

Idaho Geological Survey
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2019 | University of Idaho IRIC 321 | Moscow

Present

Christopher Tate, David Hawk, Mark Barton, Mick Thomas, Virginia Gillerman, Linda Tedrow, Brad Ritts, John Brabb, Kristen Pekas, Alexis Clark, Dennis Feeney, Rich Reed, Reed Lewis, Dan Moore, Claudio Berti, Jonathan Sandquist, Jim McNamara (Zoom), Susan Cleverly (Zoom), Ben Crosby (Zoom), Zach Lifton (Zoom)

Call to Order

The Chair/Director Berti called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Claudio Berti: Introduction

- Welcome and introductions.
- 2019 marks the 100th anniversary of the IGS.
- Presented summary of Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2019.
- Organization chart has been adjusted since last Advisory Board meeting.
 - In FY 2019 IGS Director reported directly to President, but the reporting has now gone back to the Director reporting through the VP of ORED as directed in the statutes.
- Berti will send presentation to the Board, and information is also in the Annual Report.

John Brabb: Financial Report

- Funding issues
 - Market-based compensation
 - UI suggested pay rate is substantially higher.
 - With our funding, there is no way IGS can afford these suggested rates.
 - Meanwhile UI is implementing market-based compensation putting IGS employees behind their University peers.
 - Benefits rate increase
 - The 3% CEC from the legislature was used to cover this increase.
 - IGS did not receive any funding from the UI to meet suggested pay rates and new mandated benefits rates; IGS is funded through a separate line item.
 - State of Idaho cuts
 - All additional funding requested, except emergency funding, will be cut from the FY 2021 request.
 - Cuts were made without consulting IGS Director regarding what is considered emergency and urgent funding needs.
 - Salaries and benefits are an urgent priority for IGS.
 - A 1% claw-back for FY 2020 has been requested and an additional 2% reduction in FY 2021.
 - The combination of these 2 cuts will eliminate our operations budget.

- Berti negotiated to increase indirect cost returned to Survey. Instead of 25% returned, IGS will receive 45% of indirect costs returned to the University.

Reed Lewis: Mapping summary

- Statemap funded through USGS. This funding has been steady.
 - 4 priority areas: Salmon, Elk City, Preston, and Boise-Weiser.
- Yellow Pine project to map Yellow Pine quad (adjacent to Stibnite quad) funded by Wilmat Petroleum.
- Cobalt belt project funded by USGS Earth-MRI to map Cobalt, Taylor Mountain, and Degan Mountain quads.
- Mines and Prospects Database: Indexing, scanning, and posting mine records/maps/photos. This work is funded by IDL and USGS Data Preservation.
- Education Outreach- Geology of Idaho State Parks.
- Governor Otter is on the Board of Directors for First Cobalt. Hawk can arrange a meeting.

Alexis Clark: Hydrogeology Program Update

- Big Lost River Basin hydrogeologic investigation. Collaborative study with IGS, IDWR, and USGS. IGS is developing surface and groundwater budgets. Project is funded by Idaho Water Resource Board.
- Raft River Basin (new project). Motivation for project is this basin has experienced some of the most significant declining groundwater levels which has resulted in this basin being designated as a Critical Groundwater Area. This basin also supports geothermal resources. Phase 1 will be a hydrogeologic investigation including data compilation, and there are proposed future phases.

Zach Lifton: IGS Geohazards Program

- Progress since FY18
 - Collected lidar data and will maybe write a methods paper on using drone lidar.
 - Created and exercised state earthquake clearinghouse plan.
 - Produced *Earthquake Occurrence in SE Idaho* factsheet.
 - Delivered 5 external talks to general/public audiences.
- New projects
 - Landslides database funded by ITD.
 - Mapping Bear Lake faults funded by USGS NEHRP, a collaboration with Utah Geological Survey.
 - Lidar training workshop subaward (FEMA and BSU).
- Other hazard work included BLM landslide response near Hagerman, Mitchell Butte outcrop drone mapping, contributed articles to YVO Caldera Chronicles, CVO volcano eruption communication plan update, and participating in meetings.
- In FY 2020 or 2021 IGS will offer a science teacher workshop funded by IOEM to visit Borah Peak earthquake scarp.

Virginia Gillerman: 2019 Update of Economic Geology and Mining and Minerals Activities

- Published Bulletin 31, Stibnite alteration/geochronology study.

- Additional Stibnite product includes a manuscript for a Special Issue of Economic Geology journal.
- New De Lamar project to map the De Lamar and Swisher Mountain quads funded by Integra Resources.
- Assisted with the USGS critical minerals workshop.
 - Idaho focus areas are the Cobalt Belt and Sheep Creek – Mineral Hill REE Belt (in coordination with Montana).
- Other activities include Annual mining review and comments on the Forest Plan Revisions.

Mark Barton: Oil and Gas Research

- Research focused on WSRP and includes 3 elements: Basin Analysis, Reservoir Characterization and Performance, and Source Rock Evaluation.
- Main objective is to determine hydrocarbon potential of the WSRP and facilitate the efficient and responsible development of the resource.
- Basin Analysis: Sequence stratigraphic framework established. Long term goal is to construct a 3D stratigraphic framework which will assist any future activity that requires knowledge of the deep subsurface.
- Reservoir Characterization- used drone technology to essentially build a virtual 3D outcrop used to illustrate stratigraphic relationships. This information is also applicable worldwide as these types of reservoirs occur worldwide but are poorly understood because they are usually in the center of the basin and very rarely exposed.
- Source rock evaluation indicates there are moderate to good source rocks present in the basin with good hydrocarbon potential. There is evidence of source rocks in the cuttings but can't identify them in the logs yet to determine thickness and extent.

BREAK

Open discussion

- Berti discussed IGS needs from the Advisory Board:
 - A strong united Board to support our mission and bridge the IGS to stakeholders.
 - Discuss mission and strategic plan with the Board. We do have a mandated mission established by the statutes. Our plan on how we fulfill our mission is fundamental to how we think of our budget. Our budget serves our strategic plan. Our strategic plan serves the way we function and operate.
 - The Board's expertise and input to serve us as much as possible.
 - Advocacy for IGS to the Governor and legislature so when we present our budget request (no matter how that is done, either by the VP or the President) our agency and our needs are known in response to our plan.
 - Involve the Board in our annual budget request.
 - Suggest and facilitate connections and collaborations.
- Berti would like meetings to be more often and possibly task oriented.
- Berti suggested identifying topics of discussion and form a committee (of Board members and staff) to gather and analyze data to inform discussion.
- Berti encouraged open communication between him and the Board.

- Hawk mentioned IGS has credibility but not exposure. We should contact local mayors, city council members, and state legislators to let them know of the work we are doing in their districts and what is in it for them.
- Gillerman mentioned that state employees shouldn't contact legislators, but Director and Board can.
- Berti mentioned that he can notify local government officials of projects in area, but also the Board can do this too.
- Hawk mentioned IGS is non-regulatory. IGS presents knowledge and data to inform policy, and the public needs to know this.
- Berti mentioned that he and the Board can communicate the message that we are not centric to any one city or region, and we serve the interests of the state.
- Reed suggested prioritizing projects and sending this list of projects to the board so they can help get funding. Berti said this would be helpful and will give this his attention.
- Berti mentioned that as one project takes priority IGS is flexible and can reallocate resources in support of that project if collaboration is necessary. We collaborate and work across disciplines.
- Berti mentioned that he reports to VP Nelson but interacts with AVP Ritts. He has biweekly meetings with AVP Ritts and has briefed VP Nelson once since his start in late September so he is not sure if they will meet monthly, but maybe four times a year. Relationship with AVP Ritts is good, and he has been supportive.
- Berti mentioned that new President is interested in water, and VP Nelson is interested in how we feed into that.
- Thomas is hearing that IGS is an agency that is doing amazing work, isn't getting the word out, and consequently not getting the funding needed. Thomas is very impressed, but IGS is one of the more "under branded" Surveys in the nation.
- Thomas was hired because the legislature passed a bill so that someone could get geologic information regarding oil and gas and provide it to the public. This tells him that there is a big disconnect between the legislature and the role and potential of the IGS.
- Thomas has regular communication with the Governor and the Governor's office, and he can give us exposure. He can also mention the IGS and their work to the OGCC and the Land Board.
- Gillerman commented that when we work on a sponsored project, we are obligated to spend that money working on that particular project and not on other tasks that may benefit the state. We need an operations budget that is project independent for the flexibility to work on other tasks.
- Thomas commented that if there is a limit to being under the University it is the ability to break through and get in front of the executive staff to make budget requests.
- Berti commented that he is not convinced that this is true at this time as AVP Ritts is supportive of meeting with the Governor and the Governor's staff. He acknowledged that we may not be presenting our budget request to JFAC.
- Hawk commented that Director should present the budget request to JFAC.
- Hawk commented that we need a better definition of the rules, rights, and responsibilities of the Advisory Board.
- Hawk thinks we need more state agencies on the Board, specifically DEQ, IDWR, and ITD. Berti responded that the composition of the Board is set in the statutes. Hawk responded that statutes

can be changed by the legislature. Or we can add Ex officio members that represent these agencies.

- Berti would like to discuss how to formalize rules and regulations. This can be done through bylaws internally without going through the legislature and opening the statutes which can have undesired effects.
- Berti would like to start working on bylaws and use the next meeting to formalize bylaws.
- Statutes allow for two members-at-large serving two-year staggered terms which can be filled by Directors of other state agencies.
- Hawk suggested one way to tell our story and get the word out to the public would be having a photo competition with the end product being a calendar similar to what Utah Geological Survey has published.
- Berti would like to take a couple of days to summarize ideas on how to move forward and formalize rules and regulations, preferably through bylaws, and submit a plan, timeline, and draft of bylaws. These can be discussed at the next meeting.
- Berti would like to finish meetings with a few statements on what the Board agrees to move forward on which represents the voice of the Board and can be shared with Administration.
- McNamara commented on the identity of IGS: Is IGS an agency or university research group? Do other agencies have Advisory Boards? Seems that there is not a clear reporting line.
- Hawk believes we need a position back in Pocatello. Berti sees value in having two geologists in Pocatello, but he can't promise anything especially considering our fiscal situation.
- Crosby commented that beyond his research and educational contributions to ISU, Welhan provided technical advice to the administrative, municipal, and business sectors and that is the greatest justification for a position in Pocatello.
- Berti commented that there is no substitute for local presence within a town or region, but IGS still serves the entire state.
- Crosby commented that during the meeting and learning about what IGS staff are working on, he sees several collaborative opportunities and looks forward to helping make connections between ISU and IGS.

The Chair/Director Berti adjourned the meeting at 12:30 pm.

Minutes prepared by K. Pekas