

**Water District 37 (WD37)
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 13, 2025
1:30 p.m.
At the Blaine County Community Center**

RECEIVED

FEB 04 2025

DEPT. OF WATER RESOURCES
SOUTHERN REGION

(All meeting documents including agenda, previous meeting minutes, proposed budget, and proposed resolutions are posted on the Department's website at: www.idwr.idaho.gov > Water Rights > Water Districts > Active Districts > Water District 37, and then click on "Big and Little Wood River Drainages including Ground Water")

1:00 p.m. pre-meeting

- Roll call of attendees to establish total meeting attendance: Attendance was taken, via sign in sheets.
- Designation of voting eligibility from those in attendance.

1:30 p.m. meeting - To help this meeting operate more smoothly, a "Nay" vote will be requested on all voted items. The "Yay" vote will then be determined by subtracting the Nay vote number from the number of total eligible voters.

#1 CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION

Pat McMahon called the meeting to order at 1:31pm. He introduced the Water District staff, the IDWR staff from Twin Falls in attendance and confirmed that the Water District Board Members were present.

#2 SELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN

Nominations for a chairperson for the 2025 annual meeting were requested.

Motion: Rod Hubsmith nominated Pat McMahon as Chairman of the WD37 2025 Annual Meeting. Motion seconded by Fred Brossy. No other nominations were received. Vote. The motion passed, unopposed.

#3 SELECTION OF MEETING SECRETARY/RECORDER

Nominations for a meeting secretary for the 2025 annual meeting were requested.

Motion: Rod Hubsmith nominated Brittany Gailey as the secretary/recorder of the WD37 2025 Annual Meeting. Fred Brossy seconded. No other nominations were received. Vote. The motion passed unopposed.

#4 GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Corey Skinner is the Southern Region Manager for IDWR. Corey updated the water users of the status of the Big Wood River Ground Water Management Advisory (BWRGWMA) management plan. The original plan was in effect from 2022-2024, and Director Mat Weaver wanted an agreement that extended 10-15 years. The committee in charge met many times since February 2024. On October 30, 2024 a letter was sent to Mat Weaver requesting to extend the management plan three (3) more years to give more time to achieve specific action items. On December 23, 2024, the director issued his approval and sent notice of this action to all water users in Water District 37.

The adjustments that were agreed upon were: reduce the South Valley Ground Water District following requirement from 1500-1000 acres and reduce the Galena Ground Water District following requirement from 200-500 acres to 200 acres, provided it be within the BWRGWMA West of Highway 75. It eliminates the need for following in "Wet Years". The extended plan also modified season of use exceptions to not irrigate before May 1 or after September 15 with some specific exceptions. The plan also includes some financial contribution increases. The plan will also phase in financial contribution increases for non-irrigation ground water users starting in 2026 and 2027.

Some action items to move forward is to: develop and evaluate the April 1 allotment model to determine if it can be the basis for a longer-term management plan; update calibration of the BWR GW model; support the Camas Prairie Hydrologic Project; prepare a report on the effects of administering the 161 conditions; evaluate options for Water

District 37 and 37B to report ground water diversions; prepare a report evaluating a management plan flow rate for the combined magic reservoir inflow; explore options , including possible enforcement for increasing participation; investigate and evaluate the correlation between depth-to groundwater and stream flows as a predictive tool; and complete at least a prototype of the Water District 37 accounting model.

Matt Anders spoke on Big Wood River water right accounting which is an action item on the management plan. Water right accounting is software developed by IDWR to help the Watermaster administer water rights. Advantages are consistency and transparency. It calculates the natural flow available in the river in different regions and accrues natural flow to water rights based on prior appropriation doctrine. It separates diversions by a water user into natural flow and storage helps water users plan their water use. The Watermaster collects data and sends it to IDWR, IDWR also collects data and puts it in the software. It's always "after the fact" daily averages. The software is run once a week and creates a report. The report goes to the watermaster for approval then IDWR puts the data on its' website, and it can be emailed out. Matt showed examples from Water District 63's water right accounting reports. The timeline for implementation is: Station 10 completed in 2024, Big Wood River Below Magic & Little Wood River below 10 by summer 2025, Big Wood River upstream of Magic Reservoir in December 2025, prototype testing starting in water year 2026, and the final program in C# unknown due to funding. This generally applies to only surface water rights unless the water master requests some ground water wells be included.

#5 IDWR PRESENTATION ON Cloudseeding

Due to technical difficulties, Kala Golden presented after the adoption of the 2025 budget. Kala Golden is the Cloud Seeding Project Manager with IDWR. Winter orographic cloud seeding is to increase snowpack. It is done in Idaho by generators and aircraft to generate more snow.

#6 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

Chairman McMahan called for a motion to approve the drafted Minutes from the January 10, 2024 annual meeting.

Motion: Fred Brossy made a motion to approve the WD37 Minutes for the 2024 Annual Meeting as presented. Motion seconded by John Arkoosh. Vote. The motion carried, unopposed.

#7 ADOPTION OF 2025 BUDGET

Chairman asked if anyone had questions. There were some questions asked of the telemetry budget.

Motion: Dave Bell made a motion to adopt the WD37 2025 Budget. Motion seconded by Fred Brossy. Vote. The motion passed unopposed.

#8 ADOPTION OF 2025 RESOLUTIONS

Chairperson McMahan called for a motion for the fifteen (15) resolutions proposed for 2025.

Motion: Nick Purdy made a motion to approve the resolutions as presented. John Arkoosh seconded the motion. Vote. The motion carried, unopposed.

#9 CURRENT ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Chairman McMahan confirmed that the existing slate of Board members were willing to stand for the 2025 year and opened the floor for discussion. No nominations occurred and the board was approved.

2025 Advisory Board for Water District 37

(2) Big Wood River Representatives:

1- Above Magic

1- Below Magic

(1) Little Wood River/Silver Creek

(1) Hydropower

(2) Canal Companies/Irrigation Districts

Mark Johnson

Howard Morris

Nick Purdy

Bill Arkoosh

- 1- 2023 Rep – American Falls Res. Dist #2
- 1- 2023 Rep – Big Wood Canal Company
- (1) Groundwater Municipals
- (1) Groundwater Small Users (Less / 40 Acres)
- (1) Groundwater Large Agricultural (Larger /40 Acres)

Rod Hubsmith
Fred Brossy
Mary Beth Collins
Dave Bell
Justin Stevenson

Pat McMahon announced he is resigning from his advisory board seat and nominates Mary Beth Collins for his seat. **Fred Brossy made a motion to approve the nomination. Seconded by Rod Hubsmith. Vote. The motion carried, unopposed.**

#10 DISTRICT NEWS AND UPDATES

Sunny Healey thanks the speakers that were at the meeting for speaking to us about the groundwater management plan and cloud seeding. Historically there has been an aggressive ground water monitoring program. There’s been a need to balance groundwater monitoring with the installation of telemetry. The Water District has installed 4 Ethos Connected devices and will be installing more in 2025. Historically the Water District has assessed based on the previous 5 years including the most recent water year. Moving forward, assessments will be based on the past 5 years but will not include the previous year. Fred Brossy asks all the water users in cooperation in volunteering for telemetry to be installed on their meters.

Larry Schoen spoke, representing the CIEF committee. He is in charge of disbursements of funds. The amount of money in the fund is increasing and he wants to encourage users for permanent solutions for efficient use of water. Contact any member of the committee with questions. Deadline for applications is March 1 and August 1.

#11 ADJOURN

Motion: Cooper Brossy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Chris Johnson. Call for nays. Motion passed unopposed. Meeting adjourned at 3:13 pm.

Respectfully,

Patrick McMahon, Chairman

Brittany Gailey, Treasurer

Brittany Gailey, Minutes Secretary