

IWAC

Idaho Washington Aquifer Collaborative

November 12, 2013, 1:30 – 3:40 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
\checkmark	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	mcoster@spokanecity.org
\checkmark	City of Spokane Water Department	Dan Kegley Bill Rickard	dkegley@spokanecity.org brickard@spokanecity.org
\checkmark	Coeur d'Alene Tribe of Indians	Laura Laumatia	llaumatia@cdatribe-nsn.gov
	Consolidated Irrigation District No. 19	Bob Ashcraft	consolidatedirrigation@comcast.net
\checkmark	East Greenacres Irrigation District	Ron Wilson	ron@eastgreenacres.org
	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 Jeremy Jenkins	bijay@libertylake.org jjenkins@libertylake.org
	Model Irrigation District	Jim Lahde	jimlahde@netzero.net
	Modern Electric Water Company	Bryan St Clair	bstclair@mewco.com
\checkmark	North Kootenai Water & Sewer District	Mike Galante	mikeg@nkwsd.com
\checkmark	SAJB Program Leader	Tonilee Hanson	sajbinfo@gmail.com
	Spokane Co. Water Resources	Rob Lindsay	rlindsay@spokanecounty.org
\checkmark	Spokane County Water District No. 3	Ty Wick	scwd3@comcast.net
	Spokane Tribe of Indians	Brian Crossley	crossley@spokanetribe.com
\checkmark	Vera Water and Power	Todd Henry	thenry@verawaterandpower.com
	Guests		
	Idaho Water Engineering	Bob Haynes	bob@idahowaterengineering.com
	City of Spokane Valley	Henry Allen	hallen@spokanevalley.org
\checkmark	UI Extension Water Education	Jim Ekins	jekins@uidaho.edu

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.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – The Minutes for October 8, 2013, were approved as submitted.

Financial Report – President Mike Galante reported for Treasurer Alan Miller who was absent due to shoulder surgery. No new membership income has been received. Expenses paid were \$1,609.50 to the Spokane Aquifer Joint Board covering one half of the 2013 administrative facilitation provided by SAJB Program Manager, Tonilee Hanson. Six utilities: NKWSD, SCWD#3, HLID, LLSWD, Vera W&P, and CID have paid dues in the amount of \$5,416.67. Other income: Interest income \$0.22 was received in November. The current account balance is \$3,697.73.

Old Business

Membership Recruitment- It was agreed that IWAC dues paid in October, November and December of 2013 will cover 2014. The cities of Post Falls and Coeur d'Alene are awaiting election results for the Mayors of each city before IWAC participation can be determined.

IWAC Goals – Next Steps – President Galante sent out the following questions for consideration prior to today's meeting. These questions address the IWAC goals regarding water quantity, water quality, conservation and education & awareness with the intention to inform and guide IWAC's implementation and next steps.

Questions for Consideration and Discussion

- 1. How can flows in the Spokane River be increased during low flow events in September and early October?
- 2. What are the future needs of water purveyors in Washington? In Idaho? How many additional AF will be needed to meet the future demand looking out 50 years?
- 3. What are the challenges that we know about today for water quality? For the River? For the Aquifer?
- 4. What are the likely future water quality challenges?
- 5. How can reclaimed water play into meeting future needs?
- 6. Which conservation practices will yield results?
- 7. What are the regional conversations we need to have?
- 8. How can recent presentations inform our discussion? <u>http://www.spokaneaquifer.org/idaho-washington-aquifer-collaborative/initiatives/</u>

Discussion of the questions was interactive and engaging. The key discussion points are summarized below. For the record, no attempt was made to credit individuals with specific comments but rather to capture the range of ideas expressed.

Spokane River Flow

- It was generally agreed that the challenging questions need to be discussed. A healthy river needs to be maintained and is essential to the region. The need to augment river flows will require finding a regional solution.
- A request for funding Dr. Dale Ralston's proposed study of the impact of pumping wells near the river on river flow will be presented to IDWR on November 19, 2013. The Rathdrum Prairie CAMP is recommending full funding of Dr. Ralston's proposal.
- The City of Spokane /SAJB groundwater model and the USGS 2007 model being used by Ralston may not be comparable. Effort should go toward models in which the assumptions and procedures are agreed to by both states. Due to the complexity of the scenarios, a common agreed upon tool will be required so all are on board. We need to have model studies using the same parameters as much as possible.
- Meteorology uses 2-3 different models that help understand the entire picture. Multiple models can help inform the study but the issue of comparable data sets must be addressed and different models may come up with different recommendations.
- Getting IDWR, Ecology, citizens and environmental groups in agreement will be a challenge.
- Is the Mike Barber, WSU river augmentation study a viable option?
- What impact could a different release schedule from Lake CDA at Post Falls dam make on river flow? Avista has permit requirements. CDA Lake levels are important to the CDA Tribe, homeowners and recreational users. But, what might happen if you raise the CDA lake levels and release the first of August instead of September. Is temperature a factor? Raising lake level on normal summer pool has a lot of factors to weigh. Increasing lake surface area may cause more evaporation and could be counterproductive.
- AVISTA has developed some solutions in meeting FERQ relicensing requirements.
 - NEXT STEPS: Linda Kiefer, Avista Environmental Affairs, will invite Speed Fitzhugh to give a presentation in January or February on Avista relicensing regarding lake levels and river flow and what can be done within the regulations.

Future Water Demand

- Idaho and Washington water purveyors, in attendance, agreed that the Spokane County water demand forecast model was informative and that it is important for the two states to forecast water demand as one region. To do so will require applying the same research techniques and using comparable data. Idaho water purveyors have different reporting requirements than Washington and therefore additional new data will be needed for Idaho. Access to the needed data will most likely require additional time and funding.
- The Rathdrum Prairie CAMP will decide on a RFP/RFQ format for proposals which will be ready in January 2014. Proposals will be submitted between January & April 15, after which IDWR will review the proposed studies. \$100,000 is the funding limit and one year is the implementation time limit. IDWR has the option to break a large project into smaller subsets and fund the project in stages but there is no guarantee that the subsequent stages would be funded.
- Additional funding or in kind contributions may help strengthen a proposal's consideration for funding.
- One recommendation was to contact the Colorado consultant who completed the original Spokane County model and request that a scope of work for the Idaho demand forecast be developed and presented.
 - NEXT STEPS: Determine if there is consensus for initiating an Idaho water demand model comparable to Spokane County, and if so, how would IWAC proceed? Would IWAC's role be to sponsor, initiate, or make the proposal to CAMP? Or would the proposal be best coming from the contractor?

Water Quality Challenges

- Regulated waste water dischargers, in response to the dissolved oxygen TMDL, have instituted additional treatment processes in an attempt to manage and reduce phosphorus levels in the Spokane River. Current technology seems to be insufficient to reach the mandated levels.
- The Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force is focusing on the treatment and training needed to deal with contaminants of concern such as PCBs and heavy metals. Many people think that toxins like PCB are a legacy issue. However, some compounds containing PCBs are still not regulated. For example, yellow dye in color printing ink has high PCB concentrations and yet it is still being manufactured and used today.
- Stormwater management and treatment is a growing concern for water quality in the river and aquifer. Portland has been testing storm gardens and treatment.

IWAC members would like to find successful programs and invite presentations from stormwater researchers.

• Parking lot runoff carries contaminants into dry wells (UIC) and injects stormwater into the aquifer. New building permits require low impact development solutions such as grassy swales with treated soils or oil and water separators. What policies need to be in place regarding retrofitting the existing UIC especially in the Spokane Valley where the soil surface distance to the aquifer may be 50 feet or less?

Reclaimed Water

- Reclaimed water is one topic that has the potential to address many of the IWAC goals and might be an appropriate first initiative. Currently information about reclaimed water is fragmented resulting in lots of questions. DOTMDL rulemaking for the Spokane River may cause purveyors to withdraw water from the river to meet the phosphorus limits. Spokane County is considering moving reclaimed water to Saltese flats and Shelly Lake for wetlands restoration and eventual return to the aquifer. LLSWD is actively laying purple pipe. HARSB has a land application site for direct uptake and Post Falls is also considering options for moving reclaimed water out of the river.
- Subsurface irrigation does not have to be drinking water quality.
- North Kootenai Sewer and Water District (NKSWD) is operating a waste water treatment facility that results in "Class A reclaimed water" which is used for golf course irrigation. It is high quality but a small production using membrane technology and not at capacity of the plant. The reclaimed water supplies only 40% of the daily consumption of the golf course. This is located in a seasonal community where only a handful of the residents live on a year round basis. During the winter months barrels of methanol are required to feed the microorganisms and keep them going. The nitrogen and coliform counts are excellent and tested daily. It is pumped first into a course water hazard and then the irrigation system pulls the water out. The water hazard is supplemented with water from Lake CDA.
- Water use in the desert areas like Nevada and California may provide an example. CA and NV are working together to use reclaimed water. They are not using purple pipe, but rather returning water to the potable system by putting it back into Lake Meade. Many areas have opted for treating the reclaimed water to higher levels in place of the costs associated with laying the purple pipe where replacing roads is half or more of the project cost. Nevada developed a closed system and sent reclaimed water back into potable. Putting reclaimed water into the ground for treatment and pulling it out it back out eased citizens' concerns and seemed preferable to just having a direct return.

- Tucson, AZ is sending reclaimed water back into the pipe. IWAC service areas probably don't want to go the way of Tucson but may need to inject reclaimed water into the aquifer perimeter.
- IDEQ is holding the tenth annual Idaho Water Reuse Conference May 21-22, 2014, in Boise. These annual conferences enable water and wastewater operators, engineers, public works directors, elected officials, consultants, developers, attorneys, environmental advocates, and other professionals to continue their education, network, and discuss key issues related to water reuse in Idaho and the West.
 - **NEXT STEPS**: Invite all water reclamation facilities to IWAC to discuss water reuse options for the SVRP Aquifer.

Conservation Practices

• Water purveyors will need to find agreement on a few aquifer wide conservation recommendations that we can implement as a region.

Regional Conversations

- The Idaho Water Resources board members at CAMP emphasized that the next issue is a resolution to potential conflicts with WA. To resolve potential water conflicts a model of water demand for both sides will be a key factor to drive a solution. Solutions generated at the purveyor level give state agencies options that are more likely to be solutions both states can agree upon. Managing future use of the aquifer with expected urban growth and reduction in agriculture will require an aquifer wide plan looking out seven generations.
- President Galante shared documents from the National Register of Historic Places that described what remains of an extensive system of water canals, owned and operated from 1907 to 1935 by the Spokane Valley Land and Water Company. This is just one example of water being shared across state lines and precedence for bi-state collaboration.

New Business

IWAC Insurance – Indemnification of Officers – This item was tabled until the December meeting.

Technical Facilitation – Bob Haynes was invited to discuss technical facilitation and how he might envision approaching the implementation of IWAC goals. A meeting will be scheduled with the IWAC Officers and interested parties for defining the role of a technical facilitator. A question of cost was raised given the limited funds currently available. Lake Roosevelt Forum Conference – Climate Change as a Variable to Natural Resource Management on 11/19/13. IWAC members were invited to attend the LRF Conference Plenary session on Climate change at a reduced rate which would cover the cost of lunch. LRF Conference presentations are available at http://lrf.org/conf/presentations/StartHere.html

IWAC Logo and Website – Interest has been expressed in developing a website for IWAC. SAJB has provided an IWAC tab on the <u>www.spokaneaquifer.org</u> home page. IWAC Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Goals, Agendas, Meeting Minutes and Guest Presentations are currently available. This service will continue to be provided until such time as IWAC has the funding to create its own website or alternate arrangements are made.

An IWAC logo may be the next step. Discussion of graphic designers and the associated costs led to the idea of a contest for Idaho and Washington high school and college students to submit logo designs.

December 10, 2013 - Agenda Planning Updates Around the Table

Handouts: October 8, 2013 Meeting Minutes

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.