



EIWRC BOARD MEETING
Thursday, March 6, 11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.
Blackfoot City Council Chambers, 157 North Broadway, Blackfoot, ID
Draft Meeting Minutes

Present: Princeton Lee, Mayor Marc Carroll, Mayor Rebecca Casper, Kathryn McClure-Smith, Roger Warner, Keith Esplin, Brad Butters, Bob Turner, Tony Dixey, Adam Young, & Dean Mortimer. Zoom: Skyler Johns, Marynette Herndon, and Leisa Moulton.

1. **Welcome** – Roger Warner

2. **Administrative Business**

- a. **Dean Mortimer moved to approve minutes of Feb 6 board meeting. Seconded and approved.**
- b. **Mayor Carroll moved to pay the bills, from Keith, Roger, and Amy, totaling about \$5,092. Motion seconded and passed.**
- c. 2024 Year End Financial Report – 2025 Budget
 - i. Reviewed P&L from 2024 and January 2025.
 - ii. Had a net loss in 2024.
 - iii. Discussed budget for 2025, which should balance and begin to build reserves again.
 - iv. Cities play an important role in the success of the organization.
 - v. **Dean Mortimer moved to approve the tentative budget. Motion was seconded; the motion carried.**

3. **Updates/Developments**

- a. Current Water Situation – Keith
 - i. Whole system is at 77%; American Falls Reservoir sits at 84%. Not clear if or when American Falls will spill so we can start recharge activities.
 - ii. Last year, there was more water in the system at this time. May not need flood control this year. Need more snow to ensure recharge is available.
 - iii. Jackson Lake and Ririe are as full as they are allowed for this time of year.
 - iv. The farther north you go, the less snowpack there is. Although the reservoirs look to be in good shape, more snow is needed.
- b. Recharge well controversy – Erik Boe presentation to the Idaho Water Resources Board – Keith
 - i. Erik is an IDWR employee who monitors the safety of underground injection wells.
 - ii. In Idaho there are 21,000 shallow and 1,300 deep injection wells. It is unclear what the various wells are used for.

- iii. Since ESPA recharge in the Southwest Irrigation District, south of Burley started 40 years ago, IDWR has never contaminated a well.
 - iv. However, the Shelley meetings and other opposition in the region have raised concerns. so, EPA, DEQ, and IDWR are now discussing how to proceed.
 - 1. IDWR currently administers recharge wells
 - 2. Concern is if it goes back to EPA/DEQ.
 - 3. IWRB has temporarily stopped development of recharge wells.
- c. Legislative Report
- i. S1083 Domestic Well Legislation
 - 1. Passed the Senate, only 1 or 2 opposed it.
 - ii. H191 Term Limits for IDWRB members
 - 1. Probably won't go anywhere.
 - iii. S1061 IDWR Administrative Procedures
 - 1. Before change in Methodology Order, must have adv. notice, etc.
 - 2. It is moving forward.
 - iv. Water Funding - \$30 million IDWR & IWIRRI \$1.5 to \$2.5 million
 - 1. Wide support for this
 - 2. Passed the Senate, but will be more difficult in the House.
 - v. SJM101 Teton Dam Resolution (along with other potential storage.)
 - 1. Senator Cook is sponsoring it.
 - 2. Gaining traction, but concern that folks in the valley still remember when the old dam broke.
 - vi. SCR110 ESPA Settlement Resolution
 - 1. Includes language regarding the 250K to 350K meeting, but there is legislation pending that addresses this too.
 - vii. H343 Board Compensation
 - 1. Portion affecting water users is stalled while a work group from IWUA works on setting parameters for compensation, etc.
- d. Water District #01 Annual Meeting – Keith
- i. Some things to keep in mind:
 - 1. Cuts in federal government staffing, but NRCS, which does the snowpack work, lost 4 employees; so inadequate data could be a problem for us moving forward.
 - 2. Plans to close the regional Bureau of Reclamation office in Boise.
 - ii. Discussed participating with IWUA or
 - iii. Maybe targeting a different audience, like county commissioners.
 - iv. Discussed hosting our own event.
 - v. Discussed hosting a day long water summit that brings voices together to answer tough questions about how to meet infrastructure and administrative needs to maintain the ESPA, possibly with annual meeting.
 - vi. IWUA Treasure Valley Legislative Water College Tour is the 25-27th of August, but EIWRC could do something later in the week for our tour. Consensus to sponsor and participate in the IWUA state-wide Tour.
 - vii. Dean Mortimer wants to sponsor state-wide tour.
 - viii. Education needed if the Domestic Well bill passes.

4. Meeting Adjourns -