

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

**IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION)
FOR TRANSFER NO. 80973 IN THE NAME)
OF MEADOWLARK RANCH LLC)**

**NOTICE OF
PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE**

On March 29, 2016, Meadowlark Ranch LLC filed Application for Transfer No. 80793 with the Idaho Department of Water Resources ("department"). Protests were filed by B. Joan Oliver, Bureau of Land Management represented by Fredric Price, Cleveland Irrigation Company represented by Blaine Burton, Craig McGregor and Merrill Ranch Partnership, LLC represented by T.J. Budge of Racine Olson Nye Budge & Bailey, Chartered.

The department has scheduled the matter for a pre-hearing conference to be held on July 21, 2016, beginning at 10:00 am. The conference will be held at the Commissioner's Room at 39 W. Oneida, Preston, Idaho.

For those who need to participate by telephone, below is the teleconference numbers:

Telephone: 1-877-820-7831

Participant Code: 889693

Agenda items for the pre-hearing conference will include:

1. Review the application.
2. Identify and discuss issues of protest.
3. Designate date for conducting an administrative hearing.
4. Set dates for discovery and pre-hearing disclosures.

The department encourages the applicant and protestants to discuss and resolve the protests before the pre-hearing conference. If private discussions are not possible or do not resolve the protests, the department's Rules of Procedure (IDAPA 37.01.01) provide for a pre-hearing conference to be held before scheduling a formal hearing.

The pre-hearing conference provides another informal opportunity for the applicant and protestants to meet. The parties often settle their differences at the pre-hearing conference. If a formal hearing is needed to resolve the protests, the pre-hearing conference serves as an opportunity to narrow or simplify the issues, obtain concessions of fact or identification of documents to avoid unnecessary proof, schedule discovery (when discovery is allowed), arrange for the exchange of proposed exhibits or prepared testimony, limit witnesses, schedule the hearing, establish procedure to be used at hearing, and address other matters that may expedite orderly conduct and disposition of the proceeding.

It is important for all parties to give considerable thought to each of these matters before appearing at the pre-hearing conference and to make the most of the opportunity to resolve the dispute informally.

The pre-hearing conference will be conducted in a facility that satisfies the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require special accommodations in order to attend, participate in, or understand the conference, please notify the department at least (10) days prior to the hearing. Inquiries about scheduling or hearing facilities should be directed to Sharla Cox at (208) 525-7161.

Dated this 16th day of June, 2016,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Cefalo', written over a horizontal line.

James Cefalo
Water Resources Program Manager

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 16th day of June, 2016, true and correct copies of the documents described below were served by placing a copy of the same with the United States Postal Service, postage prepaid and properly addressed to the following:

Documents Served: Notice of Pre-Hearing Conference
Hearing Procedure for Application for Permit

Meadowlark Ranch, LLC
9350 S 150 E Ste 1000
Sandy UT 84070

B. Joan Oliver
272 E 750 N
Bountiful UT 84010

Barker Rosholt & Simpson
Paul Arrington
PO Box 63
Twin Falls ID 83303-0063

Cleveland Irrigation Co
13585 N Cleveland Rd
Preston ID 83263

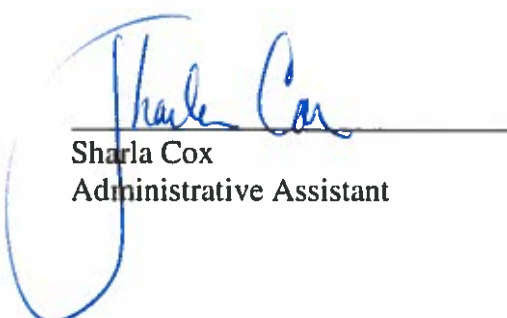
Rocky Mountain Environmental
Kristin Moore
482 Constitution Way #300
Idaho Falls ID 83402

Craig L. McGregor
6883 E 13800 N
Thatcher ID 83283

Bureau of Land Management
c/o Fredric Price
1387 S Vinnell Way
Boise ID 83709-1657

Racine Olson Nye Budge & Bailey
T.J. Budge
PO Box 1391
Pocatello ID 83204-1391

Commissioner's Room
Attn: Ellisa
39 W Oneida
Preston ID 83263



Sharla Cox
Administrative Assistant

PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE AND/OR HEARING PROCEDURE APPLICATION FOR PERMIT

ISSUES

Applications to appropriate the water of the State of Idaho are referred to as applications for permit, and are for the development of new water rights. Section 42-203A, Idaho Code, requires the department to consider the following issues in connection with an application for permit:

1. Will the proposed appropriation reduce the quantity of water under existing water rights?
2. Is the water supply sufficient for the purpose for which it is sought to be appropriated?
3. Was the application made in good faith or for delay or speculative purposes?
4. Does the applicant have sufficient financial resources with which to complete the proposed project?
5. Will the proposed use conflict with the local public interest, where local public interest is defined as interests that the people in the area directly affected by a proposed water use have in the effects of such use on the public water resource?
6. Will the proposed use be contrary to the conservation of water resources within the State of Idaho?
7. Will the proposed use adversely affect the local economy of the watershed or local area within which the source of water for the proposed use originates, in the case where the place of use is outside of the watershed or local area where the source of water originates?

BURDEN OF PROOF

The applicant has the initial burden of proof for issues 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7 above and must provide evidence for the department to evaluate these criteria.

The initial burden of proof on issue 5, if applicable, lies with both the applicant and protestant as to factors of which they are most knowledgeable and cognizant. The applicant has the ultimate burden of persuasion, however, for this issue.

PROCEDURE

The department generally conducts an informal conference with the parties to determine the issues and to try to settle a protested matter before a hearing is scheduled. If a hearing is held, the department will issue a written decision based on the hearing record.

CONFERENCE

The purpose of a pre-hearing conference is to provide the opportunity for the parties and the department to familiarize themselves with a contested matter and to attempt to resolve the matter. At the conference, the department may also formulate and simplify the issues to avoid unnecessary proof, identify documents, schedule discovery, exchange proposed exhibits or prepared testimony, limit witnesses, discuss settlement or make settlement offers, schedule hearings, establish procedure at hearing, and address other matters that may expedite orderly conduct and disposition of the proceeding or its settlement. When attending the conference, please bring a calendar with your schedule for the next two–six month period from the date of the pre-hearing conference for the purpose of scheduling a hearing. Parties will be expected to discuss their availability at the prehearing conference for the purpose of scheduling the hearing.

HEARING

A hearing may be conducted according to Sections 42-1701A(1) and (2), Idaho Code and the department's Rules of Procedure. Copies of Idaho Code and the department's rules are available upon request or by accessing the department's website at: www.idwr.idaho.gov. The department records formal hearings, and copies of a hearing recording are available upon request. There may be a charge for reproducing the recording.

The hearing will likely be conducted by a hearing officer appointed by the Director rather than by the Director himself. If so, the hearing officer will prepare a recommended or preliminary order. Parties can petition for reconsideration of a decision or file exceptions. A brief to support exceptions may request oral argument. Parties may seek judicial review of any final order issued by the Director.

EXHIBITS

A party who plans to offer an exhibit as part of the hearing record must provide a copy of the proposed exhibit to the parties and to the hearing officer.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Any hearing scheduled will be conducted in a facility which meets the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require special accommodations in order to attend, participate in or understand the hearing, please notify the department no later than ten (10) days prior to the hearing.