



WATER DISTRICT #11 BEAR RIVER

Minutes of Annual Meeting

February 3, 2026, In Person and Via Zoom

Attending:

Connely Baldwin
Alan Smith
Josh Hanks (remote)
Mark Ipsen
Don Meak
Ryan Merrill
Kara Ferguson
Heidi Smith (remote)
Dale Buxton (remote)
Christopher Holmes
Joe Pacheco
Justin Edgel
Brent Bonney
Lynn Keetch
Matt Curry
Justin Harris
Bruce Jorgensen
Chad Harris
John Fuqua
Bruce Lemont
Matt Anders
Nick Banish
Keith Jorgensen
Chad Whithers (remote)
Munson Gunnell
Tony Brown

Representing

PacifiCorp Energy & Advisory Board
Cub River Irrigation & Advisory Board
Water Master
Black Otter Irrigation
Riverdale/Preston
West Cache Irrigation
IDWR
IDWR
West Cache Irrigation
IDWR
IDWR
IDWR
IDWR
Preston-Montpelier Canal
ME
Bar-H-Bar Ranch
Last Chance Canal
Eight Mile Ranch
Holliday/Fuqua
Self
IDWR
IDWR
Last Chance Canal
West Cache
West Cache
Treasurer

Connely Baldwin opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. and asked for introductions, then nominations for meeting chairman. Keith Jorgensen moved to have Connely Baldwin act as Chair and Tony Brown act as secretary. Alan Smith Seconded. Motion carried.

Don Meak made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 4, 20225 annual meeting. Lynn Keetch seconded. Motion carried.

Advisory Board Election. Lynn Keetch moved to retain the current advisory board members in addition to new members Mark Gibson and Mason Gunnel to serve. Keith Jorgensen seconded. Motion carried

Water Master Election. Chad Harris moved to approve Josh Hanks as Watermaster. Alan Smith seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer Election. Lynn Keetch moved to approve Tony Brown as Treasurer. Don Meak seconded. Motion carried.

Watermaster's Annual Report

Josh Hanks presented the Watermaster's Report, which included:

- Summary of the 2025 water year
- Delivery cost was \$0.156 per 24 hour CFS
- Status of measurement stations
- Outlook for the upcoming season (noted as potentially challenging)

Presentation: Cloud Seeding Program Overview

Nick Parish, Cloud Seeding Program Manager, Idaho Department of Water Resources, delivered a presentation covering:

- History of cloud seeding in Idaho
- Scientific principles of cloud seeding using silver iodide
- Existing programs in Idaho river basins
- Drone-based cloud seeding pilot program in the Bear River Basin
- Program costs, funding structure, and estimated benefits
- Environmental considerations and monitoring

Extensive discussion followed, including questions regarding:

- Environmental impacts
- Cost-benefit considerations
- Placement and effectiveness of seeding
- Benefits among water users
- Future expansion and funding (costs ranging from \$800k - \$1.8M)

Bear River Basin Adjudication & Education Update

Chris Holmes, IDWR, provided an update on:

- Basin 11 adjudication status
- Progress on claims evaluation (approx. 8 more years for entire project)
- Basin 11 Part 1 (north) and Part 2(south)
- Future adjudication phases for Basin 13 and other basins

Water users were encouraged to review forthcoming notices carefully and contact IDWR with questions.

Water Rights Accounting & Hydrologic Update

Kara Ferguson, IDWR, presented a summary of the 2025 irrigation year, including:

- Snowpack conditions and snow water equivalent trends
- Water emergency began June 13, 2025 and remained through September 29
- Very limited precipitation from mid-May through August
- April-September natural flow at the Wyoming-Idaho border was well below average and approximately half of 2024 levels

Bear Lake Storage & Current Conditions

Connely Baldwin, PacifiCorp discussed Bear Lake operations:

- Current Bear Lake elevation: approximately 5915.7 feet, compared to a target of 5918 feet.
- Current conditions represent roughly 80% of the target level
- Discussion highlighted how poor spring runoff disproportionately affects senior water rights holders.
- Soil moisture conditions improved due to significant October precipitation.
- Current snowpack conditions were noted to be near the 20th percentile, indicating relatively low snowpack compared to historical records.

4. Financial Report & Proposed 2026 Budget & Assessment

Tony Brown presented the financial results for the year ending January 31, 2025.

Highlights included:

- Total Expenses: Approximately \$101,000.
- Net Position: Apparent loss due to use of prior-year cash reserves; actual spending was under budget.
- Budget vs. Actual: Expenses were approximately \$5,000 under budget.
- Ending Net Assets: Approximately \$26,000.
- Accounts Receivable: Approximately \$105 outstanding, offset by credits from users who prepaid assessments.

Motion: To approve the 2025 financial results.

Result: Motion approved unanimously.

Mr. Brown presented the proposed 2026 budget:

- Includes a 4% increase to the Water Master's salary.
- Most other expense categories remain consistent with the prior year.
- Total proposed expenditures: Approximately \$108,000.
- Proposed assessment: \$102,000.
- Cash reserves projected to remain near \$20,000–\$26,000, providing operating flexibility.

Ryan Merrill moved to approve the 2026 budget of \$108,000 and seconded by Chad Harris. Alan

Smith moved to approve the assessments totaling \$102,000 and was seconded by Chad Harris.

Result: Motion approved unanimously.

Next meeting will be held February 2, 2027, at 1:00pm at Soda Springs City Hall if possible.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:55pm.