

Minutes
Middle Snake Regional
Water Resource Commission
(corrected draft for approval)
February 15, 2023

**indicates narrative added by Bethany Muffley and/or words or sentences that may not be transcribed correctly from Bob Muffley's original handwritten script.*

The meeting of the commission was called to order by Chairman Lew Pence at 1:00pm. Members present were Dan Suhr, Kerry McMurray, Duane Turner, Dean Edgar, Gale Kleinkopf, Arlen Morgan, and Bob Muffley, Executive Director. Also present were Mario De Haro and Steve Hines with University of Idaho Extension, Brian Olmstead of the Idaho Water Resources Board and Brent Reinke, Twin Falls County Commissioner.

Lew asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting. A motion and 2nd was made and the minutes were approved.

Lew asked Bob for the bills since the last meeting. Bob said the bills include his compensation of \$550.00. **Bob may have requested for additional milage reimbursements, but information was not identified in notes or documents available.* Other bills are mileage for members who are present. Dean Edgar moved to pay the bills. The motion was seconded and approved.

Lew asked Bob if there had been any correspondence since our last meeting. **Bob may have indicated that he hadn't received any since the last meeting, but that information is unknown. Two emails were received (one on Feb 17th and another on Feb 27th) in relation to topics discussed at this meeting. Information is included at the bottom of this document.*

Lew introduced Brian Olmstead who is retired from the Twin Falls Canal Company and now an active member of the Idaho Water Resources Board. Brian was invited to talk about **drainage* within their region of the aquifer. Agriculture is reported as the largest water user in the area, both above and below ground. Currently, Brian indicated that we are in about the same situation as last year, and it hasn't been good over our last **3 or 5* years. Idaho farms are actually making more money in a drought. The Swan Falls agreement is still the major roadblock in being able to store additional water because of the amount that must be expelled. Due to this agreement, there is a limited amount of water available for recharge which means that the pumping and use of ground water, must be controlled. Knowing that a new dam will not be placed, it means we will be relying on spring water. Springs should run at 6000 CFS, and when water drops below that amount, pumping will need to be cut back. Brian's personal thought are that as of now, we are farming about 120,000 acres more than we should.

Brian also indicated that the Blackfoot-Minidoka area provides most of the recharge in the region, but the area does not have sufficient water at this time. They are lining canals for this reason to ensure water availability for users by decreasing water loss experienced from seepage. Seepage provides a substantial amount of recharge from these canal systems so lining them will decrease the natural recharge which has been occurring. Areas such as in the Big Wood River system may provide additional water that could be used for recharge. Brian also discussed applications of cloud seeding and how it is working. He went on to report that the Water Resources Board is still working to increase water containment in any dam they can. Efforts are continuing on the subject of using federal funds to increase water levels behind Anderson Ranch Dam for use as recharge in Mountain Home and at the Air Force Base (both in substantial need of water).

Raft River area is now having to drill down 1,000ft to access ground water. Large dairies in the area have applied for and been approved for a new water right in the event that excess water is available. This will mean that residents of the Raft River area will need to bid against these operations and will most likely be outbid for the right.

Lew thanked Brian for filling us in on what is happening in the region and asked if there was any new or old business. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned with a motion by Dan Suhr with a second by Gale Kleinkopf.

Respectfully Submitted

Bethany Muffley-Ahlin based on notes scribed
by Bob J. Muffley, Executive Director

Original Minutes Notes:

Office
DEPOT

Professional

1:00 pm on down
Minutes Duane Ariza
Bills Dunlop Gate

Brian Talked about the a BLM meeting at
at Canyon Cross next ~~Thursday~~ Thursday.

Brian Talked about our drudge for this region
of the region. As in the biggest part water
plays both above & below ground. Right now
we are in about the same situation as last
year, so isn't real good over ~~the~~ last 5 years.
I believe farmers actually make more money
in a drought. Swan Falls is still the
major blockage to water and a certain amount
of water must get thru which means that ground
water pumping needs to be controlled. Now there
will be no great dam so no we must rely on springs
springs must run at 6000 cfs. when
it drops (below) pumping will be cut back. Right
now we are farming about 120,000 acres more
than we should.

The Blackfoot-Missida area most of Recharge,
but right now don't have sufficient water.

They are now lining canals to get that water
to recharge sites, other areas such as Big Wood may
provide some more recharge. Talked about cloud
seeding & its use.

Still working a raising Anderson Ranch dam
using Federal funds. Mt. Home with it Bodley.

Raft River area is about 1,000 ft to ground water.
The Raft River dairies have applied & approved a new water

write. So when there is excess water the big
drinks will probably out bid the others for
any excess right.

Dan Gale

Emails Received:

Please Help Stop Lava Ridge

Inbox

bmuffley@muffleyins.com

-----Original Message-----

From: brianolmstead1452@gmail.com

Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 7:16pm

To: bmuffley@muffleyins.com, donnaence25@msn.com, danasuhr@gmail.com, kerrym@cassiacounty.org, dwtturner1912@gmail.com, arlenandlois@gmail.com

Cc: edgarinc007@gmail.com

Subject: FW: Please Help Stop Lava Ridge

Bob and all, this is not a specific comment to the Draft EIS, but does highlight a few of the many many reasons why this EIS is totally deficient and why they need to listen to local people. Rest assured, I will be sending dozens of other comments on the myriad of issues and all of you need to also. The kprestwich@blm.gov is the main place to send your comments to. A letter to times news like this one is always good also. Google Stop Lava ridge and you can connect with thousands of folks against this. You do not need to join facebook to read hundreds of comments. It is all open to the public. The BLM open house meeting at Canyon Ridge is next Thursday from 5 to 7 pm. If a couple of thousand folks show up in opposition that will make a STRONG statement. Spread the word, and invite everyone you know!! Thanks.. Brian O

From: brianolmstead1452@gmail.com <brianolmstead1452@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 8:26

To: letters@magicvalley.com

Subject: Please Help Stop Lava Ridge

Fellow residents of Magic Valley: If you don't want 400 Space Needle size Bird-chopping windmills to be built on 300 square miles of beautiful BLM high desert lands around Wilson Butte in Jerome, Lincoln, and Minidoka Counties, you need to speak up NOW!! LS Power, a Giant East Coast wind energy developer and their local shell company Magic Valley Energy, are and will continue to inundate you with offers of \$\$ and completely misleading propaganda with one goal in mind: To keep YOU from writing to our local BLM folks with your concerns! It is that simple for them—keep you quiet just long enough for them to get the project approved so they can make a LOT of money destroying YOUR public lands! Yes, Idaho Power will need a mix of renewable energy in small increments over the next few decades, and Yes, Idaho Power has a carefully made plan to meet these needs. Lava Ridge is not any part of that plan, and they know it! Lava Ridge has no contract with Idaho Power; this power will be sold to the Southwest to whomever will pay the most! Lava Ridge would be by FAR the largest wind farm in Idaho, the first on our rare and critical BLM high desert habitat and will require building 400 miles of new roads where there are NONE presently. That land is still a mostly undisturbed wild area that rightly belongs to the Raptors, Bats, birds, elk, deer and all the wildlife that have lived there for centuries! Lava Ridge is a Bad Idea for Idaho. Act Right Now! Send your personal, well thought out comments to kprestwich@blm.gov. Please be respectful; our local BLM folks are not at all to blame and they do their very best to manage and protect our precious public lands! (google Stop Lava Ridge for lots more info and pictures and tell everyone you know to get involved) Thank you, Brian Olmstead, Twin Falls.

IWRB Recharge - Operations Update 2022/2023

Inbox

bmuffley@muffleyins.com

-----Original Message-----

From: "Farmer, Neal" <Neal.Farmer@idwr.idaho.gov>

Sent: Monday, February 27, 2023 12:18pm

To: "Hipke, Wesley" <Wesley.Hipke@idwr.idaho.gov>, "Aaron Dalling" <aaron.fmid@myidahomail.com>, "Aaron Trevino" <Aaron.Trevino@deq.idaho.gov>, "AFRD2 Canal Manager"

<manager@bigwoodcanal.com>, "Alan Hansten" <awh@northsidecanal.com>, "Alan Jackson"

<alanj@binghamgroundwater.com>, "Alan Kelsch" <alankelsch@icloud.com>, "Alexis Clark"

<aclark@uidaho.edu>, "Alyssa Bangs" <alyssa_bangs@fws.gov>, "Anders, Matthew"

<Matthew.Anders@idwr.idaho.gov>, "Andrew Knight" <AKnight@Idahopower.com>, "B Stanger"

<bstranger@farmlandreserve.org>, "Bob Muffley" <bmuffley@muffleyins.com>, "Bob Turner"

<bob.igwa@gmail.com>, "Brad Mattson" <Bradm@ascanal.org>, "Brian Higgs"

<brian@waterwellconsultants.com>, "Brian Olmstead (IWRB Member)"

<brianolmstead1452@gmail.com>, "Brian Stevens" <bstevens@usbr.gov>, "Stevenson, John (IWRB

Member)" <johns@safelink.net>, "Chandler, Craig" <Craig.Chandler@idwr.idaho.gov>, "Chris Bromley"

<cbromley@mchughbromley.com>, "Christopher Runyan" <crunyan@usbr.gov>, "City of Blackfoot"

<mayor@cityofblackfoot.org>, "Clark, Cynthia Bridge" <Cynthia.Clark@idwr.idaho.gov>, "Codie Martin"

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<yellowstone.earth.science@gmail.com>, "Erin Whorton" <Erin.Whorton@usda.gov>, "Ernie Carlsen"

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<kailsheppard@gmail.com>, "Karen Henderson" <karen.henderson@riverence.com>, "Kasey Prestwich"

<kprestwich@blm.gov>, "Kathryn Elliott" <Kathryn.Elliott@deq.idaho.gov>, "Keith Esplin"

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Brian" <Brian.Patton@idwr.idaho.gov>, "Paul Arrington" <paul@iwua.org>, "PEP Farms" <pepfarmsprimo@gmail.com>, "Peter Cooper" <pcooper@usbr.gov>, "Phil Bates" <PBates@idahopower.com>, "Phil Rassier" <pjem76@msn.com>, "Randy Budge" <rcb@racinelaw.net>, "Ray Suitter" <raysuitter10@gmail.com>, "Rick Raymond" <rsray5@hotmail.com>, "Rick Rumsey" <rick@rumsey-eng.com>, "Rob Harris" <rharris@holdenlegal.com>, "rob@henrysfork.org" <rob@henrysfork.org>, "Roger Chase" <Rwchase70@gmail.com>, "Roger Warner" <rwarner@rockymountainenvironmental.com>, "Roland Sprnger" <rspringer@usbr.gov>, "Ron Carlson" <tentmaker@q.com>, "Sarah Klahn" <sklahn@somachlaw.com>, "Scott King" <SkKing@spfwater.com>, "Sean Ellis" <SeanEllis@idahofb.org>, "Sean Woodhead" <Sean.Woodhead@deq.idaho.gov>, "Shaun Parkinson" <SParkinson@idahopower.com>, "Shawn Sauer" <shawnsauer@gmail.com>, "Sophia Sigstedt" <ssigstedt@lynkertech.com>, "Spackman, Gary" <Gary.Spackman@idwr.idaho.gov>, "Stan Bell" <sbell@idahopower.com>, "Stan Hawkins" <linnhawkins@prodigy.net>, "Stephen Thompson" <snthomps@hotmail.com>, "Steve Murdock" <stevenmurdock@gmail.com>, "Steve Nielson" <SCNielson@gmail.com>, "Steve Stuebner" <steve.stuebner@gmail.com>, "TJ Budge" <tjb@racinelaw.net>, "Bassista, Tom" <thomas.bassista@idfg.idaho.gov>, "Tony Dixey" <Tonyd@ascanal.org>, "Travis Mcling" <Travis.Mcling@inl.gov>, "tlt@idahowaters.com" <tlt@idahowaters.com>, "Trevor Atkinson" <Trevor.Atkinson@inl.gov>, "Vince Alberdi" <vincealberdi@gmail.com>, "Vincent, Sean" <Sean.Vincent@idwr.idaho.gov>, "Weaver, Mathew" <Mathew.Weaver@idwr.idaho.gov>, "William A Parsons" <wparsons@pmt.org>, "vandermeulenpete@yahoo.com" <vandermeulenpete@yahoo.com>, "Neace, Heather" <Heather.Neace@idwr.idaho.gov>, "Morell, Josh" <Josh.Morell@idwr.idaho.gov>, "Kevin Lakey" <manager@bigwoodcanal.com>, "Pat McMahon (pat@svwsd.com)" <pat@svwsd.com>, "Marc Gibbs (marcus.j.gibbs@gmail.com)" <marcus.j.gibbs@gmail.com>

Subject: IWRB Recharge - Operations Update 2022/2023

Greetings,

Recharge waters continue diversions in the lower valley and this bi-weekly update includes:

1. Recharge updated numbers
2. Milner Reservoir Pool Level vs. Total Recharge Diversion Rates Chart

IWRB ESPA Recharge Update:

Currently Twin Falls Canal (TFCC), American Falls Reservoir District #2 (AFRD2), and Southwest Irrigation District (SWID) are delivering IWRB recharge.

The spills past Milner Dam ceased on February 15th and flows increased into AFRD2 Milner Gooding Canal to Mile Post 31 recharge site.

Current releases from Minidoka Dam:	429 cfs	- 2/27/23
Current Milner Pool Level:	9.6'	- 2/27/23
Current IWRB recharge diversions:	442 cfs	- 2/26/23
Total IWRB recharge:	101,125 af	- through 2/26/23

Link to Hydromet Milner Pool Levels ----- > [Hydromet Pacific Northwest Region | Bureau of Reclamation \(usbr.gov\)](https://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/instant_graph.html?cbtt=MIL&pcode=FB) https://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/instant_graph.html?cbtt=MIL&pcode=FB

For more detail information concerning the current recharge season click on the following link: <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/d0b4f250b611427ea93de2e197ce885d>

General information concerning the IWRB ESPA recharge please visit our webpage at - <https://iwrbrecharge-idwr.hub.arcgis.com/>

If you have any questions, please give us a call or email.

Cheers!

Neal Farmer

Recharge Program

Idaho Dept. of Water Resources