

City of Idaho Falls Social Media Accounts  
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By Kerry McCullough Public Information Officer

Idaho Falls Mayor Casper presented at the Recharge Symposium earlier today. As stated in her presentation, cities have a wide range of water concerns. "We have to take a broad view because we use it in so many ways. We can't afford to be myopic when it comes to water."

Nonpartisan government gives cities the opportunity to deliver best practice solutions based on science and engineering. Although the path may be clear, financing the best path forward is where cities are metwith challenges.

If the current water trend continues, water usage will be stretched even more. Innovation is well underway to reduce the demand on water resources as well as conservation and efficiency, but addressing all of this comes at a great cost.

Idaho cities use approximately 3% of the water available, but cities serve approximately 74% of Idaho's population. "Our cities are growing and so too is the need for maintaining and upgrading our infrastructure." There's currently approximately 320 miles of pipe in Idaho Falls, with some pipes approaching 100+ years of age.

Not metering water gives Idaho Falls a very high per capita water use. When you have to pay, you are incentivized to save.

The estimated cost to totally meter Idaho Falls city services is \$87 million; however, many capital improvements could be eliminated as less water is being used, reducing the overall estimated cost to approximately \$66 million.

"We have to collaborate and come up with solutions before those hard water calls are made," stated Mayor Casper. "The status quo is what got us here. We need to embrace the need for change, educate our community, examine data and then mutually agree to lay the groundwork needed to move forward toward a solution. True city leaders don't back away from issues that need to be solved," adds Casper.

The Water Recharge Symposium was sponsored by the Recharge Development Corporation.