



ND BT file 2017

State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

322 East Front Street • P.O. Box 83720 • Boise, Idaho 83720-0098

Phone: (208) 287-4800 • Fax: (208) 287-6700 • Website: www.idwr.idaho.gov

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor

GARY SPACKMAN
Director

May 1, 2017

WATER DISTRICT NO. 67
C/O VERN LOLLEY
732 HALE RD
WEISER ID 83672

RE: WATER DISTRICT NO. 67

Dear Mr. Lolley:

I received your March 20, 2017 letter regarding activities of the Idaho Department of Water Resources ("IDWR") in the Weiser River Basin. In your letter you express the frustration of water users due to either a perceived lack of action or a lack of communication by Nick Miller ("Miller"), Manager of IDWR's Western Region. You asked whether "IDWR is intending to follow through with the promises made by Mr. Miller" and whether there will be anyone at IDWR responsible for working with Water District 67 ("water district"). I conclude from your letter and from the 2017 annual meeting minutes that the users in the water district have lost confidence in Miller's willingness to assist the water district.

I asked Miller to explain circumstances that may have prompted your letter. I also asked Miller to recommend how to respond. As I understand the facts, Miller previously committed to continuing efforts begun by his predecessors in 2015. In particular, he described a previously presented plan to issue a measurement and control order as a component of a longer-term plan to develop a modern, computer-based water delivery accounting system. Miller intended to issue the order in 2016 with compliance expected by the start of the 2017 season.

It is not abnormal for a water measurement and administration schedule to be delayed by competing priorities. Nonetheless, I am troubled by the apparent lack of communication between the water district and Miller regarding the delay and the consternation over the delay. This lack of communication contributed to the perception that Miller had abandoned his efforts to assist the water district. I asked Miller to redouble his efforts to communicate with the water district. I trust that he will work to mend his relationship with the water district and support the water district. I will monitor Miller's relationship with and support of the water district.

I am concerned that broadly committing IDWR resources to goals that are not clearly defined would create unrealistic expectations. Both IDWR and the water district have limited resources, so it is important that activities to advance or improve the water district do not create unanticipated or unnecessary burdens on either entity. I would like to invite the watermaster and advisory committee to a meeting to set specific and realistic goals for the water district, and to

Mr. Lolley
Water District 67
April 28, 2017
Page 2 of 2

commit appropriate IDWR and water district resources to achieving those goals. I will ask my assistant to contact you to arrange a place and time for the meeting.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me with your concerns. I look forward to meeting with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Spackman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gary Spackman
Director

cc: Nick Miller – Manager, IDWR Western Region

Tim Luke