

MINUTES  
**HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, February 03, 2022

**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW40

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Gibbs, Vice Chairman Lickley, Representatives Moyle, Wood, Boyle, Vander Woude, Gestrin, Mendive, Kauffman, Blanksma, Addis, Moon, Manwaring, Okuniewicz, Yamamoto, Rubel, Mathias, Burns

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Kauffman

**GUESTS:** The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of the session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

**Chairman Gibbs** called the meeting to order at 1:31pm.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Manwaring** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2022 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Jeff Raybould**, Chairman, Idaho Water Resource Board, provided an update regarding water sustainability project funding, including funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). He stated there is \$75M from the General Fund for priority water projects that cannot be funded with ARPA dollars, and a total of \$250M available over the next several years for water projects funded through ARPA. The Board met and agreed to move water infrastructure projects that meet the ARPA criteria out of the General Fund project list, which will free up General Fund dollars to fund additional priority projects. Those projects meeting ARPA criteria include Anderson Ranch Reservoir enlargement (\$90M), Mountain Home Air Force Base water pipeline (\$30M), and the ESPA recharge infrastructure (\$75M). Chairman Raybould wrapped up his presentation with a brief overview of several water projects underway, including cloud seeding, Priest Lake water management project, Ririe Reservoir flood control curve rules study, Lemhi Basin water rights, and Bear Lake water storage.

**Gary Spackman**, Director, Idaho Department of Water Resources, provided the annual Department update. He highlighted several of the ongoing Department water project funding requests including the Bear Lake Adjudication (Phase 2), which began in June 2021, and that it is expected to take ten years to complete. He also spoke about the continued progress on the adjudication of the estimated 70,000 domestic and 130,000 stockwater rights that remain unclaimed in the Snake River Basin.

Additionally, **Director Spackman** stated, the Department is requesting 15 additional FTEs, funded from the General Fund, to hire a variety of water resource specialists and two Bureau Chiefs to build back the Department from the 15 positions lost since 2008. He remarked, it is getting extremely difficult to continue managing the multitude of critical water projects around the state with a flat organizational structure.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.

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Representative Gibbs  
Chair

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Tracey McDonnell  
Secretary