

JVG Note: This is the title and abstract from the original submission. Here for reference.

Advantages of Collaboration Among Water Purveyors - Lessons From the Formation of the Treasure Valley Domestic Water Purveyors Group.

Water systems within the greater Boise metropolitan area have recently begun realizing the benefits of close collaboration between our systems. By holding meetings every other month and establishing an email distribution list the group has greatly increased its ability to share resources, keep informed about relevant topics, and makes stride towards consistent public messaging. This group also invites key regulatory stakeholders to its meetings which allows for bi-lateral exchange of information in a helpful and non-confrontational manner. This presentation will highlight the successes of this group with the aim of encouraging similar groups to form throughout the region.



American Water Works Association

Pacific Northwest Section

Advantages of collaboration Among Water Purveyors Lessons From the Formation of the Treasure Valley Domestic Water Purveyors Group

Presented by:



Jason Van Gilder P.E.
Public Works Director
City of Middleton

Tom Points P.E.
Senior PW Director
City of Nampa



Advantages of Collaboration Among Water Purveyors

The intended takeaway from this lecture is:

**FIND A WAY TO MEET REGULARLY
WITH OTHER UTILITIES!!!**

(And invite your regulators too.)



Advantages of collaboration Among Water Purveyors



Advantages of Collaboration Among Water Purveyors

This is the story of the start of the Treasure Valley Domestic Water Purveyors group in southwest Idaho.

Who we are. How we got started. What we do. And what we have found helpful from meeting together.



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[Insert Logo Here]

We don't have a logo yet.

Who we are.

We are drinking water utilities and other public entities who meet every other month to talk about drinking water for the benefit of drinking water users in the Treasure Valley region of Idaho.



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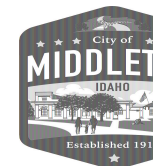


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Who we are.



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How we got Started. Part 1

Jason was part of the Regional Water Cooperative of Pierce County before moving to Idaho.

Jason liked being around smart people that knew a lot about drinking water.

Jason moved to Idaho.

Jason thought, “I bet there are smart people in Idaho that know a lot about drinking water. I wonder if they would like to meet regularly?”



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How we got Started. Part 2

Ada County started a series of Water Summits to talk about future water policy in the Treasure Valley.

The drinking water utilities met together and decided we wanted to be involved in the water summits, but we didn't all need to go. If one or two utilities represent us and report back, that would be a better use of time.



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How we got Started.

From those two events, beginning in December of 2022, a group of Treasure Valley Domestic Water Purveyors started meeting every other month.



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What We Do.

Purpose Statement

Promote collaboration of domestic water purveyors for the benefit of domestic water users in the Treasure Valley



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What We Do.

We meet the 2nd Thursday of even months.

Utilities take turns hosting the meetings.

Meeting invites are sent with a simple agenda.

Meetings are about 2 hours.



Treasure Valley Domestic Water Purveyors Meeting

Agenda for 2/13/2025 Meeting at Caldwell

Purpose:

Promote collaboration of domestic water purveyors for the benefit of domestic water users in the Treasure Valley.

Meeting Agenda:

Welcome and Introductions

Agency Reports

- Department of Environmental Quality
 - LCR-LCRI (Enforcing the 2021 Rule); Risk & Resiliency Assessments ; PFAS
- Department of Water Resources
 - Rule Making In Process;
- Department of Professional Licensing
 - DOPL – Rule updates; CEU requirements; License number lookup
- Idaho Rural Water Association
 - Meeting with Rep Fulcher's office 10/16/24
 - IDWARN
- Other agencies

Presentations

Nampa presentation on Karcher Wetland project.

Areas of Interest Reports

- Area of Drilling Concern (Meridian)
- AWWA's WUC Committee
 - Legislative Update
 - IWUA Domestic Well Legislation
- AWWA Southwest Idaho Sub-Section (J. Van Gilder)
 - Section Operator Competition in March
 - Elemental Idaho Series at Boise Brewing Downtown – May 2025
- Southwest Idaho Operators Sub-Section
- IDEQ Drinking Water Advisory Committee (S. Roberts)
- Ada County Water Summit (L. McVey, C. Cooper) – May 21st
- IWUA-TV: Water Supply Assessment Project to Measure Drain Flows.
- USGS Groundwater model
- Nampa's Task Force on Water Conservation
- Equity in Water Information Phone App (Kendra Kaiser, Rebekah Zachariou - Boise State)
- U of I McClure Center Utility Funding Research project

Discussions - Summary & Follow-up

- AWWA - Benchmarking Survey
- Update to Utility Rate's
- Wage Rate Survey

Roundtable Discussion

Planning for Next Meeting & Adjournment

Next Meeting: Thursday 9 am **4/17/25**. Veolia

2025 Meeting Schedule

(2nd Thursday of even months)

February 13, 2025 - Caldwell

April 17, 2025 - Veolia (In conjunction with the AWWA-SWISS Operator Challenge)

June 12, 2025 - Eagle

August 14, 2025 - Nampa

October 9, 2025 - Meridian

December 11, 2025 - Middleton

Future Topics List

Conjunctive Management of Water Rights

IDWARN / Emergency Preparedness

PSE on pre-emptive outages and high-risk areas.

SCADA Risk and Resiliency



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What We Do.

We invite IDEQ, IDWR, DOPL, and IRWA to begin each meeting with any information they might consider relevant.

Occasionally, we have presentation on a relevant topic.



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What We Do.

We have reports on a list of items of interest to the group.

And a roundtable discussion.



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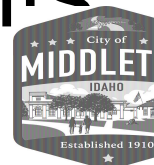
What We Do.

We have an email distribution list.

- Occasionally we request input on relevant topics.
- We share information and announcements



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What we have found helpful.

Tom Points P.E.

Senior Director of Public Works
City of Nampa



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Advantages of Collaboration Among Water Purveyors

- Collaborate on regional initiatives like well drilling standards to protect the aquifer
- Partner with other water groups like the Idaho Water Utility Council and Idaho Rural Water Association which have a voice at the Idaho Legislative Session and in DC
- Sounding board for projects that need a water right application



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- Value of open discussion format with regulators like IDEQ and IWDR to build working relationships
- Align messaging and share ideas in ways that benefit the public

Identifying YOUR WATER SERVICE LINE

Dear Nampa Resident,
The Environmental Protection Agency now requires the City of Nampa, and all public water systems, to document the material of all customer water service lines. Is your line made of copper, galvanized, plastic, or lead?

Please help us complete this requirement. We have created an easy survey tool to help you identify the material of your water service line.



 Please scan the QR code with your smartphone for more information and to complete the survey. Or, you can complete the survey at: bit.ly/nampawaterline
Thank you!

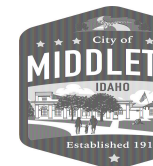
Need help or have questions?
Contact the Water Division at:
Email: water@cityofnampa.us
Phone: 208-468-5860

This inquiry is solely for information purposes and part of a federal requirement. We appreciate your participation.

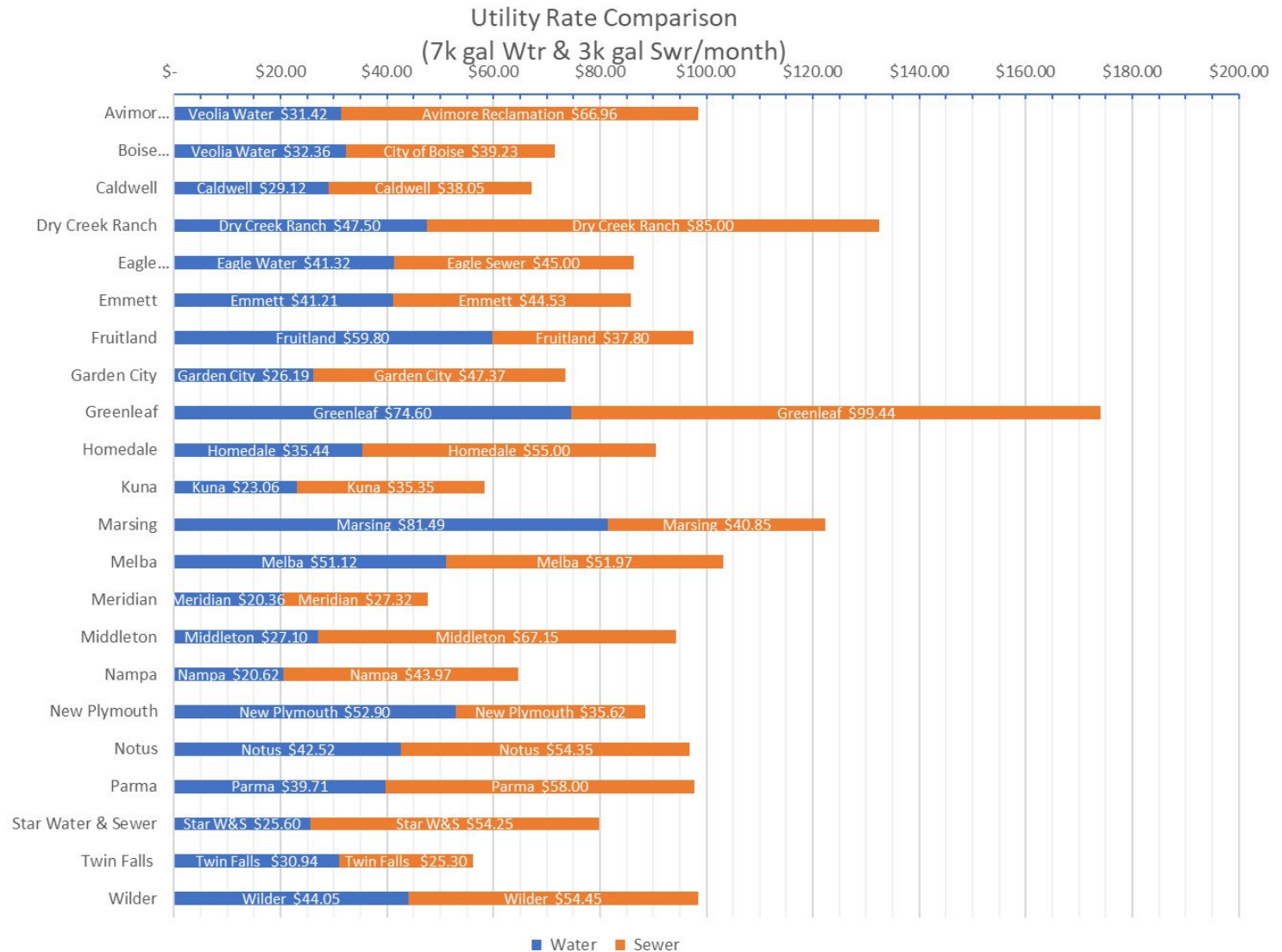
NAMPA
IDAHO



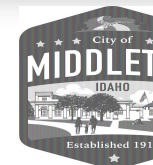
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Comparing rates across the valley



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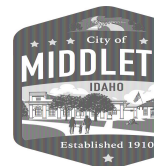
Conclusion:

Key things to starting your group:

- ~~1. Really smart water people.~~
2. An email list.
3. A room to host people.
4. Someone to send meeting invitations.



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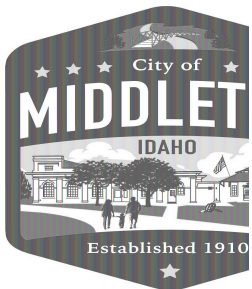




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***Thank You
And
Questions?***



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