

**TREASURE VALLEY AQUIFER WORKING GROUP
REPORT OF MAY 28TH MEETING**

The May 28th meeting of the Treasure Valley Aquifer Working Group focused on urban issues affecting water. Nancy Merrill, Mayor of Eagle, discussed water issues currently facing cities, including: surface water for development and its effect on recharge of the aquifer; cluster development and open spaces; pressurized irrigation; and future municipalities and their water rights.

Daren Coon presented information on behalf of the Nampa-Meridian Irrigation District. He explained that the District currently has contracts with the City of Nampa and the Ada County Highway District. He noted there is a concern about the loss of opportunity to allocate non-allocated water in the reservoir and that it was felt that the allocations in Lucky Peak should be made permanent.

Christian Petrich spoke on issues related to implications of urbanization on water use. He explained that urban use uses municipality water supply which is from the deep aquifer, but the recharge is to the shallow aquifer and noted that in dry years, there could be more demand on the municipal water source. With increased population, there is a move to more pressurized irrigation systems. The challenge is to seek ways to meet the challenging needs within the context of the current delivery system.

Dr. Mary McGowan, IDWR, presented information on the Lower Boise River Basin Plan. She stated that currently the basin has 410,000 people, but that number is estimated to be 1.2 million by 2050. The basin includes 5 irrigation districts. She noted that how we meet the future demands of the water we have is through conservation, price of water, and by possibly changing the Bureau of Reclamation's authorization of water rights.