ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND LAND USE

 STEERING COMMITTEE

*Boise Centre – 110A/110B Room*

*IAC Annual Conference ~ Boise, ID*

*Tuesday, September 26, 2017 ~ 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM*

MEETING MINUTES

10:00 AM **Call to Order - Chair, Larry Schoen, Blaine County Commissioner**

* Welcome and Introductions
* Approval of September 2016 Meeting Minutes

***Steve Smith made a motion to approve the September 2016 minutes. Terry Kramer seconded. Motion carried.***

* Mission Statement – Review

***Jared Stein made a motion to approve the Environment, Energy and Land Use mission statement. Rick Winkel seconded. Motion carried.***

10:20 AM **Conflicting Perspectives on Management of Irrigation Structures in a Floodplain**

**Tim Luke, Idaho Department of Water Resources**

**~~FEMA Representative TBA~~**

Tim Luke stated the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) is in charge of floodplain management. IDWR has a contract with FEMA to do this work and provide resources/education and outreach to the state. FEMA has threatened to suspension Idaho’s contract with the National Floodplain Insurance Program (NFIP) because of the conflict of Idaho statutes with FEMA standards.

There is a definition of “development” in state statute, which includes many items. There is conflict on operations of irrigation districts that FEMA constitutes as “development”. Idaho state statute was amended to say that ordinances shall not regulate the operation, cleaning, maintenance or repair of any ditch, canal, lateral… Communities must adopt the NFIP criteria. Disputes in the state have brought FEMA to consider state suspension. Also because of the dispute, irrigation districts proposed legislation to clarify irrigation exemption. The legislation did not proceed.

An Idaho work group was formed to work on this issue. The work group met with FEMA in Spring 2017. FEMA was firm on the need to update Idaho statutes to be in line with NFIP criteria. The group has been working on defining operation, cleaning, maintenance, and repair. The work group is also working on developing a guidance/policy on permitting. The work group presented questions to FEMA and a response was that they still believe that Idaho is still at risk of being suspended.

The considered next steps are: to complete the guidance policy and submit to FEMA for consideration, delay any further development of guidance, amend Idaho statutes to remove language FEMA says is not compliant with NFIP code, or do nothing.

There is no real hard date. FEMA stated that if we were not making some progress, they would move forward with the suspension. If Idaho were suspended from the NFIP, constituents would not be able to get floodplain insurance. Others would also lose assistance in updating flood maps.

Larry Schoen stated it would be a good idea to start gathering information on the flood plains in our respective areas like: how much is in the floodplain? How many have the insurance? What is the cost to our areas if we lose the NFIP?

10:50 AM **National Floodplain Insurance Program, Legislative Update**

**Jacob Terrell, Associate Legislative Director, NACo (208-717-1950)**

Jacob Terrell gave a brief history on NFIP. It is the nations only program for flood plain management. The program is run by the Department of Homeland Security. It needs to receive updated authorization by congress. It was last reauthorized in 2012.

Congress is working on multiple proposals. The house is working on 7 bills. There will eventually be one and but these have been put on hold for now. One bill includes: 21st century act HR2074 includes rate increases on the floor of 5% and this would increase the floor to 8%. This would hurt constituents. There are surcharges added into this bill. We urge members to strip this out before it comes to a vote.

The senate has 3 proposals. S1086 State NFIP Act would reauthorize the NFIP and would give some certainty on the program standing. It would also provide assistance for affordability. The others would authorize for 6 years and would freeze the debt and create low interest loans for affordability. NACo is looking for funding for pre-mitigation for disasters.

Funding has been extended to December 8, 2017 to allow more time for congress to work on their bills. Rumor has been that the NFIP will be reauthorized, as the need is recognized with the recent events of hurricanes Irma and Maria.

County elected officials can help this process by contacting their state senators and congressman. Encourage these Idaho representatives to reauthorize the NFIP.

202-942-4236 Jacob Terrell – jterrell@naco.org

11:00 AM **Economics of Energy in Today'** **s World, Stephanie Lenhart, Public Policy and Administration School of Public Service, Boise State University**

Stephanie Lenhart asked the group if they knew where energy comes from and how it shifts resources and infrastructure. The largest sources of energy are natural resources (petroleum, natural gas, coal, renewable resources, nuclear).

The largest sources of electricity are wind, solar, and hydroelectric. Electricity resources are becoming more variable and diverse. This has created a need for peaking resources. Idaho Power, Avista and Rocky Mountain Power provide most of the electricity in Idaho. Each of these suppliers has unique resource mixes. One may utilize one resource more than another.

Current changes in technology create a greater need for cooperation. Cooperation works within regional transmission organizations. These organizations trade electricity. In the west there are 34 balancing authorities to make sure there is a balance of power.

In response to the market pressures the Innovative Alternative was created. It is the Western Energy Imbalance Market to engage in real-time transactions. There are 11 companies participating. The benefits are greater efficiency. There is an estimate of reduced greenhouse emissions by utilizing this market as well.

Providers are becoming more interdependent. There was a proposal of creating a bigger market for providers to utilize but it is still being debated and discussed.

Local communities are using utilities differently. With our population and economy growth, we are using more energy. Capacity shows that there is enough energy to last through 2035. Locals need to develop renewables like solar PB to comply with existing renewable portfolio standards. Exporting needs to be limited to keep the energy locally. There are other recommendations based on the demands of certain communities.

Solar is relatively small in Idaho but it is growing very quickly.

Terry Kramer asked how are solar and wind stabilized with intermit usage? What happens if they are not available? By expanding to the bigger market, communities would be able to purchase energy from other places that may have that type of resource.

Steve Smith asked if there has been discussion of anti-trust laws? Do they impact power? Electricity was restructured back in 1990s and created open organizations so that it would continue to be a public good. The recession halted the restructure. The over generation doesn’t come onto the system because they have the trades/contracts still going on.

Portfolio standards are still being used and those that do, are reaching the standards set forth in them. Some states are looking at updating their portfolio standards. Idaho does not have portfolio standards.

11:50 AM **Open Discussion**

Marc Eberlein stated that in Coeur d’Alene basin implemented a restoration plan but does not include clean up. There are some proposals to use funds to create some wildlife and recreational areas. They are also looking at acquiring property but the funds are supposed to be used in the restoration plan in regards to mining. It is stuck in the federal register.

12:00 PM **Adjourn**

Members Present:

Larry Schoen, Blaine Commissioner, Chair

Dave McGraw, Latah Commissioner, Vice Chair

Kimber Ricks, Madison Commissioner

Marc Shigeta, Payette Commissioner

Sharon Worley, Payette Assessor

Jared Stein, Bannock Assessor

Bryce Somsen, Caribou Commissioner

Rick Winkel, Clearwater Commissioner

Marc Eberlein, Kootenai Commissioner

Scott Hancock, Jefferson Commissioner

Steve Smith, Custer Commissioner

Terry Kramer, Twin Falls Commissioner

Cresley McConnell, Lincoln Commissioner

Tom Lamar, Latah Commissioner

Rebecca Wood, Lincoln Commissioner

Mark Bair, Bingham Commissioner

Mike McDowell, Kootenai Assessor

Georgia Hanigan, Payette Commissioner

Members Not Present:

Tom Dale, Canyon Commissioner

Vaughn Rasmussen, Bear Lake Commissioner

Kelly Aberasturi, Owyhee Commissioner

Bill Willey, Valley Commissioner

Rene LeBlanc, Public Health Districts

Dwight Davis, Cassia Assessor

Cathy Roemer, Jerome Commissioner

Linda Jones, Lincoln Assessor

Joe Merrick, Owyhee Commissioner

Terrell Tovey, Bannock Commissioner

Harley Wilcox, Teton Commissioner

Radene Barker, Bannock Treasurer

Bill Brown, Adams Commissioner

Mike Paradis, Adams Commissioner

Rose Bernal, Butte Commissioner

Max Vaughn, Minidoka Assessor

Guests:

Sandy Clason, Payette Deputy Assessor

Stephanie Lenhart, Boise State School of Public Policy

Nick Hillman, Clark Commissioner

Lee Miller, Fremont Commissioner

Wayne Chandler, Gooding Commissioner

Brett Endicott, Owyhee Assessor

Toni Greenwald, Owyhee Deputy Assessor

Tiffany Tuttle, Owyhee Planner Associate

Kirk Chandler, Washington Commissioner

John Smith, Clearwater Commissioner

Jeff Connelly, Bonner Commissioner