**Upcoming Events**

**December 14:**

Treasure Valley

CAMP Advisory

Committee

Time & Location TBA

**Treasure Valley Camp**/*Boise/* *November 10, 2010*: The Treasure Valley Advisory Committee opted to split into four subcommittees to address some of the remaining issues and meet the initial goal of presenting a completed planning document to Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB) by March 2011. At this meeting, the four subcommittees discussed water supply issues in the morning and reported on their findings for further deliberation as a full group again in the afternoon. Eleven issues emerged: 1) Integrate land use and water planning; 2) Develop decision-making tools and identify the data you need; 3) Utilize cloud seeding; 4) Incentivize conservation; 4) look for opportunities to gain efficiencies in water distribution; 5) explore ways to use storage for surface and ground water; 6) Protect and maintain existing irrigated agriculture infrastructure; 7) improve flood control; 8) better define the parameters to legally enforce water rights and administer Conjunctive Management; 9) Effectively use geothermal resources as technologies evolve, including reinjection; 10) Utilize and improve the market system; and 11) encourage the development of water markets.

Once the ideas from each group were combined, there seemed to be some common themes that emerged. The Advisory Committee as a whole then prioritized those ideas. Monitoring, water measuring, and data collection is needed for better decision-making. Conservation is a good first step, but surface or ground water storage is going to be necessary sometime in the future. Cloud seeding was not a high priority, but the committee agreed that irrigation companies and Idaho Power should continue to further explore this issue. Likewise geothermal resources are not a high priority because of their limited geographic distribution, the quantity available, and usage being restricted to heating due to low temperature. Water marketing generated much discussion between the groups with opinions split over the advisability of relying on water rentals to provide a long-term supply.

In the afternoon session, the Advisory Committee heard presentations on climate variability and recharge. According to the “Climate Variability Impact Studies in the Treasure Valley Region”, prepared and presented by V. Sridhar, a BSU Assistant Professor, climate models predict precipitation and temperature changes for the area. On average, changes in precipitation ranged between -3.8% and +3.6%. Changes in temperature are expected to be between .02 and 3.9 Centigrade. Thus, the high flows in the future will probably be higher than historic high flows. The peak flows will be earlier. Notably, the low flows are expected to be lower than historic low flows. What that means is that, if the spring freshet is higher, but comes earlier as flood flow, it will not be useful for irrigation purposes. And, in dry periods, when lows are projected to be lower than historic lows, water shortages will be more extreme.

IDWR’s Neil Farmer presented a preliminary assessment on the feasibility of aquifer recharge in the Treasure Valley. The presence of the shallow aquifer and underlying geological formations limits the use and location of recharge to specific areas. It does appear that roughly 200,000 acre-feet of recharge could raise water levels in the regional aquifer, but more information is needed to determine the holding capacity of the shallow aquifer and to avoid problems such as land slides and flooding foundations when the water table is raised. The conditions that would be most conducive for recharge appear to exist south of Boise and the best area for recharge appears to be southeast of Kuna where the depth to water is 150 to 300 foot. The two most likely methods for recharge would probably be to use seepage basins or injections wells.

Advisory Committee member and Micron Technology employee Michelle Atkinson reported on the Aquifer Recharge and Recovery (ARR) project that is jointly owned by Micron/Simplot and United Water. Pumped water is treated for industrial purposes and then re-injected back into the aquifer. The injection program has stabilized the water levels, augmented local groundwater supply, and maintained existing ground water quality.

Using two IWRB water rights, 185,944 acre-feet was recharged in 2009-2010 at a $3/acre-foot on the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer. IDWR Recharge Coordinator Bill Quinn concurred with Farmer that a successful managed recharge program is highly dependent on local conditions.

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water

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