

## MINUTES

# HOUSE ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 12, 2014  
**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.  
**PLACE:** Room EW41  
**MEMBERS:** Chairman Raybould, Vice Chairman Eskridge, Representative(s) Anderson(1), Hartgen, Vander Woude, DeMordaunt, Nielsen, Thompson, Anderson(31), Anderst, Mendive, Monks, Morse, Trujillo, Smith, Rusche, Woodings  
**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Representative Anderson(31)  
**GUESTS:** John J. Williams, BPA; Brian Patton, IDWR

**Chairman Raybould** called the meeting to order at 1:28 p.m.

**Chairman Raybould** recognized the committee's page, **Katelyn Manker** and thanked her for her service and aid to the committee during her time in the Legislature. **Rep. Anderson(1)** also thanked Katelyn for her service to his committee and most especially his secretary.

**Chairman Raybould** turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Eskridge**.

**Brian Patton**, Bureau Chief with the Idaho Water Resources Board, gave an overview of the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) current programs, projects, and legislative proposals. He began with an update on the State Water Plan and the strategies for executing IDWR management policies and evaluating effectiveness. He reviewed the Water Board's loan function and gave an update on current projects with loans from the Board.

**Mr. Patton** then discussed the \$15 million one-time funding proposal in the Governor's Recommendation for the FY 2015 budget. He stated the Water Sustainability Initiative funding includes a variety of projects and surveys to ensure future sustainability. Mr. Patton discussed seven specific projects included in the proposal. The first part of the proposal was the Mountain Home Air Force Base Water Rights and Supply project and the need to ensure continual water supply to the Air Force base, its residents and workers. The second was the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Managed Recharge Infrastructure and Expenses project. This project is meant to address the need for additional infrastructure including the Milepost 31 managed recharge site, to provide storage and availability of water. It is also an attempt to prevent further Groundwater and Surface water conflicts and meet the State's Swan Falls Agreement obligations. This third aspect of the proposal was the Northern Idaho Future Water Needs Studies. These studies are gathering information and data to try and help solve the issue of nonexistent agreements or decrees to allocate water between Idaho and Washington. The last four aspects of the Governor's proposal deal with new water storage and supply control. These projects include the Galloway Reservoir project to determine the potential of the site to hold a large dam and reservoir, the Island Park and Boise River-Arrowrock enlargement projects to raise the reservoirs and add 30,000 and 317,000 acre-feet of additional storage to each respectively, and lastly the Water Supply Bank Computer Infrastructure Costs to install a computerized system to manage the immense and continual growth in water right rentals since 2008.

**Mr. Patton** briefly discussed the history of budget recommendations and allocation. He explained why the money was so important and how it has helped to drastically decrease the backlogs in the application, permitting, and leasing processes as well as the huge drop in the level of adjudication.

**Mr. Patton** moved on to discuss the water supply shortage and curtailments across Idaho. He discussed the Surface Water Coalition water call and the Rangen Fish Hatchery Delivery call. He stated these issues are currently being discussed and resolutions are being negotiated to try and avoid further curtailments in Idaho.

**Mr. Patton** then discussed the various pieces of legislation before the Legislature this session which have the Department's support. He briefly described what each piece does and why the Department thinks each would be beneficial.

In response to questions about the Galloway Site Project, **Mr. Patton** stated there are studies currently underway to determine not only the potential of the site but also the potential of the completed project to help address other water issues across the state, should the project be undertaken.

In response to concerns regarding the Northern Idaho water rights, **Mr. Patton** stated the Department is currently working on evaluations and determinations to be able to use and establish a minimal plan to protect the water rights in Idaho in the future from any disputes. He stated these studies and the evaluations must be done first before those plans can be discussed and determined as it is the demonstration of current use and future need that will be the key factors in determining Idaho's right.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Trujillo** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 6, 2014. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

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Representative Raybould  
Chair

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Kaela Becklund  
Secretary