

DRAFT
Expanded Natural Resource Interim Committee
North Idaho Working Group
Meeting Notes from August 20, 2004 Meeting
Post Falls, Idaho

Working Group Members in attendance:

Rep. Meyer, Chairman
Sen. Schroeder
Sen. Compton
Sen. Stegner
Rep. Cuddy
Rep. Eskridge

Working Group members absent:

Sen. Keough
Sen. Brandt

Meeting Notes

Mayor Clay Larkin, City of Post Falls, discussed some of the issues the city has been dealing with, including land application approvals and protests. Senator Schroeder as for three things Mayor Larkin would want to have the working group to make recommendations on. Mayor Larkin stated:

1. If legislation is being considered, don't blanket it across the state. Some issues to resolve problems in one area may have adverse consequences to other areas.
2. Take a look at land application.
3. Protection of municipal water rights.

Jim Markley, City of Coeur d'Alene, discussed issues the city has been dealing with. He discussed in detail a well that has high arsenic and methods the city is applying to deal with the problem. Senator Schroeder asked what suggestions Mr. Markley had regarding scientific data. Mr. Markley stated that a critical question is "how much water is in the aquifer?" Mr. Markley pointed out that once there is an answer to the question of if there is enough water is determined, then the more substantial issue of allocation can be addressed.

The working group discussed the legislation (HB 1336?) in Washington that addressed the protection of municipal rights for future growth and the potential impact on Idaho.

No one from the Citizens to Protect the Aquifer was present so this agenda item was passed.

Ed Tulloch, IDEQ, discussed water quality issues. He discussed four activities:

1. Water Quality Law (I.C. 39-3601) and dealing with impaired water bodies;
2. Implementation of the Coeur d'Alene Basin Record of Decision;
3. IDEQ's efforts to revise the Coeur d'Alene Lake management plan and intent to work with counties and the tribe to develop a common management plan; and,

4. Relicensure of Avista's five hydropower dams.

The working group asked Mr. Tulloch extensive questions about the proposed mine in Montana, metals in Lake Coeur d'Alene and other water quality issues. Chairman Meyer asked Mr. Tulloch to provide the working group with a written proposal for recommendations for levels of funding for adequate water quality monitoring for the Clark Fork, Coeur d'Alene Lake and the Spokane River.

Mayor Larkin mentioned an upcoming meeting hosted by the AIC Environment Committee. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss water issues and develop AIC water policies to be submitted to AIC. The meeting will be held on September 14, 2004, in Boise at the ICRIMP building.

Hal Anderson, IDWR, discussed the Nez Perce Agreement and the "List B" streams. The deadline for accomplishing the work is March 31, 2005.

Paul Klatt and Dale Marcy, members of the IDWR Rathdrum Prairie Ground Water Advisory Committee, reviewed the recommended management plan the committee submitted to IDWR Director Dreher in April. Mr. Marcy mentioned the two actions critical to implementing the plan. They are:

1. Find out how much water we have (Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Hydrologic Project support).
2. Find out how much we use (support an adjudication of the area to determine the amount of water used).

Next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 1, at 10 a.m. in the Moscow Council Chamber. The meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm.