

Idaho Department of Water Resources
Zero Based Budget Assessment
June 16, 2009

Summary of recommendations:

1. Administrative Support for Idaho Water Resource Board Pg 1
 - A. Maintain current level of effort and approach to cost center.
2. State Water Plan Pg 4
 - A. Maintain current level of effort and approach to cost center.
3. Comprehensive River Basin Plans Pg 7
 - A. Maintain this cost center at no effort at the present time; however this is a useful process that may be used at the direction of the legislature in the future.
4. Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plans Pg 10
 - A. Recommend not filling vacant positions, which results in a reduction of 1.75 FTE's for this cost center.
 - B. Self-perform some of the planning studies in-lieu of contracting by funding 1.0 FTE from the Water Management Division with Aquifer Planning Funds. This results in the addition of 1.0 FTE to this cost center.
5. Idaho Water Resource Board Financial Program Pg 14
 - A. Maintain current level of effort and approach to cost center.
6. Idaho Water Resource Board Projects Pg 18
 - A. Recommend not filling vacant positions, which results in a reduction of 1.25 FTE's for this cost center.
 - B. Continue to maximize use of available federal and Bonneville Power funds.
7. Minimum Stream Flows Pg 22
 - A. Maintain current level of effort and approach to cost center.
8. Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan Implementation Pg 26
 - A. Passage of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan through HB 264 of the 2009 Legislature created a mandate on the Water Resource Board to undertake an aquifer management project estimated at \$100 million during Phase 1 (years 1 – 10) with no additional staff to oversee and manage the effort. Since the project will generate a revenue stream for the water users, it is recommended that necessary staff be supported by a portion of that revenue stream. This need will be further refined as the project implementation phase is developed.
9. State Water Supply Bank and Rental Pools Pg 30
 - A. Maintain current level of effort and approach to cost center.
10. Water Resource Data Acquisition. Pg 33
 - A. Cancel contract for water level measurement/self perform. (Implement Immediately)
 - B. Take over operation of Blue Lakes gages. (Implement Immediately)
 - C. Install electronic recording/radio telemetry equipment. (Target completion prior to FY14)
 - D. Further evaluate USGS and Idaho Power contracts for opportunities to self perform. (Ongoing evaluation process)
11. Water Resource Data Management. Pg 38
 - A. Maintain current level of effort and approach to cost center.
 - B. Transfer hardware maintenance of 5 servers to IT. (Process initiated)

- C. Coordinate with IT & discuss issues in ITSC. (Implement as issues arise)
 - D. Integrate databases. (Requires financial resources; initiate as resources become available)
12. Statewide Ground Water Quality Monitoring. Pg 43
 - A. Cancel sampling and analysis contract with USGS and self perform the Statewide Ground Water Quality Monitoring. (Implement Immediately)
 - B. Internal review of wells, sampling frequency, parameters, etc. to ensure efficiency of Statewide Ground Water Quality Monitoring. (Initiate evaluation process FY10)
 13. Environmental Data Management System (EDMS). Pg 48
 - A. Maintain current level of effort and approach to cost center.
 - B. Continue discussions with IDEQ & ISDA regarding data management approach. (Implement Immediately)
 14. Development of Spatial Data using GIS. Pg 53
 - A. Recommend a 0.35 FTE reduction in service beginning August 1 FY 2010. (Implement in FY10 budget. Resource lost to overall funding reduction)
 - B. Increase staff work load to accommodate new Federal contracts. (Prioritize workloads while accepting accumulation of backlog of lower priority tasks)
 15. Remote Sensing and Image Processing. Pg 58
 - A. Recommend a 0.65 FTE reduction in service beginning August 1 FY 2010. (Resource lost to Bureau due to overall funding reduction)
 - B. Train internal staff to perform remote sensing. (Implement as appropriate training opportunities arise)
 16. Evapotranspiration (ET) Modeling. Pg 62
 - A. Maintain current level of effort and approach to cost center.
 - B. Utilize NDVI for some ET mapping applications. (Implement Immediately)
 17. Water Right Accounting. Pg 66
 - A. Reduce by 1 FTE for FY 2010. (Implement Immediately, resource lost to overall Department funding reduction)
 - B. Implement new model to make accounting program easier to use and understand. (Implement Immediately)
 18. Geothermal Monitoring and Resource Evaluation. Pg 70
 - A. Maintain current level of effort and approach to cost center.
 19. River and Reservoir Simulation (Planning Model). Pg 74
 - A. Maintain current level of effort and approach to cost center and work closer with USBR.
 20. Ground Water Modeling. Pg 79
 - A. Maintain current level of effort and approach to cost center.
 21. Water Supply Analysis/Forecasting. Pg 83
 - A. Maintain current level of effort and approach to cost center.
 22. Aquifer Management Plans (CAMPs) – Technical Studies and Monitoring. Pg 87
 - A. Reduce FY 2010 ESPA budget for studies and monitoring by 25%. (Implement Immediately, resource lost to overall Department funding reduction)
 - B. Eliminate most of the SVRP budget for studies and monitoring. (Implement Immediately, resource lost to overall Department funding reduction)
 - C. Self perform ESPA monitoring in lieu of contracting by funding 1FTE from Southern Regional Office with ESPA CAMP funds. (Utilize contract funds for salaries to perform. Implement immediately)

23. Hydrologic Evaluations. Pg 91
A. Maintain current level of effort and approach to cost center.
24. Maintain and Serve IDWR Data and Information to the Public. Pg 95
A. Maintain current level of effort and approach to cost center.
25. Applications for New Water Rights. Pg 100
A. Continue to train new hearing officers to address protested applications. (on going)
B. Develop online filing capability to save on data entry time. (Complete task in FY11)
C. Revise Idaho Code to eliminate requirement to mail notices of new water right applications. (Draft language to submit to Legislative committee prior to FY11)
26. Water Right Licensing. Pg 105
A. Revise Idaho Code to require all future filings of proof of beneficial use to be accompanied by an exam conducted by a certified water right examiner from the private sector to ensure timely documentation of beneficial use and save staff time for other priorities. (Draft language to submit to Legislative committee prior to FY11)
B. Revise Idaho Code to require all requests for reinstatement of lapsed permits. (lapsed greater than 60 days) to include exam and evidence of beneficial use during the permit development period to be submitted by a certified water right examiner from the private sector to save staff time (Draft language to submit to Legislative committee prior to FY11)
27. Statutory Water Right Claims. Pg 110
A. Eliminate notice requirements for exempt domestic/stock water uses. (Draft language to submit to Legislative committee prior to FY11)
28. Water Right Changes. Pg 114
A. Continue to improve database applications to automate data entry, review and update to water right records. (On going)
B. Continue to update guidance and training for staff, forms and instructions, and online resources for transfer processing. (On going)
C. Increase transfer application fees – defer for Department wide review of fee increases.
D. Continue to train new hearing officers to address protested applications. (On going)
29. Water Right Ownership. Pg 119
A. Eliminate the requirement to file notice of ownership change for exempt domestic rights except during pending adjudication where a claim has been filed. (Draft language to submit to Legislative committee prior to FY11)
30. Water Supply Bank for Natural Flow Water Rights. Pg 123
A. Limit the number of rights considered for acceptance into the bank in areas where there are sufficient water rights already accepted into the bank or in areas where water is not generally needed to rent by other water users. (Implement during FY10)
B. Limit the lease period to 5 years unless the right is rented or the term is extended by the Board. (Implement during FY10)
31. Water Right Record-Keeping and Customer Service. Pg 128
A. Continue to provide and improve online access to water right data and develop the capability to accept online filings for certain processes to save staff time. (On going)

32. Water Districts. Pg 132
- A. Assign staff to act as liaison for water districts to provide for local expertise. (Begin implementation for selected districts in FY10)
 - B. Implement WD170 model for other areas where IDWR acts as watermaster over subdistricts and does not assess fees as long as the subdistrict provides adequate regulation. (Consider for new districts created in FY10/FY11)
 - C. Clarify current law to provide flexibility in management/operation of districts, including clear provisions to recognize creation of sub-districts, as well as provide for changes regarding water district reporting, assessments and voting. (Draft language to submit to Legislative committee during to FY11)
 - D. Discontinue practice of IDWR appointed watermasters unless there is authorization for unfunded positions or hiring contractors to work directly for IDWR to be funded by water districts to avoid further depletion of IDWR staff who are elected as watermasters. (Implement immediately)
33. Water Measurement. Pg 140
- A. Continue to focus on most critical areas such as ESPA to ensure level of funding is utilized most effectively. (On going)
 - B. Enforce and/or raise current standards for ground water measurement and reporting, but rely more on water districts to enforce – this will probably result in higher costs for water districts and reporting entities. (Begin implementation for selected districts in FY10/FY11)
 - C. Continue to develop and improve computer applications to assist with measurement and reporting and make data more accessible. (Ongoing as needed)
34. Water Right/Water Use Enforcement. Pg 148
- A. Prioritize areas of concern to control most significant violations with limited staff. (Implement immediately)
 - B. Develop guidance for staff to provide fair and consistent resolutions to violations so that the workload can be distributed to additional staff for more timely resolutions. (Complete task prior to FY11)
 - C. Continue to utilize technology and improve methods to identify and measure extent of violations – success depends on continued source of funding for imagery to include enforcement funds and other cooperative efforts to acquire imagery. (Implement immediately)
35. Adjudication Claims Investigation in SRBA. Pg 153
- A. Modify the fee schedule in Sec. 42-1414 to assess IDWR costs for investigating and reporting late claims granted by the court in addition to claim filing fees including late claim fees, all of which would be a credit on final IDWR costs.
 - B. Create central state warehouse of ownership records corresponding to each parcel number transmitted by each county recorder in order for IDWR to access those records for ownership of water rights and eliminate the ineffectiveness and inefficiency currently resulting from the current law. Such a change would require new laws and amendments of others.
36. SRBA Partial Decree Preparation. Pg 158
- A. The progress of resolving and addressing contested water rights in the SRBA will steadily diminish the cost of this cost center.
 - B. Developing data exchanges between the Court and IDWR would eliminate proof reading some of the records and corresponding data entry at IDWR for partial decrees issued by the Court. This project would require two years of development and testing and require spending authority both for the courts and IDWR to cover the extraordinary expense.

37. Northern Idaho Adjudication (NIA)

Pg 162

- A. The claim fees are projected to cover only 17 per cent of the IDWR cost to administer the adjudications in the NIA. Revisiting those claims (amending Sec. 42-1414) to have the water right claimants more nearly cover the state cost of adjudicating the water rights would relieve the general fund from supporting the state efforts. These adjudications will also likely have late claims. The late claims point made in the adjudication cost center above would also apply in the NIA.
- B. The web based on-line claims application, the first of its kind in the country, is proving its value to IDWR. Speeding the adjudication process would benefit those filing claims by shortening the time to complete the adjudication and have a final decree. Increasing staff to support this cost center and returning to a five-year timeline would speed the process.
- C. Ownership changes have been identified as a constraint in this cost center and the corresponding Water Allocation cost center. Amending the statute on this process could provide opportunities for improvements. This is one area where continuing to provide and improve online access to water right data and develop the capability to accept online filings for this processes could save staff time.

38. Safety of Dams.

Pg 167

- A. Reduce frequency of inspection for all Low Hazard Dams to once every five (5) years unless dam shows signs of stress that could cause failure. Inspection of Significant and High Hazard Dams will be pushed out as far as prudent from an engineering standpoint based on actual conditions of dam. (Implement immediately)
- B. Draft language to revise Idaho Code to align our statutory requirement with the dimensions used by the National Dam Safety Program. Removes approximately 50 dams from inventory and inspection by State Dam Safety program. (Draft language to submit to Legislative committee prior to FY11)
- C. Draft language to revise Idaho Code to transfer responsibility for inspection of federally owned and operated dams to the federal owner. Removes approximately 50+ dams from inventory and inspection by State Dam Safety. (Draft language to submit to Legislative committee prior to FY11)
- D. Draft language to revise Idaho Code to hold dam owners financially responsible for the cost of re-inspection of their dam when inadequate operation or lack of proper maintenance activities requires that dam be re-inspected sooner than the statutory five (5) year frequency. (Draft language to submit to Legislative committee prior to FY12)
- E. Draft language to revise Idaho Code to require the owners of all High Hazard dams to conduct periodic inspections of their projects and updating of Emergency Action Plans and to provide results to the Safety of Dams office. (Draft language to submit to Legislative committee prior to FY12)

39. Floodplain Management.

Pg 173

- A. Association of State Floodplain Managers standard ratio of staff per number of flood-prone communities results in 5 to 7 floodplain staff needed for an effective program in Idaho. We currently have 1.5 FTE. State needs to identify stable funding for floodplain program to ensure that local communities implement consistent development decisions.
- B. Communities are requesting floodplain management assistance that goes beyond the tasks supported by federal program funds. In order to provide these services, the state needs to increase its support beyond the 25% mandatory match in the Community Assistance Program. State needs to identify stable funding for floodplain program to ensure that local communities implement consistent development decisions.

40. Groundwater Protection. Pg 176
- A. Some savings will result from implementation of new well construction rules. Not only do they clarify many activities that now require better communication between IDWR and the driller on those phases considered most critical, we have also reduced four PT field well inspection staff. (Implement immediately).
 - B. Some savings will be realized if we transfer the driller licensing program to Bureau of Occupational Licensing (BOL). BOL was established to manage some licensing programs for the state. BOL does this with the fees that are collected from the licensed community. Currently the fee structure for well driller licensing is insufficient to cover the cost of BOL administering this program. (Recommend further study of this potential alternative)
 - C. Some savings by eliminating the PT person dedicated to the MVDW program to identify, locate, and work toward closure of wells. Work would be done by other existing staff but at a reduced pace. (Implement immediately)
41. Stream Channel Protection. Pg 183
- A. Complete planned software re-writes to the SC processing database software to allow the SCPS to more efficiently process application related documentation and thereby spend more time in the field. (Implement as programming resources become available)
 - B. Pursue and enter into cooperative agreements with the USACE to cover their component of stream channel work that overlaps IDWR jurisdictional responsibilities. Predicated on availability of federal funding and would probably change year to year. (Continue effort to establish a cooperative agreement)
42. Public Awareness. Pg 188
- A. Maintain current level of effort and approach to cost center.
43. Human Resources. Pg 192
- A. Maintain current level of effort and approach to cost center.
44. Financial. Pg 195
- A. Maintain current level of effort and approach to cost center.
45. Purchasing. Pg 198
- A. Maintain current level of effort and approach to cost center.
46. Information Technology. Pg 201
- A. Maintain current level of effort and approach to cost center.

Final Global Recommendation on "fee" review:

Attached following this page.