

## Evans, Lynne

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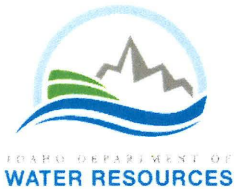
**From:** Evans, Lynne  
**Sent:** Friday, July 26, 2024 2:57 PM  
**To:** bryce@sawtoothlaw.com; Graves, Lori; Shelley Essl; Dylan Lawrence  
**Cc:** Miller, Nick  
**Subject:** Informal Settlement Conference: Application for Transfer No. 88654  
**Attachments:** 88654 Notice of Informal Settlement Conference.pdf

Dear parties:

Please see the attached Notice of Informal Settlement Conference regarding Application for Transfer No. 88654. This notice has also been sent by mail to all parties who have not requested service by email.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me or Nick Miller.

Regards,



**Lynne Evans** (she/her)  
Administrative Assistant I  
IDWR – Western Region  
2735 W Airport Way, Boise ID 83705  
[lynne.evans@idwr.idaho.gov](mailto:lynne.evans@idwr.idaho.gov) | (208) 605-4622

**BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES  
OF THE STATE OF IDAHO**

|                                        |                              |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION )</b>  |                              |
| <b>FOR TRANSFER NO. 88654 )</b>        | <b>NOTICE OF INFORMAL</b>    |
| <b>IN THE NAME OF NAMPA &amp; )</b>    | <b>SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE</b> |
| <b>MERIDIAN IRRIGATION DISTRICT )</b>  |                              |
| <hr style="width:45%; margin-left:0"/> |                              |

On 11/22/2023, NAMPA & MERIDIAN IRRIGATION DISTRICT filed Application for Water Right Transfer No. 88654 with the Idaho Department of Water Resources (“Department”). Protest(s) were filed by ELMORE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

The Department has scheduled this case for informal settlement conference on Tuesday, August 27, 2024 beginning at 9:00 AM at IDAHO DEPT OF WATER RESOURCES, WESTERN REGION, 2735 AIRPORT WAY BOISE, ID 83705. The applicant and protestant(s) must attend. If the parties wish to participate via telephone or video conference, requests should be directed to Lynne Evans at 208-605-4622.

Agenda items for the informal settlement conference will include:

1. Review of the application and protest(s),
2. Additional informational needs,
3. Settlement options,
4. Need for additional informal proceedings or alternative dispute resolution options, and
5. Commencement of formal proceedings.

The Department encourages the applicant and protestant(s) to discuss and resolve the protest(s) before the informal settlement conference. If private discussions are not possible or do not resolve the protest(s), the informal settlement conference provides another opportunity for the applicant and protestant(s) to meet before commencing a formal hearing. Parties often settle their differences at the informal settlement conference.

If informal proceedings are unlikely to resolve this contested case, the Department will initiate formal proceedings by issuing a notice of prehearing conference and identifying a presiding officer. It is important for all parties to make the most of the opportunity to resolve the dispute informally.

The informal settlement 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 pre-hearing conference, please notify the Department at least ten (10) days prior to the conference. Inquiries about scheduling, hearing facilities, etc., should be directed to Lynne Evans at 208-605-4622.

Dated this 26th day of July, 2024.



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Lynne Evans  
Administrative Assistant I

## **INFORMAL SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE PROCEDURE**

### **APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER**

#### **ISSUES**

Applications for transfer are filed for the purpose of changing a point of diversion, purpose of use, period of use or nature of use of all or part of a licensed, decreed or statutory water right. Section 42-222, Idaho Code, identifies the following potential issues that the Idaho Department of Water Resources (Department) considers in connection with an application for transfer:

1. Will the proposed transfer reduce the quantity of water under existing water rights?
2. Will the proposed transfer constitute an enlargement in use of the original water right?
3. Will the proposed transfer be contrary to the conservation of water resources within the State of Idaho?
4. Will the proposed transfer 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 and its potential effects on the public water source?
5. Will the proposed transfer 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?
6. Is the proposed transfer consistent with the requirements for municipal providers, if applicable?
7. Will the proposed transfer change the nature of use from an agricultural use, and would such a change significantly affect the agricultural base of the local area?

#### **BURDEN OF PROOF**

The applicant has the initial burden of proof for issues 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 above and must provide evidence for the Department to evaluate these criteria.

The initial burden of proof on issue 4 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 all of these issues.

## **PROCEDURE**

The Department generally conducts an informal settlement conference with the parties to determine the issues and to try to settle a protested matter before the formal hearing process starts. The formal hearing process commences with a prehearing conference, which may require parties to be represented by an attorney.

### **INFORMAL SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE**

The purpose of an informal settlement conference is to provide the opportunity for the parties and the Department to familiarize themselves with a protested matter and to attempt to resolve the matter. At the conference, the Department and the parties will discuss the application and protests, explore settlement options, discuss additional informational needs, evaluate the need for additional informal proceedings or alternative dispute resolution options such as mediation, and discuss the commencement of formal proceedings. When attending the conference, please bring a calendar with your schedule for the next two–six month period from the date of the informal settlement conference for the purpose of scheduling follow-up conferences, if needed.

### **HEARING**

If the parties do not resolve the matter at the informal settlement conference, a formal hearing process may be commenced 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](http://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.

If necessary, the hearing will likely be conducted by a hearing officer appointed by the Director rather than by the Director himself. The hearing officer will be designated in a notice of prehearing conference that commences the formal hearing process.

### **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

Any scheduled conferences or hearing 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 conference or hearing.

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 26th day of July, 2024, I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing document on the following by the method(s) indicated below:

NAMPA & MERIDIAN IRRIGATION  
DISTRICT  
C/O BRYCE FARRIS  
SAWTOOTH LAW OFFICES PLLC  
PO BOX 7985  
BOISE ID 83707-1985  
(208) 629-7447  
[bryce@sawtoothlaw.com](mailto:bryce@sawtoothlaw.com)  
*Applicant*

- ☐ U.S. Mail, Certified, postage prepaid
- ☐ U.S. Mail, postage prepaid
- ☐ Overnight Mail
- ☒ Email

ATTN: LORI GRAVES  
HDR INC  
412 E PARKCENTER BLVD STE 100  
BOISE ID 83706-6659  
(208) 387-7000  
[lori.graves@hdrinc.com](mailto:lori.graves@hdrinc.com)  
*Technical Representative for Applicant*

- ☐ U.S. Mail, Certified, postage prepaid
- ☒ U.S. Mail, postage prepaid
- ☐ Overnight Mail
- ☒ Email

ELMORE COUNTY BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS  
150 S 4TH E  
MOUNTAIN HOME ID 83647-3060  
(208) 587-2129  
[sessl@elmcorecounty.org](mailto:sessl@elmcorecounty.org)  
*Protestant*

- ☐ U.S. Mail, Certified, postage prepaid
- ☐ U.S. Mail, postage prepaid
- ☐ Overnight Mail
- ☒ Email

DYLAN LAWRENCE  
VARIN THOMAS LLC  
242 N 8TH STE 220  
BOISE ID 83702-5892  
(208) 345-6021  
[dylan@varinthomas.com](mailto:dylan@varinthomas.com)  
*Attorney for Elmore County Board of  
Commissioners*

- ☐ U.S. Mail, Certified, postage prepaid
- ☐ U.S. Mail, postage prepaid
- ☐ Overnight Mail
- ☒ Email

  
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Lynne Evans  
Administrative Assistant I