IDAHO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

WWW.IDCOUNTIES.ORG

DISTRICT 6
Bonneville • Butte • Clark • Custer • Fremont
Jefferson • Lemhi • Madison • Teton

3100 S. Vista Ave., Ste. 200
Boise, ID 83705
208.345.9126

District VI Elected Officials Meeting Minutes
July 29, 2026
Morgan Bar Campground, Lemhi County

Welcome

President Scott Hancock (Jefferson) called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m. and welcomed the attendees and visitors. Roll call was conducted with 28 attendees with representation from each member county except Butte.

Lunch and CES Presentation

Lunch was sponsored by CES. While attendees ate, Steve Brown and Drew Evans presented on CES services and procurement opportunities. CES recently expanded into Idaho as a nonprofit service organization assisting counties with procurement. Membership is free for counties and county employees. There are currently eleven counties that have become members. CES also supports IAC through joint purchasing agreements, including public school support. The cooperative's cost to contractors is approximately 2% of the purchases collected by CES with competitive pricing compared to other procurement services. CES is currently trying to recruit more Idaho vendors to provide local opportunities and support and encouraged county officials to spread the word to their local contacts.

Business

Secretary/Treasurer Lana Schwartz (Clark) presented items of consent. The November 13, 2025 minutes were presented. The financial report for FY2026 was presented with a current balance of $2305.43 remaining in the budget. Kammy McFarland (Lemhi) moved to accept the minutes and financial report as presented, seconded by President Hancock. Motion carried.

The proposed FY2027 budget was presented for discussion. The current budget has healthy carry forward of approximately $2434.68. If the District collects the same dues as last year of $400, the budget will be more than enough to cover the proposed expenses, however, a reduction may result in a shortfall depending on the needs of the legislative session.

It was moved to set the annual dues at $400 per county by Will Naylon (Custer) and seconded by Greg Shenton (Clark). Motion carried. It was moved to accept the amended FY2027 by Todd Smith (Madison) and seconded by Roger Clark (Jefferson). Motion carried.

ICRMP Updates, Tim Osborn

- Updates were provided regarding changes to IAC board and council representation; Jerry Mason retired and Micheal Cain resigned, leading to the appointments of Bruce Castelton as the new chair and Zach Wesley, who has worked internally with counties prior. Ben Crouch replaced Don Hall in District 4 and BJ Berlin of Roberts and Carry Peterson of Fruitland joined as city representatives.
- Additional legal counsel and increased employment-related claims were noted, call Jessica with employment related issues.
- McKenna Martin was identified as a new Eastern Idaho marketing representative with a healthcare marketing background. This will help reduce Mary Kumer's workload.
- Insurance premium increases were discussed. Increases of approximately 6–8%, attributed in part to increased risk exposure and claims history.
- Investment portfolio changes from KeyBank to U.S. Bank were noted.

Domestic Wells Legislation

- The intent of the legislation is to address situations where communities cannot drill community wells.
- Exemptions for domestic wells were discussed.
- Subdivisions may have domestic wells for domestic use only.
- New construction in existing subdivisions may now be allowed under the new law.
- Additional work on legislative language remains necessary.
- Groundwater rights and the distinction between domestic and other water uses remain important concerns.
- Surface water rights for non-culinary, outside-uses may not be available everywhere.
- Rocky Mountain was noted as studying whether remaining water could be used for subdivisions.

Legislative Session Review and Potential IAC Resolutions, Sara Westbrook, IAC Policy Analyst
The Idaho GOP may bring property tax elimination to the table this year depending on the outcome of elections. Within the discussion of property tax will be how nuclear reactors and data centers impact assessments and taxation. A local-option tax for counties is dead and difficulties in a lodging tax have included the lack of that revenue coming back to the area of impact. Other potential topics will include guns in courthouses, ICE involvement with counties, and local land use planning bills.

Sara also shared that Fair Boards are becoming a topic of discussion throughout the state. Fair grounds are owned by the counties and therefore responsible to insure, update, and manage the grounds, but can be delegated to the fair boards. East Idaho State Fair and Bingham County

have faced disagreements and Sara asked for any counties that send payment to EISF or Bingham county to contact her.

Representative Stephanie Mickelsen is working on a bill to require individuals who have fines or citations, to pay those fees before they can renew their driver's license or reinstate their driving privileges. Discussion of requiring a public testimony session at each public meeting may continue.

Trainings: ICRMP Member Portal and HR Resources; Effective Communication, Lana Schwartz
Training was presented on the ICRMP Member portal with handouts that guide the login process and resource guide. More than 144 different videos, guides, and forms are available to use as trainings for employees or supervisors, and forms are available for documenting issues, concerns, or performance improvement plans. Members were encouraged to use the resources regularly and reference them when issues arise.

A second training was given regarding effective communication. Sometimes the use of language can either improve or limit communication or the frame of mind a constituent may have when coming to an elected official with their concern. And example was, instead of using the phrase, "How can I help you?" and they present an concern that affects them but there was more to the decision behind the scenes that led to that outcome. They will leave that discussion feeling like you did not *help* them. If the question is rephrased to "What information can I share with you, today?" it give an opportunity to educate on the full scope, but leaves them feeling like you fulfilled your offer.

Open Discussion and County Updates
Fremont County
- Mormon crickets and the difficulty of addressing the issue at the county level.
- BLM assistance and the economic feasibility of control efforts has made private owners upset.

Madison County
- Transportation funding needs were discussed.
- Accidents and fire response involving Madison, Fremont, and Jefferson counties were praised.

Jefferson County
- Jefferson and Madison are working with the state and various legal councils because the county lines have differed in legal descriptions over the course of State history, leading to jurisdiction issues when issuing citations by law enforcement.

Bonneville County

- A PZ (Planning and Zoning) ordinance regarding accessory dwelling units passed following a third attempt.
- Family Justice Center has been created to fill local needs and is available to surrounding counties as a regional resource for victims and families escaping domestic violence, survivors of sexual assault, and resources for addiction and suicide prevention services. This is modeled to serve as a regional crisis center.

Teton County

- Expansion of a project involving Targhee Ski Resort was discussed, including potential impacts on the Idaho side.
- The discussion referenced project costs and potential effects on local services and transportation.
- Interstate revenue and related impacts were also discussed.

Lemhi County

- Solid waste changes of access to transfer sites are moving in the right direction.
- The county will be adopting the Elmore County's language for a family burial plot ordinance.

Clark

- No report

New Business

The next District VI Elected Officials meeting will be held in Idaho Falls sometime after the mid-term election. It may coincide with IAC Official's Fall Institute. More details to come.

Members were reminded that there will be open positions and to consider nominations for Secretary/Treasurer (2 year term, moving through the executive board chairs) and the Legislative Chair (2 year term).

Meeting adjourned.
Approved _____

_____ President Hancock

_____ Vice President Walker

_____ Secretary Schwartz