



Mayor Robert E. Simison

City Council Members:

Luke Cavener, President
Liz Strader, Vice President
Brian Whitlock
Doug Taylor
John Overton
Anne Little Roberts

TO: Mayor Robert E. Simison
Members of the City Council

FROM: Laurelei McVey, PW Director

DATE: 06/05/25

SUBJECT: IDWARN Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement

REQUESTED COUNCIL DATE: 06/24/25

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION

A. Move to:

1. Authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement

II. DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSONS

Laurelei McVey, Director of Public Works 208-489-0365

III. BACKGROUND

The City of Meridian Public Works Department has been a member of the Idaho Intrastate Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (IdWARN) since 2009 when we signed the original mutual aid agreement. While we have not requested mutual aid, we have provided it through IdWARN to other cities, like City of Eagle, during flooding events.

The mutual aid agreements have been updated, and the City has been requested to sign a new agreement. Legal has reviewed and has indicated no substantive changes from the original agreement.

Public Works sees immense value in partnering with other agencies in the event of emergencies, whether it be providing or requesting aid. This agreement establishes a framework, contacts, and legal protections for assisting and receiving aid. It is important to have these set up in advance of emergency situations.

IV. **ADDITIONAL IdWARN INFORMATION**

IdWARN Network Mission

To promote statewide emergency preparedness, disaster response, and mutual assistance for public and private water/wastewater utilities.

How IdWARN Helps Idaho Utilities

The *Utilities Helping Utilities* concept gives water/wastewater utilities the opportunity to be more resilient during disaster response and recovery.

Because disasters transcend political jurisdictional boundaries, multi-utility coordination is crucial to protect lives and property and to facilitate the efficient use of available assets, both public and private. IdWARN is designed to provide quick and professional assistance in any situation that overwhelms the capabilities of a water/wastewater utility.

How It Works

No formal declaration of emergency is needed for assistance through IdWARN, and assistance can take the form of personnel, equipment, materials, services, or anything that your utility needs help with. A member utility may request deployment of emergency support to restore critical operations at the affected water/wastewater utility. Member agencies are never obligated to respond.

IdWARN provides water and wastewater utilities with:

- A Mutual Aid Agreement and process for sharing emergency resources statewide.
- The resources to respond and recover more quickly from a natural or man made disaster.
- A forum for developing and maintaining emergency contacts and relationships.
- There is no cost or commitment to join IdWARN
- Assistance is strictly voluntary.
- Responding members are indemnified and held harmless from claims of loss, damage, and injury.
- Being a member of IdWARN will make you eligible for FEMA disaster reimbursement in a federally declared disaster.
- Access to a database of utilities and resources.
- IdWARN is developed, managed and run by water and wastewater utilities.