



IWAC

Idaho Washington Aquifer Collaborative

June 11, 2013, 1:30 – 3:30 PM
Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District

Officers: President Mike Galante; VP Ty Wick; Secretary Bryan St. Clair; Treasurer Alan Miller

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

	Organization	Representative	Email Address
√	Avista	Linda Kiefer	Linda.Kiefer@avistacorp.com
	Bar Circle S Water Company	Rob Turnipseed	avondalecon@frontier.com
√	City of Coeur d'Alene	Jim Markley	jimm@cdaid.org
√	City of Post Falls	Mike Neher	mneher@postfallsidaho.org
	City of Spokane RPWRF	Mike Coster	mcoaster@spokanecity.org
	City of Spokane Water Department	Bill Rickard	brickard@spokanecity.org
√	Coeur d'Alene Tribe of Indians	Laura Laumatia	llaumatia@cdata-nsn.gov
√	Consolidated Irrigation District No. 19	Bob Ashcraft	consolidatedirrigation@comcast.net
	Hayden Area Regional Sewer Board	Ken Windram Shirley Carter	ken@harsb.org
√	Hayden Lake Irrigation District	Alan Miller	alan@haydenirrigation.com
√	Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District	BiJay Adams	bijay@libertylake.org
	Modern Electric Water Company	Bryan St Clair	bstclair@mewco.com
√	North Kootenai Water & Sewer District	Mike Galante	mikeg@nkwsd.com
√	SAJB Program Leader	Tonilee Hanson	sajbinfo@gmail.com
√	Spokane Co. Water Resources	Rob Lindsay	rlindsay@spokanecounty.org
√	Spokane County Water District No. 3	Ty Wick	scwd3@comcast.net
	Spokane Tribe of Indians	Brian Crossley	crossley@spokanetribe.com
	Vera Water and Power	Todd Henry	thenry@verawaterandpower.com
	Guests		
√	NIC Intern	Rachel Johns	shelteringtree14@yahoo.com
√	K & L Gates	Brian Werst	
√	Liberty Lake Sewer & Water District	Jeremy Jenkins	Jeremy@libertylake.org

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions - President Mike Galante opened the IWAC meeting and welcomed everyone. Representatives and guests introduced themselves.

Agenda Additions- President Galante called for additions or revisions to the Agenda and no changes were requested.

Old Business

May 14, 2013 Meeting Minutes - Approval of May 14, 2013, Meeting Minutes was added to the agenda. Corrections to the 5/14 meeting minutes were recommended and approved. It was also agreed that all future agendas would be formatted to include approval of meeting minutes by the members. It was agreed that the minutes are public documents and will be made available on the SAJB website www.spokaneaquifer.org until such time as an IWAC website is established.

IWAC Articles of Incorporation have been filed and received back. IWAC is now an official organization.

Membership Applications -The IWAC Membership Invitation letter was revised by Laura Laumatia and circulated via email requesting final review and comment. Laura will incorporate all of the recommended changes and prepare the letter for distribution.

- It was recommended and agreed that the first paragraph and first bullet of the letter will be revised to add "and Spokane River" following the SVRP Aquifer. Also the word "donation" will be change to "contribution".
- Membership options were discussed in an attempt to choose appropriate wording for organizations regulated by Idaho law which restricts membership in corporations. (e.g., HARSB and the Cities of Post Falls and Coeur d'Alene. Options discussed included "honorary, associate, affiliate, and advisory". "Advisory Member" was retained as the most useful wording. Developing Inter-local or joint powers agreements may be a more viable long-term solution.
- Membership Invitation Process - The Membership letter will be circulated to all water systems and waste water purveyors. The Spokane Aquifer Joint Board (SAJB) will send the invitation to water purveyors in Washington and Mike Galante will send the letter to water purveyors in Idaho. A master list for the region will be compiled and used for on-going distribution of IWAC meeting notices, announcements, updates, and initiatives.

President Galante announced that the NKWSD Board of Directors voted, at their last regular meeting, to approve IWAC membership. The membership fee is ready to be deposited once a banking account has been established.

Action Item: Everyone who has been participating in IWAC is encouraged to present the IWAC membership opportunity to their respective boards.

ID WA Water Purveyors Combined Google Map - Mike Hermanson and Reanette Boese at Spokane County Water Resources received shape files for the Idaho water districts and made a draft combined Google map. Some of the boundaries between ID cities and water districts overlapped and require verification. ArcGIS technical assistance is being provided pro-bono by Welch Comer Engineers in CDA, to refine the Idaho water purveyor map information. If additional work of this nature is needed, Welch Comer has offered their services to IWAC on a discounted basis.

Clearing House of Existing Research, Studies and Reports - A drop box has been set up as a temporary place to collect and hold research, studies and report documents. Everyone here has been invited to join the drop box, see the research reports that have been collected and add documents that may provide important information regarding the IWAC goals. Drop box is a temporary repository until the reports can be added to an IWAC webpage. If your organization has restrictions on accessing drop box, please send documents to Tonilee Hanson and she will add them to the drop box.

SAJB's website has been designed with a section dedicated to IWAC. The IWAC page is still unpublished but will be made public over the coming weeks. There are dedicated pages for the purpose, goals, meeting minutes, reports and studies. Other pages can be added as needed. The IWAC goals and organizing agreements are already available on-line and can be accessed using the search feature.

New Business

IWAC Officers – The first official business of the newly incorporated Idaho Washington Aquifer Collaborative, as established in Article 4.1. is the selection of the Executive Board officers including President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Nominations for officers were opened and by consensus those present selected the following IWAC Executive Board officers: President Mike Galante; Vice President Ty Wick; Secretary Brian St. Clair; Treasurer Alan Miller.

In accordance with Article 4.2 of the bylaws, the afore named IWAC Executive Board officers will serve one year terms from June 2013 to June 2014, or until their respective successors have been appointed.

IWAC Bank Account – Those serving as IWAC Executive Board officers will be signatories on the checking account. "Let the minutes reflect that the initial officers appointed and ratified by consensus today, President Mike Galante; Vice President Ty Wick; Secretary Brian St. Clair and Treasurer Alan Miller are authorized signatories during the term of their appointment, June 2013 to June 2014. All checks will require 2 signatures by any of the four ratified signatories".

A monthly financial report by the Treasurer will be added as a regular agenda item.

Action Item: Open an IWAC bank account.

Irrigation Smart Sensors – Guest Speaker Cory Bryant, Field Energy Analyst, Upper Columbia Resource Conservation & Development - Spokane County Conservation District. Contact information phones: office: 509-535-7274 cell: 509-999-3167. E-mail: corey.ucrcd@hotmail.com. www.savewatersaveenergy.org. Corey presented information about a grant proposal presented to CAMP on 5/28/13. The project involves installing irrigation "smart control boxes" linked to AgriMet weather stations. Cell phones are used for remotely monitoring micro climates, the evapotranspiration rate and adjusting irrigation. The goal would be to reduce water and fertilizer use and costs for farmers. Information about this program is available at www.savewatersaveenergy.org/home/agy/page_25/scientific_irrigation_scheduling_sis.html

AgriMet, an agricultural meteorological information system, consists of over 70 automated weather stations located throughout the Pacific Northwest and remotely collects micro climate data across 8 states. This project utilizes Irrigation Smart Sensors making it possible to monitor weather, adjust irrigation water and use the right amount of water at the right time through weather-based irrigation control.

Implementation of the smart sensor technology could be offered to large water uses such as cemeteries, school yards, parks and golf courses. Each system is roughly \$500 and could easily be recouped by large water users. The return on investment will need, however, to be proven to the residential homeowner. It would be helpful if cities offered an incentive to residential users. The project is being implemented over 2 years.

- Year 1- Marketing & Development: Implementation with large water users.
- Year 2 -Residential & Commercial: Implementation with smaller water users.

Discussion also included:

- Rain tipping gages
- Benefits for homeowners to manage their irrigation system using a cellphone or computer
- Water conservation opportunity as 50% of residents over-use water in irrigation
- The smart sensor system can strengthen plant roots development by irrigating for longer periods but less frequently. Alan Miller shared his experience with older subdivisions where the top soil was systematically removed during construction, sold and replaced by a very thin layer of non-original topsoil. In such circumstances, deep watering is lost into the sandy substrates. Installation of the smart sensor in these residential developments would need to be adjusted based on the soil type and depth.
- Need for installation of additional stations to increase micro climate accuracy
 - Cost: a full base station is roughly \$6,000-8,000
 - Possible locations: Kootenai County Fairgrounds and Spokane Fairgrounds
 - Invite more partners, multiple intra-state agencies and state-to-state collaboration.

Project related handouts are listed below.

- AgriMet The Northwest Cooperative Agricultural Weather Network - Brochure
- Weather Reach Smart Irrigation Control
- Draft Rathdrum Prairie CAMP – Technology Project Proposal

Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force - BiJay Adams reported that the SRRTTF is developing a press packet, press messages and power point. The presentation materials will describe the goals and actions of the Task Force. The materials will be distributed to interested groups throughout the region.

Facilitation of the Task Force will continue to be provided by Ruckelshaus Center at WSU however a new facilitator from Ruckelshaus will be assigned to the Task Force. Members of the Task Force are meeting to operationalize their goals. The next meeting will be June 26, 2013. Visit www.srrttf.org for more information.

May 28th CAMP Meeting - Alan Miller shared that CAMP is entering the implementation phase and reviewing funding proposals to address CAMP Goals. IWAC's inception was an outgrowth of the CAMP planning process and support for IWAC's continued development aligns with CAMP objectives. Additionally, IWAC was invited to provide input on how resources might best be focused. CAMP will continue working to prioritize goals and discuss future research and projects. The next meeting will be towards end of July or early August. CAMP is interested in recharge models specific to residential areas.

The recent Groundwater Flow modeling funded by WA Department of Health, the City of Spokane and SAJB significantly enhanced the USGS model and added more Idaho wells. The MicroFem model provides a significantly higher resolution. It models wells at varying pumping rates, changing flows and delineates the recharge zone. Before funding new studies it may be useful to ask John Porcello, LHG-GSI Water Solutions to demonstrate the capabilities of this updated groundwater flow model.

CAMP funding is \$200,000 per year for the next two years. To date, no funds have been expended. A 5 year update is required and CAMP will hire another facilitator to meet this requirement. Some of the available funding will be spent on facilitation but, for now, the remaining funds are unencumbered.

IWAC representatives present expressed an interest in projects that result in a product or tangible end result rather than research for the sake of research. CAMP is also encouraged to try to achieve measurable/observable results with available funds. At some point, IWAC may need to consider the types of project proposals it will accept, etc.

Action items:

- Within the next 6 months, IWAC may identify an actionable project that addresses both IWAC and CAMP goals and pursue funding.
- Consider putting John Porcello and the MicroFem ground water flow model on the Agenda.

Brainstorming Possible Projects:

Idaho Weather Stations: There are 2 weather recording stations in Idaho that Mike Barber has been maintaining. Funding is no longer available to maintain them. The data these stations provide could be valuable in the future. The weather stations are located in Athol and at the Coeur d' Alene Forest Nursery. Maintenance requires a monthly visit to the sites to download the data and replace the batteries. The data is then sent via email. The weather stations provide historic and new data to analyze possible patterns between climate changes and water usage and may help to predict future water demand and availability.

WQ Monitoring: Idaho Departments of Water Resources and Water Quality are installing a water quality monitoring well near Woodland Elementary. This is across the street from one of the weather stations scheduled to be abandoned. There could be value in including weather station data collection with the water quality well monitoring project. This is an opportunity for education and outreach to elementary students who will carry the message to their families. The data may be useful for agency purposes and it would be a way to keep the weather stations operating.

AgriMet Base Stations and Smart Sensors: The AgriMet base station runs on solar power and requires only a yearly visit for calibration. If the AgriMet stations replaced the weather stations and are placed in the existing locations the long term data could be continued and additional data would be available.

Action Item: Read the AgriMet Technology Project Grant and consider whether or not to support or recommend funding for project.

WISDM and BioEarth Grants - Washington State University and University of Idaho

- Encourage WSU and U of I involvement in maintaining the weather stations to support data collection.
- IWAC might also collect data related to our goals and leading to specific actions steps.

Action Item: Ask Allyson Beall and Todd Norton if they are interested in creating a clearing house of multi-agency information e.g., IWAC, CAMP, SRRTF, WRIA, and etc.? It would require gathering, organizing and vetting the information. Allyson Beall is working with talented professors and graduate students on the WISDM and BioEarth grants. We could inform each other across agencies by having one place to integrate research findings, organizational interests and policy initiatives. Todd Norton's work could also be a vital component for understanding strategies for community awareness, engagement and action.

Updates around Table

Spokane County Utilities Director, Bruce Rawls is retiring on June 21, 2013. A retirement party will be held for Bruce at the Publics Works Building, 3rd Floor, 1-3pm and everyone is welcome to attend. Kevin Cook will be the new Spokane County Utilities Director.

LLSWD: BiJay Adams introduced Jeremy Jenkins, Liberty Lake Water Manager.

Water consumption is significantly increasing. It is projected to be a hot, dry summer. The flow graph for the Spokane River is far below average, and there was a rapid melt in early May.

Robbi Castleberry, a long time river advocate and active member of the Spokane Canoe and Kayak Club passed away. For more information go to the Spokane River Forum's website <http://www.spokaneriver.net/?p=9003>

Brian Werst, K&L Gates, attended the meeting. The entire IWAC group extended their sincere appreciation for the pro bono legal counsel enabling IWAC Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws to be finalized and filed.

July 9, 2013 - Agenda Planning

Welcome & Introductions
Agenda Additions or Revisions
Approval of Meeting Minutes
Financial Report

Old Business

Membership Updates
IWAC Goals Review and Prioritization

New Business

Guest Speaker: Dale Ralston

- Proposed study to model the direct influence of pumping in proximity to the river; the influence pumping has on the river and aquifer; and what can be done to mitigate the impact.

Guest Speaker: Guy Gregory

- Minimum In-Stream Flow proposal for the Spokane River.

August 13, 2013 - Agenda Planning Updates Around the Table

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Summary of Action Items:

- Revise the membership letter and distribute to water purveyors in ID and WA.
- Create a composite distribution list of all regional water purveyors.
- Share IWAC membership letter with respective boards and become members.
- Open an IWAC banking account.
- Consider putting John Porcello and the MicroFem model on the Agenda.
- Read the AgriMet Technology Project Grant and consider whether or not to support or recommend CAMP funding for project.
- Ask Allyson Beall and Todd Norton if they are interested in creating a clearing house of multi-agency information e.g., IWAC, CAMP, SRRTF, WRIA, and etc.?
- Within the next 6 months, IWAC identify an actionable project that addresses both IWAC and CAMP goals and pursue funding.