
5. **Emergency Rules for Emergency Water Projects**

Director Gebhart provided an overview of the key elements considered in developing the Emergency Rules and emphasized the emergency fund was not to be used as a rehab account or for deferred maintenance. The following key elements were considered:

- Sponsor eligibility
- What caused the failure or imminent failure?
- The magnitude of failure in regard to public safety and significant economic impact
- Did the sponsor have prior knowledge of the failure?
- Does the sponsor really need the funding?
- Is this a good investment of state dollars?

Director Gebhart discussed changes the proposed emergency rules will have on existing rules and provided clarification regarding added verbiage.

Much discussion ensued with the group asking questions and adding input.

Andrew Kuhlmann discussed the process for the rules and said the emergency water projects bill goes into effect July 1, 2020. He said the emergency rules are in effect no longer than 120 days after filing with the Wyoming Secretary of State's Office.

6. **Discussion**

- Palisades Water Sales

Director Gebhart informed the group that the Idaho Groundwater Appropriators (IGWA) have accepted the proposal that was presented to them. Currently the Water Development Office and IGWA are working to formalize an agreement.

- Interim Topics Update

Director Gebhart stated that on June 1, 2020 he testified in front of the Joint Agriculture Committee on the topic of aging infrastructure. Currently all Ag Sponsors who participate in the Water Development Program are required to submit an Irrigation Survey at the time of application. It was discussed that new information will be added to the current survey to incorporate items regarding aging infrastructure. Those items would ask what are their assets, vulnerabilities and anticipated costs per a 20-year time frame. Director Gebhart also informed the group that the Joint Agriculture Committee discussed drafting legislation to change the funding of Water Development Account I and Water Development

Account II. Director Gebhart stated that he does not think this is necessary. A request to transfer money between the two accounts could be made through legislation in the Omnibus Water Bill.

- Legislative Update

The Governor has asked all agencies to develop plans to reduce their budgets by 10% percent. Those plans are due July 1, 2020.

Currently there is a hiring freeze in effect for all positions, and no new general fund contracts over \$100,000.00 can be signed without Governor's Office approval.

Agencies have also been asked to prepare for a future additional 10% budget reduction.

7. Future meetings Schedule

A special meeting will be held on July 1, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. for the Commission to approve the emergency rules for emergency water projects. This will be a teleconference meeting.

The August summer tour/meeting will be held in Wheatland August 12-14, 2020.

Larry Suchor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Gerry Geis seconded the motion, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Kailey, Secretary