

Wood River Water Collaborative Minutes

Wednesday January 18, 2017

The Nature Conservancy, Hailey

**ATTACH Sukow Report on Full Curtailment and Project Criteria**

Attendees: Mark Davidson, Carl Pendleton, Kira Finkler, Justin Stevenson, Lyn Harmon, Brett Stevenson, Wendy Pabich, Pat McMahon, Dayna Gross, Bill Hazen, Keri York, Pete VanDerMeulen, John Stevenson, Anna Pakenham, David Sias, Greg Loomis, Charlotte Stevenson, Pat Purdy, Dale Ewerson, Judd McMahan, Ed Cutter, Sharon Lee, Rusty Kramer, John Wright, Kevin Lakey, Zach Latham, Richard Carr, Larry Schoen, Gerry Bashaw, and Patti Lousen

On the Phone: Michelle Stennett, Jim Speck, Jennifer Sukow, Dave Shaw, Travis McBride, and Doug McGargle

**General Updates:**

- Comments are being taken on policy affecting leasing water through the Water Resource Board's Water Supply Bank. Submit comments to Remington Buyer. The board will be finalizing the lease policy in the Wood River valley which has been using an interim policy these past two years.
- Larry Schoen invited attendance or comments for the Idaho Association of Counties meeting Feb. 8, 2017 in Boise. Input regarding Blaine County drought planning and long term water management needed. Contact Larry for more info.
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**Presentations:** All presentations were emailed to WRWC members due to technical difficulties and for individual access. NOTE – We are attaching J. Sukow's report which is additional to the power point we sent out. The report has important narrative sections (see below).

**Social Capital Survey:** Anna Pakenham reviewed the results which showed barriers and opportunities for the group. 77 people took the survey (67% response rate) which represented a diverse demographic of water users. She included specific summaries on Governance, Social Capital, Human/Financial and Management in addition to Overall Summary on page 34 of strengths and challenges. Patti is collecting additional questions for Anna by Feb 23, 2017. These questions and answers will be addressed at the next meeting.

**IDWR Simulated Curtailment Model Run:** Jennifer Sukow, IDWR hydrologist/engineer, presented findings on a 100% ground water curtailment model run for a 16 year period of 1995-2010 and during 2007, the year within the 16-year period with the highest annual consumptive groundwater. The report summary on these model runs are on pg 8 and pg 11 respectively on the attached report. Limitations of the model run start on page 12. These pages reflect the information that Jennifer was stating orally on the phone that was difficult to hear. Comments on how much flow will reach the Little Wood (because curtailment will impact surface water use ), total amount of impact with projected instream flow increases, impacts to aquifer storage, and identifying goals were discussed. Please submit to Patti further questions/comments for Jennifer by Feb 23, 2017.

**2016 District 37 Water Summary:** Kevin Lakey, Water Master of District 37 stated that there is 93% compliance with meters. 15 meters in the SVGWD and 30 meters in the GGWD need to be installed. Overall, he estimates the SVGGW and GGWD will be using ~ 49-50,000 AF when 100% metering compliant. Kevin discussed impacts to surface water flows in Silver Creek/Little Wood River when ground water pumping starts and the surface water dates that trigger this mechanism. In 2016, for the Big Wood above Magic, supplemental wells were turned on in mid-July, when 1886 and October 1884 priority dates were cut. In Silver Creek and the Little Wood, on August 4, all surface water was cut except one 1883 water right owned by the Purdy's. Currently Kevin projects that the Little Wood River needs 53.6 cfs to meet senior water rights with April, 1 1884 priority dates. Pete VanderMeulen said he is working with American Falls Reservoir District 2 (AFRD2) for buying storage water from American Falls to deliver via the Milner/Gooding canal. They are willing to wheel water for us to decrease this projected 53.6 cfs burden. Water flows of 35-40 cfs are the district's estimated need for senior water users between Shoshone and Gooding. Larry Schoen mentioned that diversions that back up water contribute to loss.

Keri York, Wood River Land Trust, used a project criteria evaluation template to demonstrate the merits of two different projects: Silver Creek Hwy 93 restoration project; and a Water District 37 project of upgrading laterals and head gates with automation and telemetry to increase water management and efficiency goals. The Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited and the Wood River Land Trust helped submit a 75K BOR Small Water, Energy and Efficiency grant proposal on behalf of Water District 37 after reviewing these project merits with other proposed projects in the basin. Wendy Pabich asked if the criteria could list the highest and lowest values for each category and if the "cfs contributed" in the Hwy 93 project incorporated water delivered into the wetlands. The criteria are attached, and additional comments are welcome.

Other:

Trout Unlimited and The Nature Conservancy are considering applying for a Drought Contingency (DC) Planning Grant for the basin. They will reference the Henry's Fork DC Plan which is a collaborative water management tool.

**Next meeting: Wednesday, March 15, 2017: 1 pm at The Nature Conservancy, Hailey.**

2017 Water Projection: Ron Abramovich (Natural Resources Cons. Service)

Ron will discuss water supply, shortages, surpluses and how the department (and users) works with stream gauge data, reservoir fill and snowpack peak maximum to predict water supply.