



Minutes – April 17, 2024

Attendance:

Commissioners – Ex Committee (EC)

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

Commission Members

Lew Pence - Gooding
Roger Morley – Executive Director
Bethany Muffley – Executive Asst.
Duane Turner – Vice Chair TF P&Z (retired)
Kerry McMurray – Cassia P&Z
Dean Edgar - Cassia

Agency/Other

Nicholas Howell – DEQ – Twin Falls
Don Terry – Cassia
Bryce Larson - ISDA
Cole Morrison – ISDA
Kali Sherrill – TF County
Rocky Matthews – TF County
Ron James – TF County

New Members/Prospective

Scott Turpin - Cassia
JD Could – Twin Falls
Phil Gossi - Gooding

Call to Order: Duane Turner - 1:00PM

Approve minutes of previous meeting: Lew Pence Motion, Dean Edgar 2nd.

Approve bills: Member mileage reimbursements, Roger Morley (\$750), Bethany Muffley (\$480 – 24hrs @ \$20/hr). Kerry McMurray motioned, Lew Pence 2nd.

Correspondence: Roger Morley reported interactions with: the State Controller's Office for questions on local government registry submissions; Mike Tracy who requested to have Scott Cleveland (running for Congressional District 2) come in and address the commission (Roger declined the request); Commission member correspondence related to prospective members; Cole Morrison with ISDA, Drafted a letter to our congressional delegation in relation to the commission's Lava Ridge opposition letter; Kacey Prestwich with BLM to confirm letter submission, Contacted a geology professor at CSI with questions in relation to Lava Ridge, but he declined to comment; Attended a Republican meeting for the Farm Bureau where Tom Billington showed interest in membership; Contacted Dennis Owsley from IDWR as a future presenter; Attended WAG meeting with discussion on EPA requirements on aquaculture facilities; Received emails from Mike Crapo and Senator Risch in relation to the commission's position outlined in the Lava Ridge letter; Received an email from Brent Reinke related to the Upper Snake River Field Office operation where water data information can be found; Spoke to Representative Jack Nelson about the passing of Senate Bill 1341 (adds to existing law to establish provisions regarding common ground water supply for the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer); Alan Hansen with Northside Canal Company; Tasha Owens with IDEQ about grant opportunities for non-point sources.

Submission for a matter of record vote regarding the Lava Ridge opposition letter was the next topic. Duane called for a motion to approve the sending of the letter. Kerry motioned and Lew seconded with all in favor. The next item for approval was the purchasing of a name tag for the executive director when representing commission. Roger indicated that he changed his mind on the request and would use his own money to purchase such things but did request to use the commission's name and graphic.

Duane asked if there was any opposition to this request, hearing none, Lew motioned, and Dean Edgar seconded.

Duane introduced JD Gould as a prospective member to the commission, pending ratification by the county commissioners. JD introduced himself as a 4th generation rancher from Buhl who has a love for the Snake River and aquifer and wants to make sure that our water resources are around for a 5th and 6th generation. Phil Gossi was also introduced to the group as a new member (pending ratification) who will be representing Gooding County and Scott Turpin was present as the new appointee for Cassia County. Duane then introduced presenter Cole Morrison with ISDA Invasive Species Program who delivered a presentation covering the State's response in the Mid Snake Quagga Mussel crisis along with information detection, treatment, logistics pre & during the treatment, follow-up monitoring, waterbody closures, new area inspection stations and state allocated funding. He reported a new station at Centennial Park and another that is planned at Shoshone Falls Park. He also relayed that the river from Centennial up to Pillar Falls is open but the stretch from Pillar Falls to Shoshone Falls is still closed. ISDA would like to get that portion open as soon as possible but they want to get a couple rounds of sampling events completed before doing so. Cole also indicated that a third station is planned to open in North Idaho. Cole went on to explain that advanced decontamination techniques are being implemented at waterbody inspection stations that will aim to prevent the chance that any potential contaminated water from the Mid Snake will not be transferred to other waterbodies. ISDA is also going to double their monitoring efforts and the Mid Snake will be subject to continues delimiting surveys. They also plan to utilize a new monitoring tool called eDNA. Cole mentioned that on July 1st, The Pull the Plug Law will go into effect and a new grant program that will allow local entities to apply for up to 20% of the funding the Invasive Species Sticker program generates to purchase items that will assist in in control invasive species. Duane thanked Cole for the outstanding presentation.

Moving into the roundtable discussion, Duane asked a question to Rocky Matthews with Twin Falls County Parks about any blowback they have been getting from the public. Rocky indicated that some are disgruntled, but once they are talked through it, they understand the good of the cause. Trails and preventing access in the closure areas were also discussed. Bethany displayed a flowchart as a visual graphic highlighting the organizational structure of the various positions within the commission along with interactions that occur between the players. Duane moved the discussion to the proposed budget. Commission Reinke requested that a proposed budget be received by the EC prior to May 20th. The commission discussed assessment amounts, proposed expenses, reimbursements, and finished with suggesting a redesign of the budget template to reflect income and expenses more clearly.

Duane asked if there was any additional business to discuss, hearing none he moved to adjourn the meeting. Dean Edgar and Lew Pence made that motion and second as their final acts before retiring from the commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:53PM

Respectfully Submitted

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

Bethany Muffley, Executive Assistant