

Natural Resources Interim Committee

Treasure Valley Aquifer Working Group

Majority Caucus Room, Capitol - Boise, Idaho

October 26, 2004 - 9:30 am

Committee Members in attendance:

Representative Mike Moyle, Chairman
Senator Brad Little
Representative Darrell Bolz

Committee Members absent:

Senator John Andreason
Representative Lawrence Denney

Others in attendance:

See attached attendance sheet.

Chairman Moyle opened the meeting at 9:35 am.

Christian Petrich gave a Power Point presentation on a draft final report for the Treasure Valley Working Group.

Following the presentation, the chairman opened the meeting up for discussion. The following items were brought forth as questions and suggestions for the final report:

A question was raised about CRP land in regards to irrigated versus dryland with reference to the possibility of CRP land not utilizing a water right. Can IDWR use GIS to determine how much water is being used?

What is the time line for IDWR on Conjunctive Administration? The process is on hold currently. What is the cost to administer in relation to the value of the water? Domestic water is exempt from Conjunctive Administration.

Do we need to look at more control on domestic wells (½ acre allotments of 13,000 gallons per day)? IDWR does not have exact locations of all of the current wells in this category.

There needs to be an educational process that promotes the fact that we live in a high desert and the continued planting of grass, trees etc. needs to be looked at from the aspect of growing xeriscape adapted landscape plantings.

Possibly need clarification in statutes that when developments occur in agricultural settings and utilize the surface water that there be a provision that the water rights of those downstream cannot

be interrupted.

Is there a possibility that water could be left in the Farmer's Union canal for the purpose of recharging the ground water?

Conversion of water currently for agriculture for use in urban settings.

In the Treasure Valley there are approximately 1000 wells being drilled per year for domestic purposes. In some cases up to 2 to 5 acres are being irrigated with the water that is supposed to be only for ½ acre. Approximately 15 municipal wells are being drilled per year. A question was raised about well construction guidelines. IDWR currently looking at well construction rules. IDWR currently only has one well inspector to cover the area from Glenns Ferry to McCall.

The idea of additional storage surfaced again as it has been discussed in other meetings.

The question was raised about the possibility of recommendations of this working group being in conflict with TMDL.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Darrell Bolz
Acting Secretary