

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF
THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS**

HONORABLE ERIC J. WILDMAN
Presiding Judge

02/24/2026

VALERIE MCCOY
Chief Deputy Clerk

2:30 p.m. MT

Case No. 89576 (KRBA)

Court Minutes
Twin Falls, Idaho

This was the time and place set for the **Kootenai River Basin Adjudication Commencement**.

Present:

State of Idaho	--	David Perkins, Rowdy Keller
United States Dept. of Justice	--	Michelle Ramus, Mark Widerschein, Emmi Blades
Kootenai Tribe	--	William Barquin, Tom Murphy
Idaho Dept. of Water Resources	--	Lacey Ramell-O'Brien
Also Present:		
IDWR	--	Evan Roda, Craig Saxton, Shelley Keen, Bob Howe
NARF	--	Alyson White Eagle, Alice Walker
BLM	--	Fred Price

Minutes

02:31:13 Court waives use of a court reporter. Proceedings are being recorded on FTR, pursuant to Idaho Administrative Rule 27(b). **Court calls case: 00-89576** Hearing on *Petition for Commencement of the Kootenai River Basin Adjudication*. Court identifies parties and provides background.

02:34:04 Rowdy Keller for the State of Idaho begins argument in support of commencement.

02:37:10 Mr. Keller ends argument. Court asks clarifying questions.

02:37:52 Mark Widerschein for the United States Dept. of Justice answers question posed by Court regarding their opposition.

02:42:22 Mr. Widerschein begins argument in opposition to commencement.

02:48:02 Mr. Widerschein ends argument. Court does not have any questions currently.

02:48:27 Court asks if tribal consul wishes to be heard. Thomas Murphy addresses the court.

02:49:02 Court asks if the Idaho Dept. of Water Resources wishes to be heard. Lacey Ramell-O'Brien addresses the court.

02:49:37 Court calls on Mr. Keller. Mr. Keller provides more information and answers clarifying questions asked by the Court.

02:53:33 Court will take the matter under advisement and will issue a written decision.

02:54:02 Adjourned.