

## **DRINKING WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

DEQ State Office

**Conference Room B**

*Thursday, September 14, 2006*

*10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.*

### **MINUTES**

#### Attendees:

#### DWAC Members:

Butch Anderson, IRWA	John Wiskus, CH2M Hill
David Six, City of Lewiston	Fred Ostler, Project Engineering Consultants/AWWA
Bill Carr, United Water	Kellye Eager, Health Departments
Bob Hansen, IBOL Board	Kody Van Dyk, City of Sandpoint
Cyndi Grafe, EPA - Idaho	Representative Stan Bastian
Jonathan Parker, Idaho Water Users	Mac Pooler, City of Kellogg
Steve Tanner, DEQ-Coeur d'Alene	Lynn Tominaga, Idaho Ground Water Appropriations

#### DEQ:

Lance Nielsen   Don Lee   Jerri Henry   Joan Thomas

#### **Introductions/Review of Agenda Items –John Wiskus**

- Members and guests introduced themselves and were asked if there were requests for additional items for the agenda.

#### **Modification or Improvements to Water Distributin Lines – Lance Nielsen**

- A letter intended to clarify when an engineering design review was needed was sent to all drinking water and wastewater systems, DWAC, AWWA and IRWA liaisons.
- Feedback from the letter regarding the following statement, prompted additional clarification and another letter was sent.

##### First Letter

- *“Like-kind” line replacement and repair does not need engineering design.*

##### Second Letter

- *With regard to the requirements for engineering on “like-kind” repair or replacement projects, an engineer must be involved on any project when:*
  - 1. their skills are required for the application of engineering principles or data, or*
  - 2. the public health or safety is involved.*
- Members discussed the gray areas in these statements. Although an upgrade that uses the same size pipe for instance does not need a review, there are systems that should replace that pipe with a different size and or type and need an engineering review. Contractors try to save money by somehow patching instead of upgrading. A lot of systems built in the 80’s should have upgrades.
- Systems should get a master plan in place.
- Regardless of some gray areas, members thought it has been a helpful letter for systems and they should contact DEQ or the Board of Professional Engineers if they have any questions about whether an engineer needs to be involved in a particular project.

### **Idaho Rural Water Association – Butch Anderson**

- IRWA lost its CEO and office manager last year. The new office manager is Alannah Allbrett. IRWA will not be filling the vacated CEO position. Because of this, Legislative activities will be reduced in the future.
- Butch is the new IRWA President
- Virgil Leedy is the acting General Manager and is also filling the new Wastewater Technician position.
- Diane Sauer has been a tremendous help in running the organization in the interim and is now back in her former circuit rider position.
- All other IRWA staff remains the same.
- The National Idaho Rural Water Board has provided oversight for Idaho Rural Water this last year and has been very helpful. National Rural Water helped financially to save the organization in Idaho and also putting on this year's national conference in Boise.
- IRWA has hired an outside CPA firm to handle their finances.
- IRWA has two new board members and are looking for four more. Butch announced that IRWA welcomes any interested parties.
- Idaho Rural Water is looking at making their conferences of interest to contractors so they can be part of it along with operators.
- Butch invited members to give him a call if they had questions
- Butch will attend the DWAC meetings for now because Virgil will be busy with the general manager and wastewater positions.

*MOTION/ACTION TAKEN:* A motion was made to formally nominate Butch Anderson to the DWAC with a letter from DEQ's Director.

*MOTION MADE BY:* Lynn Tominaga      *SECOND:* Mac Pooler  
*VOTE:* Unanimous

### **Drinking Water Fees – Lance Nielsen**

- Members were presented with a 3-ring binder of information which Lance summarized. Data included were:
  - ♦ Early history of DWAC and fee recommendations
  - ♦ October 1992 Drinking Water Newsletter
  - ♦ Alternative Funding Report form DWAC, January 1993
  - ♦ Current Drinking Water Fee Rule
  - ♦ Services Provided with Drinking water fees
  - ♦ Estimated Monitoring waiver cost savings
  - ♦ Draft Timeline for new fee rule promulgation
  - ♦ Current income/expenditure analysis, April 2006
  - ♦ Income and expense projections
- Members discussed these alternative funding options:
  - ♦ Base fee — is it adequate?
  - ♦ Plan & Spec. Review – DEQ-wide issue
  - ♦ What fees are other states using?
  - ♦ Sanitary Surveys
  - ♦ Compare administrative costs of connection fees vs. collecting other fees

- ♦ Tie fee to Consumer Price Index (CPI) for a long-term solution
  - ♦ New system fees – What is this scope of work?
    - Plan & Spec. Reviews – bring back copy of prior DWAC report
    - Well lot approvals
  - ♦ Charge same rate to each connection?
  - ♦ General Fund?
  - ♦ Evaluate current collection process to ensure DEQ has correct connection count
- Following DEQ’s presentation and committee discussions, members developed a listing of the information they would need to build a recommendation for the need for additional funding.
    - ♦ Is the Safe Drinking Water Program operating at maximum efficiency?
      - Have all tasks been optimized?
      - Have unnecessary tasks been discarded?
    - ♦ Tie FTEs to workload
    - ♦ Are folks paid with drinking water fees working only on drinking water?
    - ♦ Demographics of PWSs (are size, classes still reasonable?)
    - ♦ Forecast new connections, and impact on income
    - ♦ Include interest income in projections
    - ♦ Forecast future program costs (e.g. new rules, etc.)
    - ♦ Revisit “connection” definition
      - Consider (EDU — equivalent dwelling unit)
    - ♦ What happens if we take the “no action” alternative?
    - ♦ Are there any tasks that can be dropped? (question for EPA)

*MOTION/ACTION TAKEN:* DEQ will put together the requested information for meeting in December and send to members for their review before the meeting. EPA was asked to bring a future forecast of impending regulations.

**Wrap-up/Action Items**

- DEQ Action items from discussions were reviewed.
- The next meeting was set for Thursday, December 7th from 10:00-3:00.

Adjournment at 3:00 p.m.

*Next Meeting Date:* **December 7, 2006 @ 10:00 a.m.**  
**DEQ State Office**  
**1410 North Hilton, Boise**

**Conference Room “B”**