



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Western Region • 2735 Airport Way • Boise, Idaho 83705-5082

Phone: (208) 334-2190 • Fax: (208) 334-2348 • Website: www.idwr.idaho.gov

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor

GARY SPACKMAN
Director

July 2, 2014

Jay Edwards, Secretary
Weiser Irrigation District
PO Box 591
Weiser ID 83672

RE: Petition for Watermaster-- Lower Weiser River

Dear Mr. Edwards:

The Idaho Department of Water Resources (Department) has received your petition to appoint Jacque Wray as Watermaster for the Lower Weiser River. The petition did not include any factual information or explanation for the need. These elements were included:

- Expand regulatory duties for the Lower Weiser River
- Increased Compensation for Ms. Wray
- Enforce water appropriations
- Increase water monitoring

Idaho Code Title 42 Chapter 6 "Distribution of Water Among Appropriators" (water districts) outlines water district organization and operations which falls under the supervision of the Department Director. The statute mandates that a district budget be set along with the election of a watermaster, assistant watermaster(s), and an advisory committee at the annual district meeting. One of the purposes of the advisory committee is to serve as advisors to the Department Director and Watermaster pertaining to the distribution of water within the district.

According to the 2014 Weiser Water District #67 annual meeting minutes and Watermaster, Jacque Wray is already an assistant watermaster. It has been my understanding that she has focused on the Crane Creek and Galloway areas. If you have suggestions on how regulation or monitoring might be improved within Ms. Wray's current assignments, I would encourage you to have discussions with the Watermaster.

Your petition requests that Ms. Wray's duties be expanded to be the Watermaster for the Lower Weiser River with additional compensation. The water district elections and budget have already been finalized for 2014. The proposal for expanded duties and increased budget compensation would have to be addressed by the waterusers at the 2015 annual district meeting. The Department, Watermaster, and Water District need more information and justification to address the proposal. Please address the following:

- Identify specific regulation and monitoring matters that need to be addressed such as: problem diversions, use out of priority, accounting for natural/storage flows, etc.

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- Specifically what expanded watermaster duties are being proposed? Provide the justification and benefits. How would this be coordinated with the District Watermaster?
- To what section of the river and tributaries would this be applicable?
- What additional measurement and infrastructure would be required for expanded regulation and monitoring?
- What are the costs for equipment and additional compensation?

I would ask that you facilitate a meeting with the Watermaster, District Advisory Committee and the Department to discuss the above information and gain input. The meeting should be held prior to the next annual water district meeting.

Thank you for your interest in the Weiser Water District and attention to this letter. If you desire to further discuss the petition, please contact me at the Western Regional Office; phone 208-334-2190.

Sincerely,



John Westra, Manager

Cc: V. Lolley. B. Horton,

Enclosure: 2104 Water Dist. meeting minutes