



## IDAHO WASHINGTON AQUIFER COLLABORATIVE

iwac.us

P.O. Box 1822  
Post Falls, ID 83877

Terry Pickel - President  
BiJay Adams - Vice President  
Rob Lindsay - Secretary  
Ron Wilson - Treasurer  
Dan Kegley – Past President

Our Water. Our Future.

The Idaho Washington Aquifer Collaborative (IWAC) works to maintain and enhance water quality and quantity for present and future generations by developing management strategies which benefit the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer and the Spokane River watersheds.

September 14, 2021, 1:385– 3:12 PM, via Zoom

Representatives Present

	Organization	Representative	Email Address
	Avista	Chris Moan	chris.moan@avistacorp.com
	Avondale Irrigation District	Bob Chandler	bobchandlercda@gmail.com
	Bar Circle S Water Company	Rob Turnipseed	avondalecon@frontier.com
√	City of Coeur d’Alene	Terry Pickel	tpickel@cdaid.org
√	City of Post Falls	John Beacham Craig Borrenpohl Alyssa Gersdorf	jbeacham@postfallsidaho.org cborrenpohl@postfallsidaho.org alysag@postfallsidaho.org
√	City of Spokane Water Department	Doug Greenlund	dgreenlund@spokanecity.org
	Coeur d’Alene Tribe of Indians	Rebecca Stevens	rstevens@cdaTribe-nsn.gov
	Consolidated Irrigation District No. 19	Shane Sheppard	consolidatedirrigation@comcast.net
	East Greenacres Irrigation District	Ron Wilson	ron@eastgreenacres.org
	Hayden Area Regional Sewer Board	Ken Windram	ken@harsb.org
	Hayden Lake Irrigation District	Branden Rose	branden@haydenirrigation.com.
√	Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District	BiJay Adams Jeremy Jenkins	bijay@libertylake.org jjenkins@libertylake.org
√	JUB Engineering	Cory Baune	cbaune@jub.com
	Moab Irrigation District	Scott Inch	moabirr20@gmail.com
	Model Irrigation District	Rick Neal Ryan Neal	rickaneal@gmail.com ryan.o.neal509@gmail.com
	Modern Electric Water Company	Jason Beesley	jbeesley@mewco.com
	North Kootenai Water & Sewer District	Jessie Camburn	jessiec@nkwsd.com
√	SAJB Program Leader	Tonilee Hanson	sajbinfo@gmail.com

√	<b>Spokane Co. Environmental Services</b>	Rob Lindsay	rlindsay@spokanecounty.org
	<b>Spokane County Water District No. 3</b>	Kelly Williquette Justin VanDyke	scwd3engr@comcast.net jvandyke@scwd3.org
	<b>Spokane Tribe of Indians</b>	Brian Crossley	crossley@spokanetribe.com
	<b>Spokane Conservation District</b>	Lindsay Chutas	lindsay-chutas@sccd.org
	<b>Vera Water and Power</b>	Todd Henry	thenry@verawaterandpower.com
√	<b>Whitworth Water District</b>	Tim Murrell	tim@whitworthwater.com
√	<b>IWAC Past President and GSI Consultant</b>	Dan Kegley	dmkegs@outlook.com
√	<b>City of Spokane</b>	Kristen Zimmer	kzimmer@spokanecity.org
√	<b>WA Dept of Health – Drinking Water</b>	Sheri Miller	sheri.miller@doh.wa.gov
	<b>City of Spokane Valley</b>	Henry Allen	hallen@spokanevalley.org
√	<b>U of I Extension</b>	Jim Ekins	jekins@uidaho.edu
	<b>WA Dept of Ecology</b>	Chris Beard	chbe461@ecy.wa.gov
	<b>Vera Water &amp; Power</b>	Catherine Cronin	ccronin@verawaterandpower.com
√	<b>Spokane Co. Environmental Services</b>	Toni Taylor	TNTAYLOR@spokanecounty.org
	<b>City of Coeur d’Alene Water</b>	Kyle Marine	kmarine@cdaid.org

## AGENDA

**Welcome and Introductions** – President Terry Pickel called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

**Agenda Additions or Revisions** – No changes were requested.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes for June** – President Pickel called for additions or corrections to the August 10, meeting minutes. Alyssa Gersdorf noted that John Beecham was recorded as present instead of Craig Borrenpohl who did attend the August meeting. The minutes, as corrected, were approved by consensus.

**Financial Report** – Treasurer Ron Wilson was absent. The Financial report was tabled until October.

### Old Business

**Source Water Protection Grant 2020-2021 Report** – The SWP grant report was approved by consensus. Tonilee Hanson will edit the report and list the [IWAC webinars](#) individually in addition to hyperlinking the webinar webpage. The updated report will be sent to President Pickel on 9/15/21 for his signature and then forwarded to the SWP grant office.

### New Business

**IWAC Goals** - In 2013, IWAC established goals in the following categories: Organization, Water Quantity, Conservation, Water Quality, and Public Awareness and Education. The members acknowledged that many of the original goals have been completed and it will be important to develop new goals. The immediate focus is on water conservation.

**Water Conservation Discussion and Planning** – Members had a lively and far-ranging discussion. Below are a mixture of topics of interest, suggestions, concerns, and questions raised by the members.

- A regional approach is vital to planning and implementing water conservation. Benefits include collaborative thinking, development, cost-sharing and purchasing power to finance conservation initiatives, as well as grant opportunities. Reduced infrastructure repair, replacement, and expansion expenses.

- [Cascade Water Alliance](#) and [Oregon Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership](#) were cited as examples of regional approaches to water conservation. Here is a link to the [Mid-Coast Draft Water Action Plan](#). Pages 34-67 provide detailed action steps.
- Washington State requires water conservation plans from water purveyors. Many plans identify rates, retrofits, rebates, education, and metering as conservation measures. While these actions are useful, they do not seem to be sufficient to ensure the summer water conservation that will be needed to support the unexpected population growth and future water needs of the region. One rebate success story from the City of Coeur d'Alene was an incentive for CDA parks and school districts to reduce outdoor watering. If they achieved a water use reduction benchmark, they would be charged at the commercial rate rather than the irrigation rate, which was a considerable cost savings.
- Consistent regional strategies and policies will be essential for getting municipal planning departments, HOAs, developers, and residents to change outdoor green space and irrigation policies and practices. For Example: Currently HOAs require green lawns that are free of clover. HOAs could be a target for lawn and irrigation policy changes and conservation messaging.
- Conservation messaging needs to be written that will inspire people to take action. Examples included:
  - A recent City of Spokane media message, "Gold is the new blue" encouraged residents to let their yards go golden in the summer to keep blue water in the Spokane River. The river can be a unifying focus across the region.
  - Conserve now for our future.
  - Be efficient. Don't waste water, its beneath you. Use water wisely.
  - The water you put on your lawn would otherwise be in the river.
  - Success story: Indoor water use has been reduced per capita due to retrofitting older homes with low flow toilets and showerheads, and installing energy efficient appliances. Indoor water, as measured by winter pumping data, remained consistent despite population and housing increases across the region. Now it is time to reduce outdoor water use.
- Regional Goals could include reducing production numbers or per capita summer water use.
- Measuring water conservation can be challenging. How do we know what is working? Examples:
  - SpokaneScape measures water consumption meter data before and after the projects.
  - Tiered pricing is measurable. It was recommended that a purveyor's base rate reflect the true infrastructure costs of providing water to customers. Revenue from upper tier water use would be allocated for extra expenses.

**2021-22 Aquifer Atlas Update Water Consumption Data** – Tonilee Hanson and Toni Taylor shared that the Aquifer Atlas revision has resumed, after a delay caused by Covid 10 quarantine, and new data is requested for water use and future water use. How much pumping data is available and what timeframe would best tell the story of increased outdoor water use? Alyssa Gersdorf shared that Idaho water purveyor pumping data is reported monthly from October 1 to September 30. Discussion followed. Dan Kegley suggested that using data from all customer classes would be the most accurate measure of water use. Terry Pickel suggested that a 10-year period of data was available and might give a more accurate picture of increasing outdoor water use. The Aquifer Atlas has inadvertently perpetuated the myth that the SVRP Aquifer is infinite. This misperception needs to be corrected in the updated Aquifer Atlas.

**Spokane River Forum Outdoor Water Conservation Website Development** – Tonilee Hanson shared that work has begun on a water conservation website funded by the Spokane Aquifer Joint Board and the Spokane River Forum. The website development may take 6 months to a year. IWAC members were asked to comment on the intended audience, identify additional categories, and prioritize identified categories. Members agreed with the

audience and focus on residential homeowners with outdoor lawn watering. They identified two additional categories and listed below are the identified priorities suggested by the members present.

**Categories:**

- 1. Detect and repair leaks
- 2. Managing sprinkler timers seasonally
- 3. Repair and retrofit sprinkler systems
- Replace turf
- Choose drought tolerant plants
- Increase water efficiency with mulch and soil amendments
- Smart Controllers, Evapo-transpiration-based, moisture sensors

**Website Development Next-Steps :**

- Create an inventory of questions that might be asked by residential homeowners with lawns and resources for answering the questions.
- Determine the best process for a quick website look-up of specific targeted information

## Updates Around the Table

**Rob Lindsay**, Spokane County Environmental Services, reported that the Water Resource Center is opening up again to school tours and activities. An update of the Coordinated Water system Plan (CWSP) is beginning, and Tim Murrell is chair of the Water Utility Coordinating Committee. Funding to update the CWSP is being requested from the County Commissioners.

**Alyssa Gersdorf**, Post Falls Water Department, shared that the main focus has been on wastewater updates. The new well and well-house are being prepared to come on-line.

**Jim Ekins**, University of Idaho Extension, The Confluence Project is underway with teacher training. This year 12 high schools are involved with 50% of them located over the SVRP aquifer. Seth Oliver and Jenny Gray, IDEQ, are providing aquifer education experiences for the students.

**Jeremy Jenkins**, LLSWD, shared that the first year of requiring backflow testing was challenging but successful. Non-compliance with backflow testing resulted in 31 shut offs that have now been turned back on. 30%-40% of the tested backflow devices failed the test.

**Kristen Zimmer**, City of Spokane Water Department, shared that a new audit program has been launched for commercial water conservation. SpokaneScope is being implemented on a number of city owned properties.

**Tim Murrell**, Whitworth Water District, have received a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund US EPA DWSRF grants and trust loans for a 13.5 million project which is currently out to bid.

**Terry Pickel**, Coeur d'Alene Water Department, the new well is waiting for permit approval. The transmission main along Atlas Road is in process. President Pickel will present IWAC at the AWWA conference on October 6, 2021, and VP BiJay Adams will present the Efficient Irrigation and Landscape Design Guidelines.

**Adjourn** - There being no further business this 14th day of September 2021, President Pickel adjourned the meeting at 3:12 pm.

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President Terry Pickel

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Vice President, BiJay Adams

**Handouts sent via e-mail:** IWAC Agenda, IWAC August 2021 Meeting Minutes, IDEQ Source Water Protection Grant Draft Final Report, 2013 IWAC Goals. Previous IWAC meeting agendas, minutes, supporting documents and presentations can be found at <http://www.iwac.us/category/meetings/>.