

## WATER DISTRICT 170 (UPPER SALMON RIVER BASIN) ANNUAL MEETING – JANUARY 27, 2026 MINUTES

Meeting was held at the Challis Courthouse, Commissioners Room, 801 Main St., Challis

13 people were in attendance. Attendance records are on file with Watermaster David Graybill, Salmon ID.

1. Watermaster David Graybill called the meeting to order at 2:08 PM.
2. Motion by Dave Schuler nominating Mike England as Meeting Chairman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scott Zeigler. Motion passed.
3. Dave Schuler volunteered for meeting secretary, without protest.
4. Chairman England asked attendees to review the 2025 minutes, which were read out loud by David Graybill. There were no questions and the minutes were approved without revision.
5. **David Graybill** gave a presentation on WD170 2025 activities:
  - A. Supported the many sub districts and conducted compliance visits to 58 diversions on the East Fork of the Salmon.
  - B. He followed up on the 74W measurement plan finding 11 diversions requiring more work to comply with the 2018 order.
  - C. Assisted Jen Vogel with watermaster training held at the IDFG Salmon Office.
  - D. Coordinated with staff to ensure control and measurement device compliance in concert with ESA species protection in sensitive areas.

### **2026 goals:**

- A. David will be leaving the Salmon Field Office to work at the IWRB Water Supply Bank. IDWR is currently accepting applications for David's position for which Jen Vogel has applied.
- B. David and Jen are planning a training session with Lemhi and Custer County Sheriffs on irrigation related enforcement issues and conflict resolution. Plans to conduct similar training for watermasters later in the season.

### **Assistant watermaster Jen Vogel** talked about her 2025 accomplishments:

- A. Worked with water users in the Challis and Garden Creek areas to ensure compliance with their 2007 Measurement Order.
- B. Visited the Pahsimeroi area and plans to follow up in 2026.
- C. Assisted 75F water users with Time Extensions.
- D. Developed a rating table for a submerged orifice measuring device on the Main Stem of the Salmon River south of the Shoup bridge.

In 2026, Jen plans to continue supporting the sub districts, planning and facilitating the LEO/watermaster training and giving a presentation at an Idaho Water User's Association Conference.

6. Motion by Dave Schuler to accept the **NON-SUBDISTRICT REPORTING** resolution. 2<sup>nd</sup> by George Miller. Motion passed. Passing of this motion was preceded by a lengthy conversation concerning measurement self-reporting by Main Stem Salmon diversions, **downstream of Tower Creek**. David and Jen have been forced to prioritize their workload and, as a result, these diversions haven't been inventoried. Presently, these water users are not self-reporting. Dave Schuler made David Graybill and Jen Vogel aware of his conversation with Rob Whitney concerning the inclusion of these water rights in WD75F. Mr. Whitney wanted to explore contracting with WD75F to administer those Main Stem Salmon water rights, downstream of Tower Creek. Jen Vogel plans to research the issue.
7. Motion by Randal Stoker to approve the revisions to the **ANNUAL MEETING DATE** resolution. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave Schuler. Motion passed.
8. Motion by Dave Schuler to approve a revision to the **ANNUAL MEETING NOTICES** resolution. 2<sup>nd</sup> by George Miller. Motion passed after a discussion concerning the readership of the Challis Messenger.
9. Motion by Dave Schuler to approve the correction to the **ADVISORY COMMITTEE STRUCTURE** resolution. 2<sup>nd</sup> by George Miller. Motion passed.
10. Motion by Dave Schuler to accept the 2026 budget as proposed. 2<sup>nd</sup> by George Miller. Motion passed.
11. Motion by George Miller to keep the same Advisory Committee members. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave Schuler. Motion passed.
12. After considerable discussion, Scott Zeigler motioned to reject the previously passed motion (#7 above) concerning the Annual Meeting Date resolution. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave Schuler. Motion passed. *(This motion cancelled the revisions, as proposed, to the Annual Meeting Date Resolution.)*
13. Motion by Dave Schuler to remove the proposed revisions to the Annual Meeting Date resolution except for the Salmon location change to the Idaho Water Resources Salmon Field Office. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scott Zeigler. Motion passed. *(Meetings are on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in January at 2:00pm. The location shall alternate between Challis, ID on even numbered years and Salmon, Idaho Water Resources Salmon Field Office, on odd numbered years.)*
14. Discussion led by Ms. Simmons concerning an Internet based measuring device/headgate training program for water users. Anyone interested in helping with water user training is encouraged to contact Watermaster Jen Vogel.
15. Next year's meeting will be at the Idaho Water Resources Salmon Field Office, 1301 Main St., STE 10 on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2027 at 2:00 PM.
16. Motion by George Miller to adjourn. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mitch Wilson. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.