

Water

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*Visit our webpage:*

[www.idahowaterpolicygroup.org](http://www.idahowaterpolicygroup.org)

### **Upcoming Events**

**June 15:** Antidegradation Negotiated Rulemaking  
Boise, IDEQ, 9 a.m.

**June 16-18:** Association of Idaho Cities Annual Conference, Idaho Falls  
To register:

[www.idahocities.org](http://www.idahocities.org)

**June 17:** Food Producers of Idaho, Boise, Idaho Grain and Ag Center, 9 a.m.

**June 21-22:** IWUA Water Law Seminar, Sun Valley  
To register: [www.iwua.org](http://www.iwua.org)

**June 22:** Reclamation and Reuse of Municipal and Industrial Wastewater, Boise, IDEQ Conference Rm B, 9:30 a.m.

**June 24:** Idaho Water Resource Board, Boise, Idaho Fish & Game, 8:30 a.m. Work Session; 1 p.m. Board meeting  
Sno-tel Advisory Committee, Boise, NRCS, 1:30 p.m.

**June 29:** IGWA EC  
Pocatello, Racine Law, 9:30 a.m.

Eight new members joined the Treasure Valley Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan's (CAMP) Advisory Committee, bringing the full committee up to 40 members. The Idaho Water Resource Board expanded the advisory group so that the process is as inclusive and fully representative of the basin as possible.

The Committee met in Boise on Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup> again taking up its mission to develop policy recommendations that ensure a reliable, sustainable water supply over the next 50 years. One stumbling block to meeting that mission, at least for some committee members, may be projections of a more than adequate water supply to meet current and future needs. Data from the 2005 Treasure Valley Hydrologic Project estimates that the estimated two million acre-feet (2 MAF) of annual inflow is offset by 1 MAF of annual outflow. That study was motivated by concerns related to increased population and development coupled with the changing irrigation and land use practices that continue to dominate this advisory committee's discussions.

Then, as now, surface water practices account for about 95% of the recharge for the Treasure Valley aquifer systems. And surface water representatives are quick to point out that, while there may be less agricultural land under production, the same volume of water is delivered for combined agricultural and urban residential uses. Just how much water is going on Treasure Valley lawns is something the advisory group would like to get a handle along with the impacts to domestic water use due to significant growth over the last decade.

It appears that residential water use here is following the broader trend of declining usage influenced by conservation, efficiencies, and pricing. United Water Idaho provided information showing that, from 2000-2009, winter water use declined by 25% and summer water use, including lawns, declined by 19%. Using their own 50 year forecast, the company concludes that declining usage has not yet bottomed out and that customer growth may not translate to a comparable increase in water demand. However, utilities are required to plan for and have the water rights in their portfolio to meet peak usage so one policy discussion might be if or how difference in water volume could be stored to meet that planning requirement.

While overall an abundant, but not unlimited, water supply may be available, local conditions dictate water supply in specific areas. The challenge will be to identify the infrastructure and policy necessary to meet, but not inadvertently limit, future water supply options and will require local and regional planning. The advisory committee spent a considerable amount of time brainstorming what some of those opportunities might look, opportunities ranging from conservation and efficiency to increased surface or aquifer storage; better forecasting, modeling, and monitoring data; conjunctive management of surface and ground water, water reuse, transfers and exchanges; legal, judicial and legislative policies along with water marketing opportunities.

In addition to the technical presentations about the Treasure Valley Hydrologic Project and UWI's residential water use, Idaho Department of Water Resource's updated the committee on Statewide Storage Project Studies including the Minidoka Dam Raise, Henry's Fork Special Study, Weiser-Galloway Project, Lower Boise Interim Feasibility Study and a brief discussion of Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR). These studies are collaborative efforts between local, state and federal agencies.

The next meeting for the Treasure Valley CAMP Advisory Committee is scheduled for July 30, 2010 beginning at 9 a.m. at the Meridian City Hall. Agenda topics include future water demand, reliable water supply options, and likely conflicts along with the options to address those conflicts.

All of the technical presentations along with meeting agendas and summaries may be viewed on IDWR's website at:

[http://www.idwr.idaho.gov/WaterBoard/WaterPlanning/CAMP/TV\\_CAMP/2010docs.htm](http://www.idwr.idaho.gov/WaterBoard/WaterPlanning/CAMP/TV_CAMP/2010docs.htm)