

CHAPTER 5

RAFT RIVER BASIN WATER ADVISORY BOARD

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2-5-1: **NAME AND MISSION:** The name of the organization formed by the adoption of this chapter is the Raft River basin water advisory board, hereinafter referred to as the advisory board. The mission of the advisory board is to advise and recommend to various water districts and water users in the Raft River basin, as well as the Cassia County commissioners, strategies to protect and preserve the viability and beneficial use of the water of the Raft River basin through management of the measurement and recharge thereof. (Res. 99-6-1, 6-1-1999)

2-5-2: **AREA OF CONCERN:** The area of concern lies within Cassia County, Idaho. It incorporates all the area encompassed within the drainage of the Raft River, also known as state water district 43. The area is not precisely defined because it includes all areas in the Raft River basin where waters are used or exist regardless of whether surface waters or ground waters. (Res. 99-6-1, 6-1-1999)

2-5-3: **GOALS:** The goals of the advisory board shall be to:

- A. Protection And Preservation: Develop strategies to protect and preserve viability of the area and present a unified voice on the preservation, conservation and beneficial use of water resources in the Raft River basin.

- B. Resource Management: Encourage water resource management actions necessary to preserve and promote the health, safety, economic and social welfare of the people in the county.
- C. Recommendations And Planning: Provide recommendations to water users and county, state and federal government agencies to assist in coordinating water resource planning. (Res. 99-6-1, 6-1-1999)
- D. Management Programs And Activities: Recommend water resource management and measurement programs and activities to achieve compatible resource uses based on sound principles and economic relationships.
- E. Water Rights: Recognize and protect all existing water rights of landowners within the Raft River basin.
- F. Cooperation Among Interested Parties: Improve cooperation, communication and understanding among all interested parties regarding management, beneficial use, protection and preservation of waters in the Raft River basin. (Res. 99-6-1, 6-1-1999; amd. 2003 Code)

2-5-4: **AUTHORITY AND ROLE:** The advisory board will have the role of developing consensus among a broadly representative group of organizations and individuals interested in the water resources of the Raft River basin. The advisory board will recommend resource management actions to the water districts, private water users, the Cassia County commissioners, and officials of the state department of water resources. (Res. 99-6-1, 6-1-1999)

2-5-5: **MEMBERS:**

- A. Representation And Balance:
 - 1. Terms: Members of the advisory board shall be appointed by the Cassia County commissioners for a term of three (3) years. Initially one-third (1/3) of the members shall be appointed for a term of one year, one-third (1/3) for two (2) years and one-third (1/3) for three (3) years. All subsequent terms shall continue to rotate on a three (3) year basis thereafter. Terms run from June 30 to June 30. (Res. 99-6-1, 6-1-1999; amd. 2003 Code)

2. Number And Qualifications: Membership on the advisory board shall be voluntary and be limited to between nine (9) and thirteen (13) members. The advisory board shall be a "representative", "balanced" group derived from agencies, communities and the general citizenry of the Raft River basin area. A membership list shall be maintained in the office of the county commissioners and be updated on a regular basis to reflect the existing membership of the advisory board. The members in "good standing" shall constitute the voting membership of the advisory board.
 - a. "Representative" shall be defined as: Including people who can represent different aspects of the constituency located within the area. Diversity within the area that needs to be reflected in the advisory board includes various water districts, flood control districts, water users, pumpers, as well as economic sectors, ranching, grazing, mining, forest products, communities, public land managers, and differing interests, philosophical or value systems relating to water resource management.
 - b. "Balance" shall be defined as: Considering the elements of diversity, especially in terms of expressed interests, philosophies, or values, no single element shall be overwhelmingly represented.
 - c. The "good standing" of a member shall be determined by regular attendance at meetings, and participation in good faith and in accordance with this chapter. Members determined not to be in good standing by the county commissioners will be replaced pursuant to the following subsection.
- B. New Appointments And Selection Criteria: New appointments or reappointments of existing members will be made by the Cassia County commissioners on the basis of retaining the desired representation and balance, as defined in subsection A of this section, and the number of members in good standing between nine (9) and thirteen (13). In addition to representation, the following factors are to be considered in making new appointments:
 1. Support Of Members: The members of the advisory board should have the support of the agencies or constituencies with which they are associated, and be individuals that can work effectively with others to help develop and plan strategies according to the stated mission and goals.

2. Team Orientation: The members should be team oriented individuals, with demonstrated and effective leadership skills, who will work well in a cooperative and consensus building environment.
 3. Reappointment: Currently serving members whose terms of appointment are expiring may indicate their willingness to continue serving to the county commissioners or may be contacted by the commissioners regarding their willingness to continue to serve in the committee. The final decision regarding reappointment shall lie with the county commissioners.
- C. Resignation Of Members: Any member desiring to resign from the advisory board shall submit his or her resignation in writing to the Cassia County commissioners for action. He or she may nominate a replacement member for consideration by the Cassia County commissioners. Approval of the replacement member or new appointment will be decided by the Cassia County commissioners. (Res. 99-6-1, 6-1-1999)

2-5-6: **ORGANIZATION:**

- A. Officers: The officers shall be a chairperson, vice chairperson and a secretary/recorder. Election of officers shall take place in June of each year after the new members have been appointed to fill the slots vacated by those whose terms of service expired on June 30 that year. Candidates for chairperson, vice chairperson and secretary/recorder shall be nominated from the floor at the advisory board organizational meeting. Officers whose terms are currently expiring are eligible for renomination. A majority vote of a quorum of the advisory board will then elect a chairperson, vice chairperson and secretary/recorder. The officers will serve for one full year. A vice chairperson shall take the place of the chairperson in case the chairperson cannot attend a meeting or resigns. The secretary/recorder shall keep an accurate record of all meetings, inform members of all meeting times and places.
- B. Technical Support Teams:
1. Appointment: The advisory board may appoint either standing or special teams as it deems necessary to perform specific tasks in furthering progress towards the stated goals. Nonmembers of the advisory board may be appointed to those teams to provide technical expertise, additional breadth and representation, and opportunities for interested parties to participate. The advisory board chairperson shall be an ex officio member of all appointed teams.

2. Composition: Technical support teams shall consist of any member(s) of the advisory board having clear interest in the assigned task along with technical experts solicited from outside the advisory board. At least one member of any technical support team shall be a member of the advisory board. Normally, technical support teams will consist of three (3) or five (5) members.
3. Duties: The duties of technical support teams shall be to:
 - a. Fieldproof Problems: Fieldproof the assigned problems and objectives and report apparent inconsistencies to the advisory board.
 - b. Evaluate Information: Evaluate the available information for its completeness and accuracy in making informed decisions. If the information is found to be inconsistent or incomplete, request additional information through the advisory board.
 - c. Alternatives: Identify alternatives to meet stated objectives and recommend a preferred alternative to the advisory board. Implement and monitor the alternative approved by the advisory board under its direction and recommend alternative revisions, should the need arise. (Res. 99-6-1, 6-1-1999)

2-5-7:

MEETINGS:

- A. Locations And Dates:
 1. Time And Location: Meetings of the advisory board shall be held at a place and time determined by the board.
 2. Special Meetings: Special meetings may be called by the chairperson or through a written request by the majority of the advisory board. The purpose of any special meeting must be stated in the call. Meetings involving the advisory board which are held in the field are included in this category. Except in cases of emergency, at least five (5) days' notice shall be given before any special meeting is scheduled.
- B. Decisions: All actions, recommendations and decisions (other than those specified otherwise in the bylaws) made by the advisory board must have consensus. It is understood that consensus means everyone agrees, though perhaps grudgingly, to try something a certain way; and further, if that way does not appear to work, to negotiate another approach and try it.

C. Procedures:

1. Chairperson: Meetings shall be conducted by the chairperson. Specifically, the chairperson is responsible for ensuring: the recording and distribution of meeting notes; that meetings are conducted and facilitated effectively; that meetings are productive and within the scope of the mission and goals of the advisory board.
2. Professional Facilitator: Consideration may be given to the use of a professional facilitator not directly affiliated with the membership for agendas that may be especially controversial.
3. Rules Of Conduct: Rules of conduct shall be strictly adhered to through meeting facilitation; members should listen actively; members shall be entitled to speak and be heard; problems and issues will be attacked, not people. Specific rules of conduct or working guidelines may be formally adopted by the advisory board or the board of county commissioners.

- D. Annual Report: The officers of the advisory board shall meet with the board of county commissioners on the second Monday of May of each year to report on the status and activities of the advisory board, the need for appointment of new members, and the goals and accomplishments of the advisory board. (Res. 99-6-1, 6-1-1999)