to see if any statements had been received from the Mid Snake RWRC in relation to the Lava Ridge project. Casey indicated that the BLM had not, so Roger generated a letter and presented it to the Executive Committee to review. Roger indicated that the Mid Snake RWRC has cause for concern and Commissioner Schutte agreed due to the projects positioning directly above the aquifer. The Executive Committee agreed that

they were in favor of the letter with an adjustment to address concerns related to the use of explosives to set footings directly above the region's aquifer. Commissioner Schutte motioned to approve the letter presented pending modifications to add language about the aquifer and blasting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beck with all in favor.

Commissioner Reinke asked if there were any additional topics Roger would like to address before moving on to the final agenda topic which was elections by the Board of County Commissioners for appointments to the Mid Snake RWRC Executive Committee. Roger asked for specific guidance on how involved the Mid Snake RWRC should be as far as outward correspondence with potential partners, as well as questions on any specific issues the Executive Committee would like to see the Mid Snake RWRC work on. Commissioner Reinke brought up the idea of an annual Planning and Zoning training the Mid Snake RWRC had discussed generating at the last meeting. Commissioner Reinke went on to explain that this could allow P&Z the ability to ask more in-depth questions as it relates to water and the potential impact a proposed action could cause. Commissioner Beck indicated that they are more concerned about water quantity than quality in Cassia County at this time, and asked if quantity would be something addressed as well. Roger and Bethany both indicated that water quantity would also be addressed because without the quantity, there would be no way to ensure quality. This sparked a comment from Commissioner Reinke on the strawman document being drafted and edited by Paul Arrington. Roger had not been made aware of this document yet and Commissioner Reinke indicated that he would send him the most recent copy.

Commissioner Reinke moved on to the subject of elections of county commissioners to the Executive Committee. Commissioner Beck indicated that Commissioner Kunau has always been assigned to this committee and that he is hesitant to step out in front of him. Commissioner Beck indicated that he would make Commissioner Kunau aware of the discussion today and will ask if he can attend the meetings for the county on his place as an alternate if he cannot attend himself. A motion was made to nominate Commissioner Schutte as Vice Chair and Commissioner Reinke as Chair for the Executive Committee. The motion was seconded with all in favor.

Final thoughts delivered in the meeting were in relation to finding and appointing members to the Mid Snake RWRC. Bethany indicated she would send out instructions on how new applicants can apply with the steps that commissioners will need to take after.

The meeting was adjourned @ 1:26pm with a motion and a second.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bethany Muffley', written in a cursive style.

Bethany Muffley, Executive Director (Acting)